

## ***Series: From the Garden***

### **Lesson 4: From the Garden to the Wilderness**

#### **Lesson Objectives:**

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Search scripture for evidence of our severed relationship with God, each other, and nature
- Identify that although the world is no longer as it was created to be, that God still cares for it

#### **Materials Needed:**

- ☐ Scrap Paper
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Board and markers

## **Lead In:**

You are going to stage an impromptu debate to lead into this lesson. Select two pairs of volunteers who are willing to argue a mystery debate. Call them to the front and secretly tell them the debate topic, so that the rest of the students cannot hear. The first pair is going to argue that the world is basically a good place. The second pair is going to argue that the world is basically a bad place. Give the two pairs about three to five minutes to jot down some arguments and ideas.

Tell the rest of the students that they are going to listen, ask questions, and decide which argument is more sound. Allow the debaters to present their cases and then allow the listening students to ask questions at the end. Remind the listeners that the debaters are volunteers who did not pick their sides. Any rebuttals should be light-hearted and impersonal. Work to keep the atmosphere friendly as this is only the Lead In. Decide who made a more convincing argument and then transition by telling the students that you are now going to look at what the Bible says about the state of the world.

## **Task One:**

Ask for a volunteer who will look up and read Genesis 3. Ask the other students to listen and decide how this chapter in the Bible contributes to the debate they just had. Solicit answers. While God created the world to be good and harmonious, humans deviated from God's plan, and subsequently, many bad things entered into the world.

## **Task Two:**

Say something like, *If you can remember back two lessons ago, you will remember that we read in Genesis 2 about our creation in the Garden of Eden. We decided that we were created to be in relationship with God, with each other, and with nature. However,*

*this all went wrong when we chose to sever our relationship with God. I'm going to put those three categories back up on the board. You are going to work with a partner to search in Genesis 3 for examples of how each of the three relationships went off track.*

Make three columns on the board that are labelled: 1) Conflict with God, 2) Conflict with Each Other, 3) Conflict with Nature. Have students work in pairs. Have them search the passage for answers in each of the three categories. They can record these on scrap paper.

Give several students board markers and send them to the board to put up their answers under the appropriate headings. When they sit down, ask the other students to review the answers, adding, subtracting, or changing as needed. Guide the conversation until you are all agreed on a set of answers.

Ask students whether they have seen examples of these conflicts in their lives. Record at least one relevant example under each heading. Ask students how it makes them feel to identify all of these conflicts and how it makes them want to live their lives?

### **Task Three:**

*Say something like, It can be very sad to read this part of the Bible and realize how off-track our world is. It can make us long to go back to the way we were created. It can make us strive for a better world. It can make us angry at God. It can cause these reactions and more and they are serious and important ones to reflect on. However, there is one last thing that I really want to draw your attention to. There is one verse in Genesis 3 that gives us hope despite our desperate situation. Have a look back in there and see if you can find it.*

Solicit some ideas. The verse is verse 21. Ask students why this gives us hope. When Adam and Eve were discovered naked in the garden, they made clothes out of fig leaves.

When God sends them out of the garden and into the wilderness, he makes them garments of skin. Not only does God sacrifice one of his creature's skin, but God *makes* the clothes himself. That is a picture of a very loving, caring, and compassionate God! So even though we live in the wilderness now, God still takes care of us in a real and personal way. What an amazing God!

### **Closing:**

Conclude by saying something like, *This year we are going to look at what happens after life in the garden. We came from the garden but we live in the wilderness. Can we regain our identity and purpose? Can we regain our connection to community? Can we once more return to what we were meant for? Let's find out together.*

Close by praying for the journey ahead.