



Beautiful
BIBLE TREASURES
For Children

Lesson 8

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

Trees and Choices

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

Trees and Choices

Level C—Story Time with Jesus:

Trees and Choices

Level D—What Does it Actually Say?:

Trees and Choices

Level E—Bible Bits: Humility/ Topic Treasures—

Admitting Mistakes and God's Forgiveness

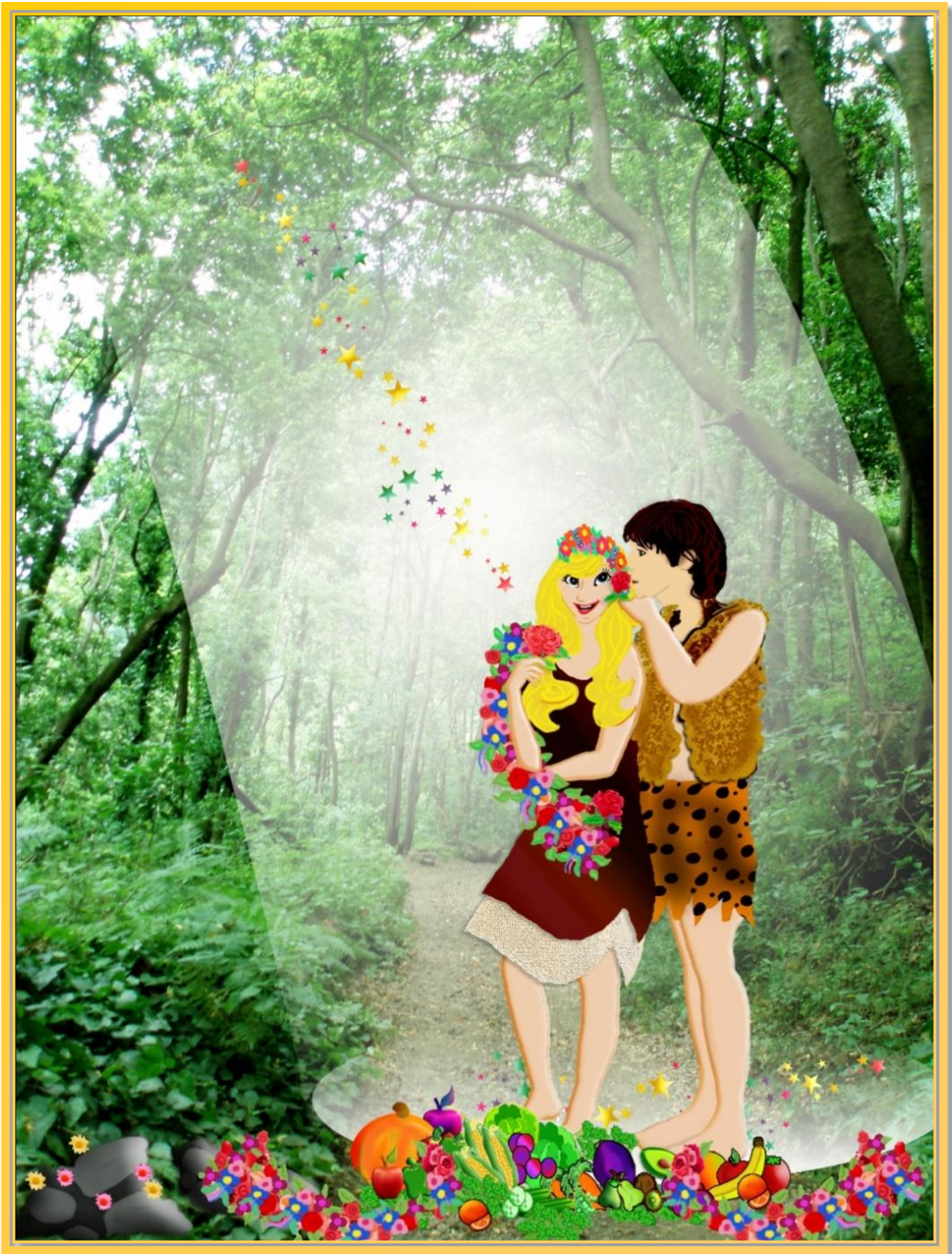
Trees and Choices

Even though the Garden of Eden was perfect and wonderful, and Adam and Eve were enjoying it greatly, there was something more important than just having a nice time and having everything fun: learning to obey God.

Adam and Eve learned this lesson—to do things God's way, and not listen to someone telling them the opposite.


God said they could eat from every tree in the Garden except for one, but they disobeyed, and then sad things happened. God had to take away some of their special blessings. They learned that they were the happiest when they obeyed God.

Each person on Earth has to choose what they are going to do, just like Adam and Eve had to. Will you make the right choices that will make you and others, and most of all God, happy?



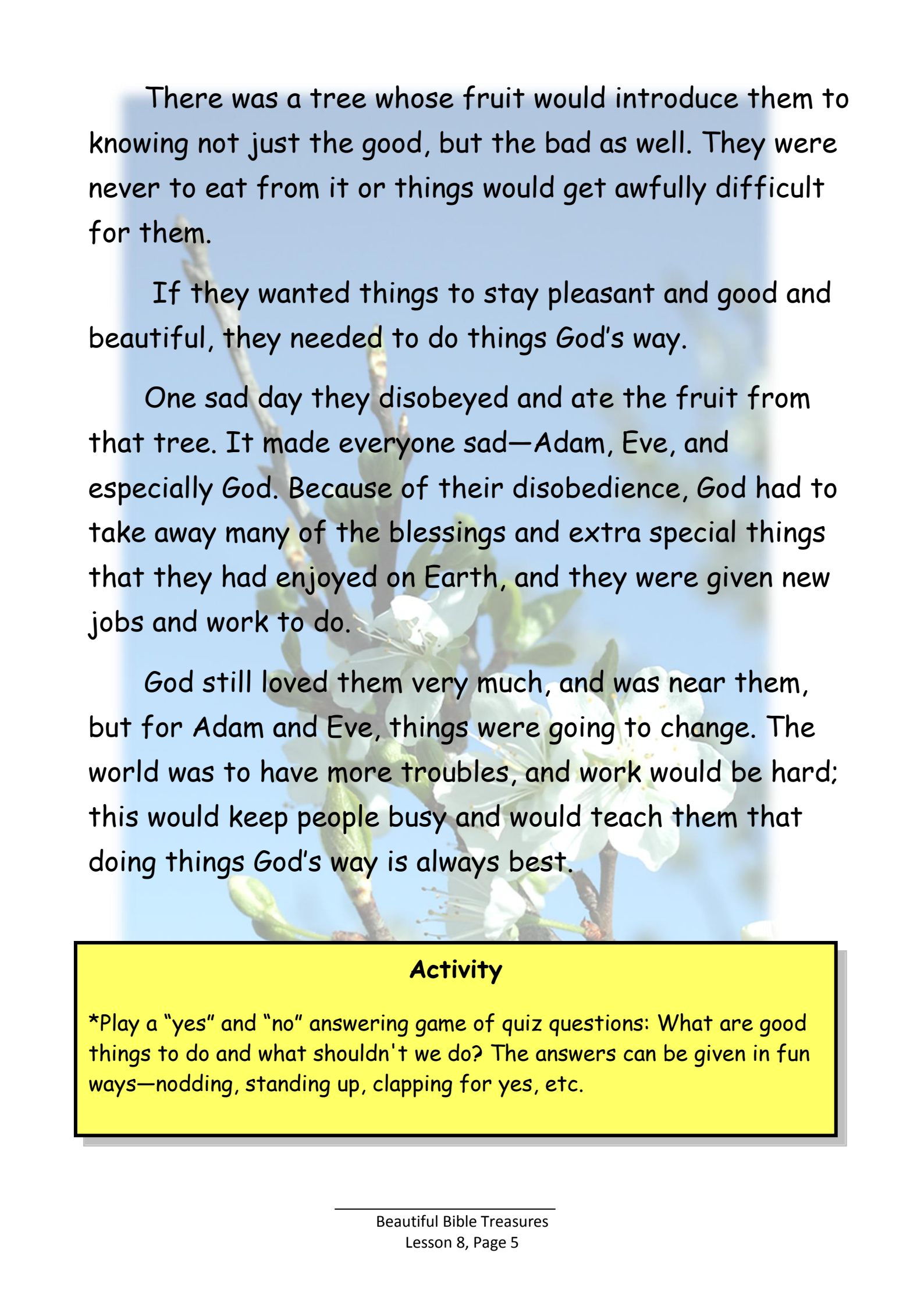
Trees and Choices

Is it hard for you to always make the right decision—especially when you've been told not to do something that actually looks like fun or as if it wouldn't make much of a difference if you did it?



Adam and Eve were given everything they needed, and more. God said they could eat from any tree in the Garden of Eden that they wanted to, as well as a special tree called the "Tree of Life".

It was a special place to be. There were no "do not enter" construction signs, or roadblocks, or books of rules with many complicated instructions to figure out, but there was one important instruction that God gave them that they had to obey.



There was a tree whose fruit would introduce them to knowing not just the good, but the bad as well. They were never to eat from it or things would get awfully difficult for them.

If they wanted things to stay pleasant and good and beautiful, they needed to do things God's way.

One sad day they disobeyed and ate the fruit from that tree. It made everyone sad—Adam, Eve, and especially God. Because of their disobedience, God had to take away many of the blessings and extra special things that they had enjoyed on Earth, and they were given new jobs and work to do.

God still loved them very much, and was near them, but for Adam and Eve, things were going to change. The world was to have more troubles, and work would be hard; this would keep people busy and would teach them that doing things God's way is always best.

Activity

*Play a "yes" and "no" answering game of quiz questions: What are good things to do and what shouldn't we do? The answers can be given in fun ways—nodding, standing up, clapping for yes, etc.

Trees and Choices



In His beautiful garden God placed some special trees. These were unlike any placed in any other part of the world. Besides making a beautiful garden and setting, these were trees that contained fruit of a special kind.

These were God's special trees, with unusual fruit. You won't find these anywhere in the world today. One tree gave knowledge of all kinds—good and bad—and the other gave life and healing.

The only rule given to the gardeners—Adam and Eve—was to stay away from the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil." As long as they obeyed this, they knew total beauty and led a happy life in that amazing place.

The day they chose to disobey, however, and listened to the Evil One rather than God, that's when things started to change.

One day, sadly, they tasted that fruit, and had to bear the consequences of difficult changes in the world, as well as their departure from that special garden.

The tree of life was guarded by angels, and mankind would no longer have access to it. It was time to move on and learn new things in a new place.



God loved them so much, and never left their side. He continued to take care of them and help them as they gained experience and knowledge, invented and built things, explored and discovered new territory, while all the time having to bear with the new troubles that their disobedience had caused.

Thorns, poisonous plants, sickness, sorrow, pain, ugliness, loss, and even death had entered the world. Food was now harder to come by, and required a lot of hard work to grow in gardens and farms.

People began to wear clothing, which, of course, had to be made and washed. And in many other new ways, people were kept busy. Furthermore, instead of thinking thoughts of goodness and beauty, now thoughts of badness and ugliness began to invade people's minds. These had to be pushed aside if people did not want their lives to get worse than they already were.



Even though Adam and Eve made that mistake and ate the fruit that they weren't supposed to, they have not been the only ones to disobey God.

People still have to decide every day what they are going to choose—the good or the bad, the beautiful or the ugly, the helpful or the harmful, the humble or the proud, belief in God's Word or belief in what others say that is contrary. On and the choices go, every day, for each person in the world.

Choice is what was granted to men and women, and not only do people's choices affect their lives, but also the lives of many others in the world—and sometimes the whole world.

Adam and Eve's choices in the garden resulted in a change in the world, in difficulties becoming a part of the world—things that affect people today. Choices are still made today that affect many others. Did you know that you

can affect others around you, and even the whole world, for good or for bad by your choices?

Because of bad choices then and today, the world is not the way it used to be. Today there is pollution, animals are losing their habitats, and bugs and pests and germs are giving people a hard time. Many people aren't living happy lives. There is poverty, sickness, and plenty of sorrow the world over, but it won't be like this forever.

There is a plan, and it's a wonderful plan. Perhaps you will even help to bring this plan about! There will be a time when things will change back to their former state of beauty, without the pests and troubles, poisons and ugliness that have spread through the world today.

Remember that in spite of the thorns on the rose bushes, and other imperfections and even harmful things around, there is a lot more beauty than bad and ugly things.

Every night, all around the world, a new and beautiful sunset is painted, with unique designs. Even frost can shine in scintillating, sparkling ways, making a view in winter look better than peering through the finest jewellery shop window.

Tall majestic trees, balanced perfectly, each leaf beautiful in form, are amazing to gaze up at. The vibrant colours and hues that flowers display are so cheery and can look more beautiful than a set of fancy clothes, and their scents give you a pleasant feeling.

Glassy lakes reflecting the autumn trees can keep you gazing for a long time, appreciating such artistic quality. Looking at a sparkling stream gurgling its way around the rocks has a relaxing and refreshing effect.

Fields of grass and wildflowers in the sunshine can brighten anyone's day if they stop for a minute to look and take in the beauty. Running through them can be a wonderful experience.

As beautiful as things are, I'm sure the imperfections and problems can get you down at times. However, one day it will be made wonderfully perfect again. Won't that be great?

Until that time, though not everything is perfect, you can still decide to do your best to do the things God wants you to, and to take care of the world the best you can, and to live in peace with others. You can also look forward to the time when all will be beautiful again, without the things that mar the loveliness of nature.

Let's Talk About It

*Talk about the verse that says, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17), and what it means.

* Think of some examples of how obeying certain instructions or rules can make other things easier and happier for us. For example: health guidelines, driving rules, safety rules, etc.

Activity

*Make a reward chart for any area(s) the children are working on or improving in. Plan a reward when new habits have been formed and definite efforts to improve are seen.

Trees and Choices



Connect and Communicate

*Is there something on your mind that you can hardly wait to ask Jesus about when you get to heaven? Take turns telling Jesus some of the things you are looking forward to talking about face to face and finding out about up there.

Study Fun

Find: Where it describes the negative feelings they had after disobeying.

Learn: A Bible verse on obedience. (Suggested verses: Ecclesiastes 12:13, John 13:17, John 14:15)

Demonstrate: Show with actions and expressions how Adam and Eve felt and acted when they were living in the Garden of Eden and being obedient to God's rules. Then show what it was like after disobedience and sin entered their lives.

Genesis

2:15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

2:16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

3:8 And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

3:9 And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.



3:11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

3:13 And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.



3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

3:23 Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Activity

*Review, make or clarify your family's "house rules" for a happy, safe home. Talk about why different rules are in place. Explain rules that need further explanation. Do away with ones that are obsolete or that have outgrown their usefulness. Discuss new guidelines for problem areas, to help make your home the best and happiest it can be!

Fountain of Faith

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man,
that he should lie;
neither the son of
man, that he
should repent:



hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken,
and shall he not make it good?

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that
fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Humility

Prayer

Psalm 116:2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

*Pray for a country of your choice—its leaders and their decisions, the climate, rescue work and natural disasters, the people's receptivity to God's Word, etc.

Psalm 10:17 Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear.

Proverbs 16:19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Acts 20:19a Serving the Lord with all humility of mind.

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

Proverbs 22:4 By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life.

Activity

Good things that come as a result of being humble—add to the list:

H Hearing from the Lord, _____

U Unity with your family, _____

M Making faster progress, _____

B Benefiting from others' advice, _____

L Laughter, _____

E Exciting experiences, _____

Ways we can be humble—add to the list:

H Help out, _____

U Uplifting words, _____

M Manners (good), _____

B Best piece offered to another, _____

L Listen when someone is speaking, _____

E Encourage others, _____



Topic Treasures

—Admitting Mistakes and God's Forgiveness

Study Fun

Find: The ways these verses describe God's love—what words or phrases are used.

Learn: 1 John 1:9. Memorise it.

Demonstrate: The story of the two brothers, mentioned in Matthew 5:23,24.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 44:21 Shall not God search this out? For he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Luke 7:47a Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much.



Psalms 32:5 I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.

Psalm 86:5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Matthew 5:23,24 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Psalm 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.



Daily Diary

*Write a short note to Jesus, apologising for something you've done wrong, or an attitude that isn't good, or a thought you've allowed—something that perhaps only He knows about—and ask for His forgiveness. It will be there for you, and you'll feel so much better!

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