

The First Time People Felt Shame
Genesis 3: 1-7

Objective: The students will consider how important it is to know God's word accurately.

Introduction:

We've been studying the beginning of things in Bible time. We learned about the first man, and the garden that God planted for him. What was in the center of the garden? (review) We learned about the first command that God gave. What was that command? (review) We learned about the first woman. How did God make the first woman? (review) Last week we met the snake.

Up until last week everything was good. People had not yet done anything wrong. They were in a perfect, loving relationship with God and with each other. But today that will change.

Questions:

- What happened after the man and the woman ate the fruit?
- Does the woman tell God's command correctly?

Read: Genesis 3: 1-7

Answer the first question. (What happened after....?)

Answer the second question: Does the woman tell God's command correctly? (no, she adds something - do not touch. Compare the woman's version of what God said with what God actually said: Gen 2:16,17 and Gen 3:2, 3)

Somehow, something was added to what God said. Maybe the man added 'do not touch' when he told the woman about God's command. Maybe he thought that if she didn't touch it, she couldn't ever eat it, and she would be OK. Or maybe the woman decided to add 'do not touch' for herself.

It is dangerous to add something to God's word. Was it OK to touch the fruit? Yes! But the woman thought it was wrong to touch the fruit. So after she touched it, it was easy to eat it. It is very important to know what God's word says.

Possible threads to follow:

1. Sin is a word that Christians often use. One meaning of 'to sin' is 'to do something you should not do.' (shite wa naranai koto o shite shimau) When did the woman sin? (If they need to be prompted, ask Could she talk about the fruit? OK, so she didn't sin in verse 3. Could she look at the fruit? (yes) Could she touch the fruit? (yes) Could she pick the fruit? (yes) Could you eat the fruit? (no!)) She sinned when she ate the fruit. Her husband Adam also ate the fruit. And now, sin has become a very deep part of our nature as human beings. The Bible teaches that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)
2. This story shows something interesting about the man and the woman. Why did the snake talk to the woman? Why didn't the snake talk to the man? (let students speculate.) Even though the woman was the first person to eat the fruit, the Bible teaches that Adam is responsible for sin coming into the world. (1 Cor. 15:22) Why? The Bible says the woman was tricked by the snake. (I Tim 2:14). But the man was not tricked. He knew it was wrong to eat the fruit, but he decided to eat it anyway. He wanted to do what his wife was doing more than he wanted to please God and enjoy God.
3. We still cover ourselves. We all have the sense of shame. We don't tell people everything that we are thinking and feeling, we keep some things secret. We have secrets from our closest friends and family. We think that if people really knew all about us, they wouldn't want to have any relationship with us. We think we would be completely alone. Do you think this is what many people feel? (try to draw your students out indirectly by talking in general about 'people')
4. What would the world be like if people did not have shame? (this is a very exploring question, and I would be very interested in the answers. LEK)
5. Jesus knew about shame. Even though He never disobeyed God, He knew shame when He was on the cross. Dying on a cross was a very shameful death. But He took that shame so that anyone who believes in Him could be free from shame. (Total freedom from shame will only come in heaven. But believers can have a freedom from being ruled by shame.)