

A Good Shepherd Sacred Story

The Garden

Adapted by:
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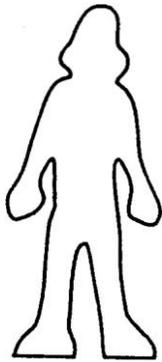
**Illustrations by:
Jennifer Schoeneberg**

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THE GARDEN MATERIALS

- medium rectangular wicker basket to hold:

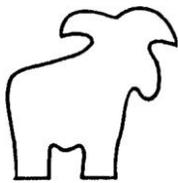
- green felt oval underlay
- wooden Adam figure
- wooden Eve figure
- wooden tree
- wooden serpent
- wooden hippopotamus
- wooden goat
- 2 wooden birds



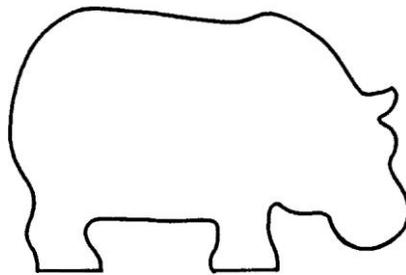
Adam



Eve



Goat



Hippopotamus



Bird

THE GARDEN ••• GENESIS 2:15-19 and 3:1-24

ACTIONS

After speaking, stand and get the story from its shelf. Return to the circle and be seated.

After speaking, Sit In silence for 10-15 seconds as you focus on the story basket and gently touch one or two figures.

Slowly smooth the green underlay.

Nod slowly.

Place Adam on the left edge of the underlay, toward the center with Eve on his right. Touch each carefully.

Put the tree in the center of the underlay. Place the animals to the bottom right.

Move first the hippopotamus and then the goat to the lower left of the underlay near Adam and Eve.

Move the birds to the lower left of the underlay near Adam and Eve.

Smile and hug yourself.

WORDS

Watch carefully where I go to get this story so you will know where to find it if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

All of the words to this story are inside of me. Will you please make silence with me so I can find all the words to this story?

After the creator God had made all of the plants, stars and animals, God had said, "This is good. "

God especially thought that man, Adam, and woman, Eve, were very good.

God wanted Adam and Eve to be happy in the garden. So the creator God gave them all the things they needed to be happy.

They had food to eat and cool water to drink. And God gave them a job. Adam and Eve were told to name all the animals.

And so when the large animal came to them, they named it "hippopotamus" and the one with a shaggy coat and horns they called "goat" .

And those that flew in the air Adam and Eve called "birds".

Oh yes, Adam and Eve were very happy. They had each other, all the animals, and, best of all, they had the creator God.

For each evening God came and talked with them in the beautiful garden.

Move your hand over the whole felt. Then hold up your index finger.

Carefully touch the tree.

Move Eve to the tree. Then slip the serpent, head first, through the hole in the tree to face Eve.

First nod your head. Then as you say "except one" hold up your index finger. Then nod solemnly again.

Chuckle softly and shake your head.

Touch your temple or forehead.

Move your hand to your mouth as though taking a bite of food. Bring Adam near Eve.

Look around, smile and then look sad. Let your shoulders slump.

Move Adam and Eve quickly behind the tree.

Bring Adam and Eve out from behind the tree.

Move Adam away from Eve. Place him about 8 inches to the left of the right center edge of the underlay.

The whole garden was given to Adam and Eve. They could eat the fruit from every tree, except one.

In the garden was one tree that the creator God said they should not touch. It was called the tree of knowing good and bad.

One day the serpent, who told lies, came to Eve in the garden. The serpent said to Eve, "Did God say, 'You may not eat from any tree here?'"

Eve answered, "Oh we may eat of all the trees, except one. We may not eat fruit from the tree of knowing good and bad. If we do, we will die. "

The serpent, who told lies, said, "You won't die. The creator God knows that you will be like God if you eat this fruit."

Eve thought the fruit looked good. And she thought the serpent just might be right.

So she ate some of the fruit, and so did Adam.

And then a sad thing happened. Adam and Eve both felt very bad and ashamed. Now they knew about bad feelings. They had never been sad or angry or hurt before.

When God came to walk in the garden that night, Adam and Eve tried to hide.

But God called to them. Then God asked Adam, "Did you eat from the tree of knowing good and bad?"

Adam said, "It's not my fault, Eve gave it to me."

Move Eve away from the tree and serpent to be with Adam. Be sure there is some distance between Adam and Eve.

Slowly shake your head.

Move the serpent from the tree to crawl along the ground, off the left edge of the underlay. Place him in the story basket.

Move Adam and Eve slowly and sadly off the right edge of the underlay.

Turn Adam and Eve to look back one time at the garden.

Place all the wooden figures back in the basket.

Eve said, "It's not my fault, the serpent gave it to me. "

Then God was very sad, and angry.

God said to the serpent, "Because of what you did, you will no longer walk on your feet. Now you will crawl on your belly in the dirt. And one day the child from a woman will destroy you."

Then God told Adam and Eve, "Because you disobeyed me, you will have to leave the garden. And you will know pain and you will have to work hard to make things grow outside of the garden."

And Adam and Eve were very sad to have to leave the garden. But they always remembered the promise that God had made about the child who would be born from a woman who would be stronger than the one who told lies.

WONDERING QUESTIONS:

I wonder why they didn't name hippo "goat" and the goat, "hippo"?

I wonder what it would be like to know only good feelings?

I wonder if God wanted to cry when Adam and Eve ate the fruit they weren't supposed to eat?

Watch carefully how I put this story away so you will know how to do it if you make this story your work today or another day.

Beginning at either side, fold the underlay to the other side.

Repeat the side to side fold.

Carefully fold the top edge down one-third of the underlay and fold the bottom edge up over that. Place in the basket.

After speaking, stand and, carrying the story in both hands, carefully place it on the shelf.

Dismiss the children to their work ONLY after everyone has chosen their work for the day.

This green underlay can be folded by taking this edge and folding it to this edge.

Let's do that again.

Now, if we fold this top part down and this bottom part up, it should be ready to place in the basket.

Watch carefully where I return this story so you will know where to find it if you choose to make this your work today or another day.

What will you make your work today? Maybe something special was in the story that you remember. Let's begin.

THE GARDEN TEACHER HELPS

First, we need to establish what this story is not. This story does not explain how evil came into the world. It does not explain why women have pain in childbirth or why we must work hard to make a living. It is not a prediction that Jesus would be born of Mary and be more powerful than evil (personified by some as Satan).

This story IS a story of broken relationships. The relationship between God and humans is broken to the point that the man and woman hide from God rather than face God with their shame. The relationship is broken between man and woman when they shift the blame to the next person or creature. And as a result the relationship is broken between people and the world created for them to enjoy.

The story begins with the setting being still very good and with Adam and Eve having all they need and a task besides. The naming of the animals is shown as a pleasant, but important task.

Next, we present the temptation. Adam and Eve are given everything, with only one limitation. They are allowed to enjoy everything in the garden except the tree of knowing good things and bad things. Notice that the Good Shepherd room is set up with the same principle. The entire room is for them to enjoy with the exception of one thing; they are not to touch the matches. We could just as easily put the matches on the top shelf in our storage closet. But one day a child will realize that this room is just like the garden in that they may enjoy everything in this room except the matches. At that point we, as teachers, can ask, "Why do you think you are not allowed to use the matches?" Most children will respond with, "Because they are

dangerous, or because they can hurt me." What a wonderful time to say, "Why do you think Adam and Eve were not to enjoy the tree of knowing good and bad things?" The same answer, of course, will apply. Limits are frustrating at times, but God knew the limits Adam and Eve needed to live by. We, as teachers, set limits for the children we teach. Those children are our responsibility and our limits for them must be set so they know, always, just how far they may go in any direction in this special place.

The wondering questions begin with a joy question. In wondering why the animals were named what they were we allow the children the freedom to think the "silly" thought of a hippopotamus called "goat". This question is designed to promote smiles and free the imagination.

The second question about knowing only good feelings is a bittersweet question. While we are thankful for the wonderful people we are, we also know that we are not sinless creatures. All children in the room will have felt "bad feelings" at some point or other in their young lives. Maybe in this wondering question we can all begin to sense what we have lost in the garden as we consider what might have been.

The last question is to help the children understand that when we realize we've done something wrong, we are often saddened by what we've done. Adam and Eve, too, must have realized, in this story that they had lost something very precious and irreplaceable.

One word needs to be said about the promise made to the woman that someday her seed will crush the head of the serpent. There are persons who believe that this is a prediction of Christ's birth and final dominion over evil. This interpretation is far fetched at the very least. The promise, at its simplest, may be understood to mean we will never be comfortable with snakes, but still have superiority over them. Also, it may be an understanding of hope for the Messiah, but not a prediction of the person of Christ.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

What would the perfect garden be for you? Would it be fruit trees to eat from, beautiful flowers to smell, vines holding ripe vegetables, or nice neat rows with NO WEEDS? Give me your ideas.

Even though we use a snake in our story, the one who tempted Adam and Eve did not crawl on his belly until AFTER he was punished. What do you think the tempting creature looked like?

What is the most difficult temptation for you to resist?

How do you think God felt about Adam and Eve after they disobeyed? Even though God must have been sad, angry and hurt, God still loved them. How do you think your parents feel about you when you disobey them?