

The First Time People Felt Guilt
Genesis 3: 11-13

Objective: The students will consider how people defend themselves.

Introduction:

We have been studying the beginning of things in Bible time. Everything was going fine until the woman met the snake. The snake asked the woman a tricky question, and then lied about what God had said. But the woman listened to the snake. What did the woman do next? (she ate some of the fruit that God said not to eat.)

The woman ate some of the fruit, and gave some to the man. After they ate the fruit, how did they feel? (they felt shame, (ashamed) and afraid)

The woman and the man felt shame and fear because of what they did. Today we will see that they will feel another new emotion. It is a very uncomfortable emotion, like shame and fear. Try to guess what this emotion is.

Questions:

- What was the man's answer to God's second question? ('It was the woman!' or, 'Not me! Her!' as in the clip art.)
- What was the short answer to God's second question? ('Yes, I did.')

Read Genesis 3: 11-13

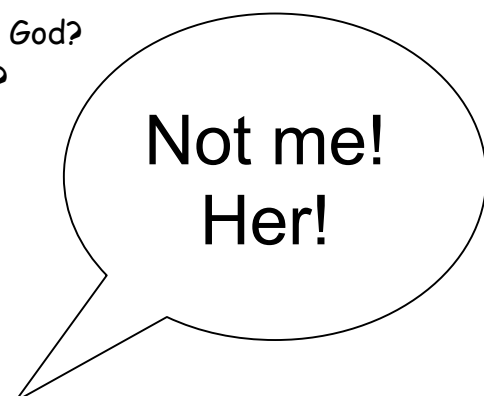
Answer the questions.

Identify the new emotion: guilt!

Why aren't they giving simple answers to God?

Why aren't they just saying "Yes, I did."?

What are they feeling? (guilt)



Possible threads to follow:

1. Shame and fear point to guilt: God's (second) question pointed to their guilt. It pointed to (exposed) the reason they felt shame and fear. They felt shame and fear because they were guilty. They were guilty before God. They had clearly disobeyed Him. But before they felt guilt (were aware of it) they felt shame and fear. The man and the woman knew something was wrong because of the shame and the fear. They thought their problem was being naked. But their real problem was disobeying God. They were guilty before God. We see in this story that shame and fear come from being guilty before God. We see how people find other reasons to explain their shame and fear (nakedness). We see that their real problem is not obeying God. Not believing His word.
2. Guilt leads to blame: Look how quickly the man blames the woman! "Not me! Her!" This woman had been created especially for this man. Do you remember how she was created? (from his rib) They had been naked together and not ashamed. The man had even decided to do what the woman was doing rather than what God told him to do. But now! He is blaming her! The love of his life. He is ready to sacrifice her to save himself. This little sin is creating a big separation in their relationship. Some people today do not feel guilt. But if they blame others, it shows that they have guilt, even if they don't feel it.
3. The man was defending himself. Why do people defend themselves? (they feel alone, afraid, unprotected) God was now a judge, and the man did not have a lawyer (*bengo-shi*). Did you know that Jesus is the lawyer for everyone who believes? 1 John 2:1 "we have a helper" or "advocate" (NASB) which is like a lawyer. What do you think Jesus says as the believers lawyer? When a believer sins, what does Jesus say to God? (It's not specifically written, but basically that He already died to take the punishment for that sin.) There is no need to defend yourself if you have a lawyer. Especially such a wonderful 'lawyer' as Jesus!

