



3RD-5TH GRADE

October 6-7, 2012

DATE

Genesis 3, John 1:12, Romans 8:15-17

WHERE TO FIND IT

A Journey Home—Week 1 The Fall

LESSON TITLE

God wants us to be part of His family, but like Adam and Eve, we act like kids who don't have a loving Dad who can be trusted.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes)
Large Group (30 minutes)
Small Group (20 minutes)
Video and Song Review (10 minutes)

tips

Have kids gather back in front of the stage and watch the video from the lesson and do the songs together at the end of small group. When parents come to pick kids up, they will get a quick review of the lesson along with the kids.

check-in/out

During "A Journey Home", kids will have experiences similar to their parents. During check-in and check-out, you can remind parents to talk to their kids about that journey.

large group heads up

During Large Group, kids will hear about Adam and Eve, and how they acted out of an orphan mentality. Kids will have the opportunity to see many ways that not trusting God shows up in our lives.

Please help Large Group presenters by fully engaging in music, stories, and videos. Direct kids' attention to the presenter.



instructions

The goal of today's small group is to help kids identify one way we act that reveals how we don't trust God.

Be sure to include yourself in the discussion (use "we" instead of "you").

Start with the **QUESTIONS** section this week. It is important to make sure that kids understood the lesson before moving onto the **ACTIVITY**.

End with each kid choosing a coloring sheet that best represents something that they struggle with the most.

QUESTIONS

CONNECT

- What is one of your favorite things that God created?
- What was the best part of your week?
- What was the worst part of your week?

REVIEW

- In the story today, God, who is a loving father, made a home for us, and then what happened? (Adam and Eve stopped trusting God, and made a choice to disobey him.)
- What changed when Adam and Eve made a choice to not trust God? (Bad things started to happen. They were scared, lonely, and sad. Things started dying. They had to leave the garden.)
- What family are we all a part of? (God's family, the same one that Adam and Eve were a part of.)

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ACTIVITY—PAIR UP ITEMS

Each table will have the following items:
fake pizza, toy bird, sad face, dad toy, game piece, heart

- **Hold up the pizza.**

Ask: Does anyone remember how we act sometimes about food? (We freak out because we think that there will not be enough for us.)

- Now I need your help. We learned a sign and a verse today that reminds us that God cares for us. Who can find something else on the table that reminds you of that verse? (The bird)

• **Read (help kids find this verse in the Bible):** Yes, the bird. Remember, the verse was Matthew 6:26 (Pg. 1059) that says, "*Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are?*"

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CLOSING ACTIVITY COLORING PAGE

RELATE

• Do you remember any of the examples of ways we can act when we don't trust God? (We don't think we will be taken care of, we feel left out, or we treat others poorly.)

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Ask: Which one of these ways do you forget about God most often? (Hold up pizza.) Do you forget God will take care of you? (Hold up sad face.) Do you feel sad or left out? (Hold up game piece.) Do you try to look better than everyone else, even if it hurts people's feelings?

When each kid has picked one way they forget how good God is, help them pick a card that has a symbol and a verse to remember. Then they can color the card.

Bird: Matthew 6:26 (Pg. 1059) *"Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are?"*

Dad: John 1:12 (Pg. 1164) *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

Heart: John 15:13 (Pg. 1187) *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

PAIR UP ITEMS CONTINUED

• Who can remember the way to say bird in sign language? (Show the sign from Large Group.)

• **Say:** So, let's pretend that you are at the dinner table and it's your favorite meal. What is your favorite meal? (Take some answers) Now, you realize that the food is getting passed to everyone but you. Let me see your panic face!

• Now, remind yourself of the verse, by doing the sign for bird. Good job. God takes care of the birds, and he'll care for you!

Hold up the sad face. What about this? What does it remind you of? (Sometimes we feel left out or sad.)

• Can someone find the item that reminds us what God wants us to remember when we are sad? (The dad toy) Yes! God wants us to remember that he is our dad, so we are never alone.

• Can you think of a time when you have felt left out?

• Here is the verse from the Bible we talked about. John 1:12 (Pg. 1164) *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

• Can you all remember the sign for "dad" that we learned? (Demonstrate the sign) So, when you are feeling sad, or left out, you can do this sign and remember that you have an amazing dad.

Hold up the game piece.

• Does anyone remember how games can go wrong sometimes? (We treat others badly so that we can win)

• What does God want us to do instead? (Love—pick up the heart)

• Look up John 15:13 (Pg. 1187) Remember what God says in John 15:13 *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

That means we care for our friends, even when we are being competitive.

LARGE group

special notes

The small group activity heavily relies on kids learning the sign language signs in Large Group, so stick to the script!

presenter tips

The weeks of the journey lessons all build on each other. Each week should have the feel of discovering your family history together with the kids (because we are all one big family).

script

WELCOME

Hey everyone! It's so good to see you. I'm so excited to be here with you today. Do you know why I'm so excited? Well, it's because you guys are my family. Yes, you heard me right—you are my family. You see, God is a dad who is full of love and he has kids—lots and lots of kids. Every person on earth is God's kid. Today we are going to discover some exciting things about our family.

WORSHIP

Before we get to our story today, we are going to sing a few songs and let God know what a great dad he is. After all, He made Earth so that we would have a fantastic home. That's a good dad—one that gave his kids a great place to live.

Song with hand motions—Before I Go I Stop
Video—Because of Your Love

FAMILY HISTORY

Like I said before, we are all part of God's family. He loves us and he made a wonderful home for us. I found these pressed flowers (***hold up scrapbook with some pressed flowers***) that reminded me of the home that God gave our family. Why would flowers and leaves remind me of that home? (***Take one or two answers from kids.***) Right, because the home that God put the first people in was a beautiful garden. And like a good dad, God made sure the people had plenty to eat and drink and he spent time with them in their home. No one cried about anything, no one was ever scared, and nothing died. People knew that God was good, that he wanted be close to them. I wish we all could have lived there forever.



script continued

SOMETHING GOES WRONG

Let's check out a video to see what else we can discover about our family.

Play Attic Video: The Fall

Yikes! I don't know about you guys, but I don't really like what we just found. How are bones and tissues and snakeskin a part of our family story? Let's check out what happens in the Bible after God made our home. (Whisper here.) Try to figure out if God really did love Adam and Eve...

GENESIS 3: THE FALL

Play God's Story Video: The Fall

Ugh, I suddenly feel so sad. Our family had such a good thing going. We had a wonderful home, we got to spend time with God all the time, no one ever died, and we were never scared. That explains the tissues, the bones, and the snakeskin. And, it explains more than that—it explains why I act the way I do sometimes.

WAYS WE ACT LIKE WE ARE OUT OF THE FAMILY

Since Adam and Eve, the rest of our family has also been tricked into not trusting God. Here are some examples of what we do when we don't trust that God knows us and loves us (***show pictures on screen***):

Picture of Pizza

Sometimes I worry about not getting enough food, or running out of food before I get what I want. When that happens, sometimes I am mean to other family members or I try to save food for myself, or eat a whole bunch. That's just not the way that God wants his family to work.

Picture of Bird and Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are?

This is what God says about feeding us and taking care of us. He makes sure the birds have food. They don't have to store up food or plant crops, they get what God provides every day. Then the Bible says that we are much more valuable than birds. Every time I get upset about what I am going to eat or how much, I'm going to remind myself that God cares for the birds, and he'll care for me, too—I'm more valuable than a bird!

Everyone hold up your thumb and pointer finger. Now make a bird beak in front of your lips like this (***presenter shows kids the sign for bird***). Open and close your fingers, like you are pinching something. This is the way to say "bird" in sign language.



script continued

If you can feel yourself getting upset, because you don't think you will be taken care of, just make this sign, and remember that God takes care of the birds, so he'll take care of you!

Picture of a Kid with Hurt Feelings

Here is another way our family's pattern of not trusting God shows up. When someone doesn't like me or talks bad about me, I feel really left out. I get sad. I wish that people always liked me and sometimes I even do things to get people to like me. I forget that God loves me no matter what—just like Adam and Eve forgot.

Picture of Son with a Father and John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

This is who God says we are. We are his children. Would a good dad ever stop loving his children? Would a good dad ever ask us to do things to impress him? No, a good dad loves no matter what. I'm going to remind myself of that with a sign, too.

Everyone open your hand wide and touch your thumb to your forehead like this. This is the way you say "dad" in sign language.

It's an easy way for me to remember that God is my dad, and he will always love me. Next time I feel like doing something to make other like me, or if I feel left out, I'm going to make this sign to remind myself that God will always love me. I am his kid, so I always have someone that loves me.

Picture of Board Game

Another way I act like Adam and Eve is when I try to be the best, even if I hurt other people. Have you ever played a board game and been a sore loser or a sore winner? Sometimes when I try really, really hard to prove that I'm the best, I end up hurting other people, just like Adam and Eve hurt people when they thought they could be the smartest. Anytime you are trying to be the best, even if it hurts other people's feelings, it's not the way God designed our family to work.



script continued

Picture of a Heart with John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

What does that mean—"lay down your life for your friends". (Take one or two answers from kids.) Instead of winning and telling others how great you are, God wants us to encourage and love other people.

To remember that God designed our family to be all about love, we are going to learn the sign for love. When you find yourself hurting someone else's feelings you can make this sign to remember that God gave you a heart to love others. Here is the sign.

I'M SAD

I don't know about you, but all of this makes me really sad. I wish that our family had lived in that amazing garden (hold up pressed leaves/flowers again) with God forever. Instead, we are here now, forgetting that God will love us, and that we can love others. Adam and Eve forgot those same things. I'm homesick to be near God, the way that Adam and Eve were before God's enemy lied to them.

You know what? God gave us a way to be close to him again. He sent a Rescuer for us. But that's another part of the story.

PRAY

Does someone want to come and pray for our group today?

CLOSING SONG

Song: Home (PROVIDED)

name



PREP needs



small group supplies

One set for each group:

- Fake pizza
- Toy bird
- Sad face (can be printed on cardstock)
- Dad toy (ethnically diverse)
- Board game piece
- Heart stress ball

Three different coloring quarter pages kids will choose one sheet:

- bird
 - dad
 - heart
- The Adventure Bible
Plenty of markers

large group supplies

- Some pressed, dried flowers and leaves.

a/v needs

1. Song: Before I Go I Stop
2. Video: Because of Your Love
3. Attic Video: The Fall (PROVIDED)
4. God's Story: The Fall (PROVIDED)
5. Picture of a pizza
6. Slide with picture of a bird and Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are?
7. Slide with picture of a sad face
8. Slide with picture of a dad and John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.
9. Slide with picture of a board game
10. Slide with a picture of a heart and John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.
11. Song: Home

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Kids are on the journey, too!

Ask your kid: when do you forget that God is a good dad?

parent page

Today kids learned that our family (God's family) has a history of not trusting that God is a good dad. That started a long, long time ago with Adam and Eve (their story is found in Genesis). Each kid picked a way they forget about God's goodness, and then learned a verse and a sign language sign that reminds them that God is great even if we forget.

Top of the Parent Page Box content:

To see the video from today's lesson, go to vimeo.com and search for Crossroads Kids' Club God's Story: The Fall.