Lesson 3

SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD

- 1. Genesis 2:8-10,15. A long time ago, God created all things. He made the sky, earth, sea, trees, flowers, birds, fish and animals. Last of all God created man in his own image. This man, Adam, could talk to God and God talked to him. God placed Adam in a beautiful garden with all the things he had made: trees, flowers, animals, etc. There were no problems and everything lived in harmony.
- 2. Genesis 2: 15-17. In the middle of this beautiful garden there was a tree which was different to all of the other trees. The fruit from this tree, if eaten, would give the person knowledge of what is good and what is evil. God told Adam that he must not eat the fruit from this tree. He could eat fruit from all of the other trees.
- 3. Genesis 2:18-25. Adam was the only human person in the garden, and God knew that he needed someone with whom he could talk and share his life. God put Adam into a deep sleep, took a rib from the man and made a woman. When Adam woke up, he was very happy. "At last," he said, "here is someone of my own kind."
- 4. Genesis 3:1-6. One day Satan came in the form of a snake, and tempted Eve to eat fruit from the tree which God had forbidden. At first, Eve said, "No." But the snake tempted her, saying that if she ate it she would become like God. The tree looked beautiful and its fruit looked so good. She thought that it would be wonderful to be wise. Finally, she gave in and did what the snake wanted her to do.
- 5. Genesis 3:6-10. Eve ate some of the fruit and gave some to Adam who also ate it. As soon as they ate this forbidden fruit, they knew that they had both disobeyed God's command. They realized that they were naked and felt ashamed. When God called to them, they hid in the bushes because they were feeling *guilty* and *afraid*.
- 6. Genesis 3:11-13,16-24. God asked Adam and Eve if they had eaten the fruit from the forbidden tree. Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the snake. God sent punishment upon Adam, Eve and the snake. God said that man would have to work very hard, that woman would have pain when giving birth to a child, and that the snake would have to crawl on the dust and be hated by women. God sent Adam and Eve out of the beautiful garden because they had disobeyed God. An angel then stood at the gate of the garden so that no one could go in.

The story of Adam and Eve shows us that sin comes when we *disobey God*. *Sin* spoils our lives and *separates us from God*.

- 7. **Romans 5:12**. Adam and Eve sinned, and this brought separation from God and from the beautiful place he had prepared for them. They did not die immediately, but they had many sad problems in their lives. Adam and Eve had two sons. One killed the other. Eventually Adam and Eve both died. Sin became worse as the years went on, and people rejected God and continually disobeyed Him. Death was always very sad. There was no hope.
- 8. Romans 3:23 says, "Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence." God loves us so much that he does not want us to be separated from him. He wants us to live eternally with him. Jesus took the punishment for our sins by dying a very painful death on a cross. Jesus died to take away our sins (Romans 5:8, 10). When anyone confesses their sins and believes that Jesus died to take away *their sins*, that person's life is completely changed. Instead of being afraid of God, we now become friends with God.
- 9. Sin brings death and everyone will die. However, Jesus always obeyed God completely and he did not sin. When Jesus died on the cross, death could not keep him in the grave, for Jesus had defeated sin and death. (I Corinthians 15:3-4). Everyone who truly believes that Jesus died and rose again to take away their sins will have new life. It is true that all people will die sometime, their bodies will be buried, but their spirits will go to be with Jesus in heaven. One day Jesus will leave heaven and return to this earth. At this time all those who have died believing in Jesus will rise from the grave, and receive a new body. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 gives Christians the assurance that all those who believe in Jesus and follow him, will live with him forever

