God’s Big Story: Things go wrong

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| scripture focus |
| Genesis 3 |

big picture

Adam and Eve were free to live fully and joyfully in God’s love, in a world that had one God-given boundary: a particular fruit that was off-limits. That boundary (and their obedience to it) protected the goodness of the world and the fulness of their own lives. But they didn’t trust God’s good intentions and listened to the voice of the deceiver – and disobeyed. The result of their transgression was tragic. Their newfound knowledge led only to shame, and God sent them out of their garden, into a world where work was frustrating and often futile. Their lives now included physical pain and death, and their relationships were marked by conflict, anger, and sadness. But through it all, God stayed with them, took care of them, and provided for them. Even though Adam and Eve (and each of us, when we transgress the limits we’re given) were at fault for the brokenness that invaded the earth, God stepped in – to sustain them in the present, to assure them that this was not the end (Gen. 3:15 hints of a future rescue or reversal), and – in time – to take all of that brokenness upon God’s own self, to personally bear the full weight of the pain we brought on ourselves. God’s love for us endures.

|  | storybooks | bible readings |
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| read aloud | *Jesus Storybook Bible:* p.28-37  (“The Terrible Lie”)  *Psalms for Young Children:*  Psalms 32, 69, 85, 130, 143 | Genesis 3  Romans 8:22-25  Luke 18:9-14  Psalm 32, 69, 85, **130, 143** |
| discuss/ ask | Why do you think Adam and Eve ate the fruit, even after God told them not to?  Why do you think Adam and Eve were afraid to see God after they ate the fruit? What were the consequences of breaking God’s rules? How did God help them? Do you think they got what they deserved – why or why not?  What are some of the boundaries or limits (“rules”) that keep you and your family safe and happy? What happens when you break them?  What are some of the things that you see that are wrong in this world (how is it groaning)? What things need rescuing?  Is there anything that needs rescuing in your own life? In your own family? | |
| do together | The “Jesus prayer,” based on the tax collector’s desperate petition in Luke 18:9-14, has been prayed by Christians for hundreds of years – a confession of our own brokenness and helplessness, and a plea for Jesus’ help and mercy:  “Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!”  I encourage you to learn this prayer together (perhaps a simplified version). Model saying it yourself at those times that you mess up, find yourself at the end of your rope, or become aware of your own brokenness. Help your child say it when they feel bowed down with guilt or helpless to make a good choice. | |