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CHOICES

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What should you eat? And what should you wear?
How should you speak or fix your hair?

You must make choices every day
About many things that come your way.

Yes or no? And large or small?
Give to others or keep it all?

Is it right? Or is it wrong?
You need answers all day long.

God made the world, and God made you.
He knows what's right for you to do!

Bible-time people made choices too.
Their stories can help you know what to do.

Some did wrong with all of their might.
Others pleased God and did what was right.

So read these stories to find your way
Through choices you'll make as you work and play.

(Be sure to look for the grasshoppers, too.
In every story, one's staring at you!)





The First Garden

Genesis 2:4-3:23; 5:4-5

CHOICE: Do Adam and Eve follow God's rule to obey him? Or do they disobey God's rule?

God made a wonderful world with mountains and trees and pumpkins and even a hippopotamus. God also made people to enjoy the wonderful world and take care of it.

The people God made were Adam and Eve. They liked the world God made. It was a garden full of good things like beans and pears and grapes, all ready for them to eat.

But most of all they liked living in the Garden with God. He loved Adam and Eve very much. In fact, he loved them so much that he wanted to help them obey him. So he told them about all the wonderful things they could do. And he warned them about the one thing they should never do. God showed them the tree in the center of the Garden. He said, "Do not eat from that tree. If you eat fruit from that tree, you will die."

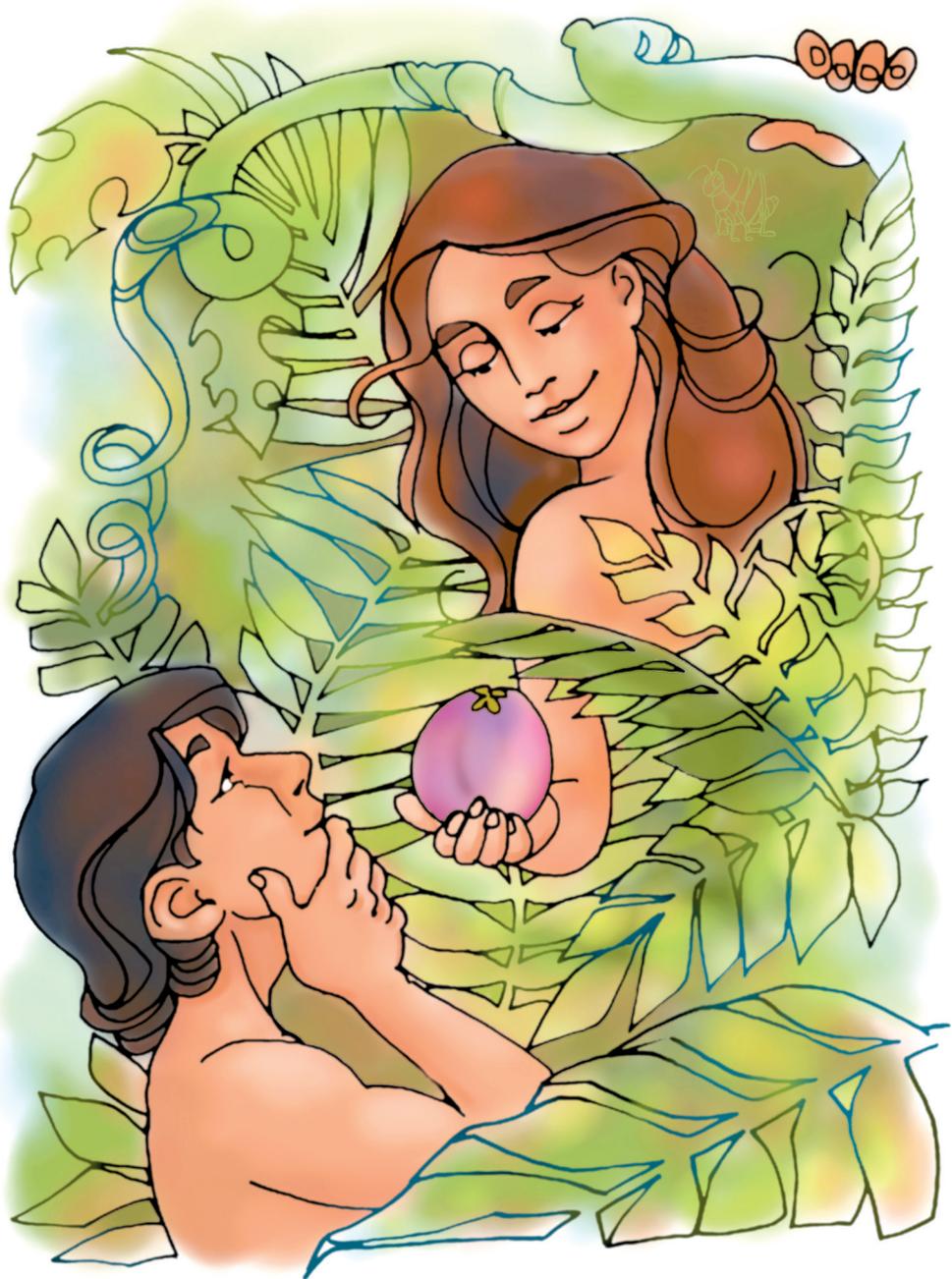
God wanted Adam and Eve to obey him. Then he would always keep them safe. They would live in the Garden forever.

A snake lived in the Garden. He was the sneakiest creature of all. He did not love God or the world that God made or the people in it.

One day the snake talked to Eve. He said, "Why don't you eat fruit from the tree in the center of the Garden?"

Eve said, "God told us not to eat from that tree or we will die."

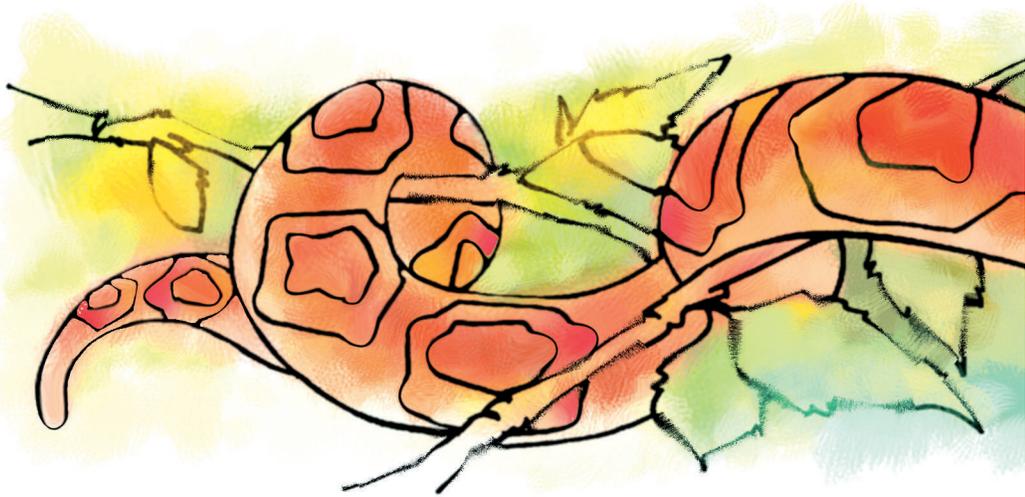
The snake said, "You won't die if you eat it. You'll know everything, just like God does."



Eve saw that the fruit looked very good, and she wanted to taste it.

Now Eve had a big choice to make. She could listen to God and not eat the fruit. Or she could disobey God and eat the fruit.

Eve chose to take some fruit and eat it. She gave some to Adam, and he ate it too. They did not obey God.



So they had to leave the Garden and work hard. They could never go to the Garden again.

After some time, Adam and Eve grew old. Many years later, they died.

God always loved Adam and Eve. But he was very sad. God was sad because Adam and Eve had made the wrong choice and disobeyed him.





Remember Together

Who was the sneakiest creature in the Garden?

What was the one rule God made?

Did Adam and Eve make a good choice or a bad choice?

What sad thing happened to Adam and Eve?

Think about YOUR Choices

Name ways to obey God. (Don't steal or lie; be kind; take care of God's world; follow the rules at my house.) What rules at your house help to keep you safe?



Do a Good-Choice Activity

Draw a sad face and a happy face on two paper circles. Tape a pencil between the circles. At bedtime each night, talk about obeying God. Name times when you didn't obey that day, and hold up the sad face. Then name times when you did obey, and show the happy face.

When we choose to obey, God helps us to be safe and happy!

Pray Together

Dear God, thank you for helping us choose to obey you. Thank you for good rules that keep us safe. In Jesus' name. Amen.

