

TEMPTATION

ILLUSTRATION / DEMONSTRATION

PREPARATION:

Obtain or buy a large fruit basket.

DURING THE CHILDREN'S SERMON:

Show kids the fruit basket, telling them a little about the beautiful garden God created in Eden, and about the many different kinds of fruit trees God put there. Ask the children, "Can anyone tell me what kind of fruit Adam and Eve ate when they sinned?" After a few guesses, open the *NIV Adventure Bible* to page 5, saying, "I have the answer right here. Listen to this 'Did You Know?' article from the *Adventure Bible*, called 'What Kind of Fruit Did Adam and Eve Eat?'"

The Bible does not name the fruit that Adam and Eve ate. It's not really important. The important point of this story is that Adam and Eve disobeyed God. He had told them not to eat the fruit from this particular tree, but they did it anyway.

SCRIPTURE READING

Turn in the *NIV Adventure Bible* to Genesis 3, telling the children, "Let's look at what happened in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. This is from the book of Genesis, chapter 3, verses 1–13."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

FEATURE READING / MESSAGE

Turn to page 5 in the *NIV Adventure Bible*, telling the children, "Adam and Eve really made a bad choice, didn't they? Let's think for a moment about what caused them to make such a big mistake. Listen to the first part of this 'Live It!' article from the *Adventure Bible*, called 'Wrong Decisions.'"

Adam and Eve made a wrong decision, and they ate from a tree that God had told them to leave alone. Do you ever wonder why they did it? For some answers, [think about what happened in the story from Genesis]. Adam and Eve made the wrong decision because:

- Someone told them it was all right to do the wrong thing.
- It looked like an exciting thing to do.
- A close friend did it first.

After Adam and Eve had made that wrong decision, they felt guilty and afraid. They hid from God when he entered the garden. They knew they had done wrong, but it was too late.

Say to the children, "Adam and Eve were tempted to do something wrong, and there seemed to be several good reasons to do it. Besides the three reasons I just read, the fruit on the tree looked delicious and supposedly would make them as smart as God! So Adam and Eve let the temptation get the best of them, and they sinned. They ate the fruit God told them not to eat. This was a huge mistake that caused them—and all the people who came after them—a lot of suffering."

APPLICATION

Opening the *NIV Adventure Bible* again to page 5, tell the children, "Let's consider how you and I can win the fight against temptation, so we can do what God wants us to do. Listen to the rest of the 'Live It!' article called 'Wrong Decisions.'"

Think about what you should say if someone tells you it's all right to do a wrong thing, if something wrong looks exciting, or if a friend does a wrong thing first and wants you to do it too. If you can't think of a good answer, ask an older friend or your mom or dad for advice.

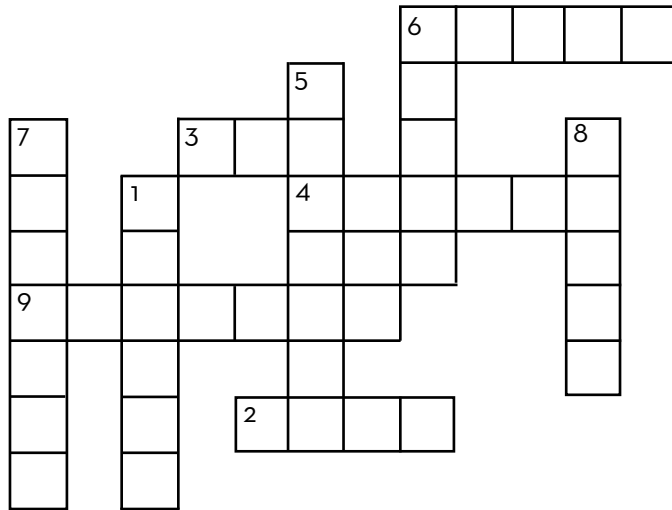
Say to the children, "Those are wise things to do to help you fight temptation when it comes. It's also wise to remember what Jesus did when Satan tempted him three times in the desert right after he was baptized. Listen to this 'Live It!' article from the *Adventure Bible*, called 'Fighting Temptation.'"

Can you [recall] three words that Jesus said each time Satan tempted him?

The words are, "It is written." Jesus fought each temptation by deciding to obey God and do what God says in the Bible. When you are tempted to do something wrong, you can defeat temptation too. Decide to obey God and do what the Bible says.

Tell the children, "Jesus overcame Satan's temptations by answering, 'It is written ...' and then quoting a Scripture verse that made it clear that what Satan was tempting him to do was wrong. In today's language, instead of 'It is written ...,' we might say, 'God says ...' or 'The Bible says ...' and then quote a verse we remember. That's part of the reason why it's so important to memorize verses from the Bible. Knowing God's words—and choosing to obey them—are very powerful weapons against temptation!"

Can you figure out this crossword puzzle?



ACROSS

2. The first man.
3. The first woman.
4. The forbidden tree was in the _____ of the garden (Genesis 3:2-3).
6. Adam and Eve made a _____ decision when they ate the fruit.
9. You should ask your _____ for advice.

DOWN

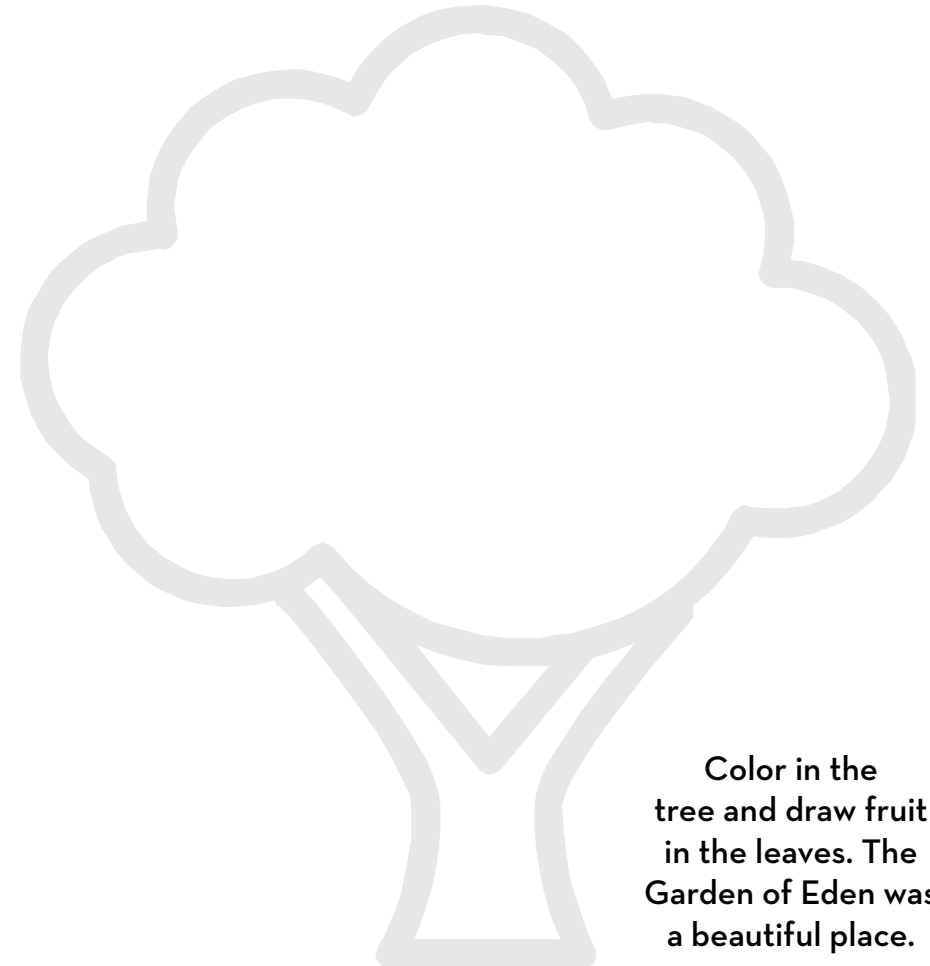
1. God created the _____ of Eden.
5. Eve was _____ by the serpent to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree.
6. God's _____ are powerful weapons against temptation.
7. Tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit.
8. _____ was tempted by Satan three times in the desert.

ANSWER KEY | ACROSS 2. ADAM 3. EVE 4. MIDDLE 6. WRONG 9. PARENTS
DOWN 1. GARDEN 5. TEMPTED 6. WORDS 7. SERPENT 8. JESUS

Adventure BIBLE

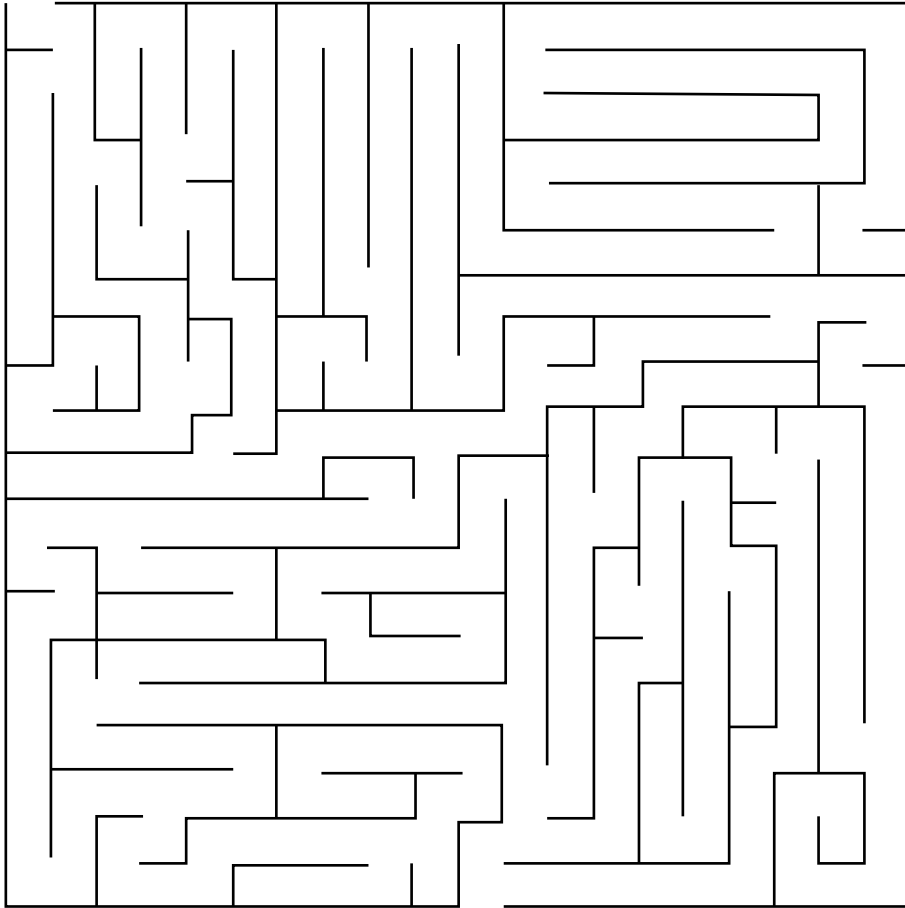
TEMPTATION

C H I L D R E N ' S W O R S H I P B U L L E T I N



Color in the tree and draw fruit in the leaves. The Garden of Eden was a beautiful place.

Help Adam and Eve through the maze to escape from the serpent who tries to tempt them.



Can you find all the words in this word search?

C	R	S	V	Z	D	I	S	O	B	E	Y	E
O	T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	D	K
M	G	O	P	U	N	W	T	G	T	E	J	U
M	I	M	R	E	V	I	Y	N	V	U	N	H
A	P	T	D	S	U	N	E	I	L	E	N	E
N	D	E	F	R	I	P	E	O	D	K	I	V
D	Z	A	F	O	R	C	V	R	O	I	S	E
S	U	X	M	E	E	A	A	B	P	E	N	D
M	T	C	S	D	L	G	B	T	R	E	E	P

Eden

Garden

Serpent

Temptation

Disobey

Adam

Eve

Sin

Tree

Fruit

Deceived

Commands