

The First Command  
Genesis 2: 15-17

Objective: The students will study God's first command.

Introduction:

We are studying the beginning of things in Bible time. Last week we learned about the first? (man) What did God do for the first man? (He planted a garden for him.)

What do you remember about the garden? (solicit information. Make sure to mention the two trees.)

Today we will learn more about the garden, and the tree that gives the knowledge of good and evil.

Questions:

- Why did God put the man in the garden?
- What was God's command?

Read Genesis 2: 15-17

Answer the questions.

Go on. (Two possible threads to follow)

1. Do you like to work? (solicit answers) Does your husband like to work? (answers) Some people like to work, but most people don't like to work. The story today takes place before there was any evil in the world. God gave the man work to do. His first job was as a gardener. He also took care of animals. Do you think the man liked his work? (have students speculate)
2. How can a tree give knowledge of good and evil? (have students think and respond.) Tell me: is it good or evil to steal money? (students respond) Here is a bag of money. Suppose I am God. I put the bag here in the middle of the table, and I say, "Don't take the money." Do you understand? Of course! You can understand without taking the money. You have learned about good and evil. Now, what would happen if you took the money? (learn about evil in a different way, by doing it. punishment.) In the same way, the man learned about good and evil from the tree by God's command. He knew that it was good not to eat the fruit from that tree. He knew that it was evil to eat the fruit. He did not have to eat the fruit to learn these things.

