

Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that during the service you will be unpacking how sin entered the world and what happened as a result. If you are using this service as part of the series: "The Big Story of God", explain that too.

Opening Prayer: Order of service

Intro theme choices....

Life is full of choices isn't it?

- Every choice we make will lead to something happening. Lean/L R
-

Opening song – 673 blessed be the name of the Lord 466 praise my soul

Link:

Name of first book of the bible – anyone know what Genesis means?

The Bible shows us this principle in the story of Adam and Eve.

- In the book of Genesis we read that God created Adam and Eve,
- the first man and woman,
- and placed them in a beautiful garden, which they were given to look after.

God told them that they were free to eat from any tree in the garden.

- There was only one rule however.
- God told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Confession – lead into it – breaking God's rules

Bible Reading:

The Bible reading is Genesis 3:8-15. This is what happens after Adam and Eve had made that bad choice to disobey God and eat the fruit from the tree – what fruit was it? Karen, Zac and Abi are going to read it for us.

Talk:

This talk needs the props of two large perfect and shiny apples, two apple pips, sharp knife and chopping board. Note that when you cut the apple in half, make sure that you cut across the apple rather than top to bottom. If you cut across the apple, the core makes the shape of a star.

1) God loves us

So starting at the beginning of the story.....

- God made the beautiful world we live in,
- He made this delicious apple, (*show apple*)
- He made the first people, who the Bible call Adam and Eve, (which is Hebrew for man and woman), and he made you and me.

The Bible tells us that God loves what He has made.

- He loves each one of us with a love that is greater than anything else in this world.....
- we are the *“apple of his eye,”* (*hold apple in the palm of your hand and look intently at it*) □ which means that we are very special and precious to him.

When God made us, He wanted us to have a loving relationship with Him and loving relationships with each other.....

- We read that in the beginning God had that close relationship with Adam and Eve,
- but then things went wrong, as we saw in our reading. Where are you?

2) We rejected God

Things went wrong when Adam and Eve chose to make a very bad decision.

- They chose to disobey God and listen to Satan.

God had told them not to touch the fruit on only one tree, (*hold up apple high as if it is on a tree*)

- but when Adam and Eve saw that the fruit on the tree looked good (*look up at apple*)
- they chose to disobey God and take it (*with your other hand, “pick” the apple from the “tree”*)
- and eat it. (*take a bite out of the side of the apple*)

As soon as they had eaten the fruit they realised that they had made a very bad decision.

- They felt ashamed of what they had done and
- they hid from God because their sin made them dirty (*Look at apple and point out bite mark and then hold apple in your hand as far away from your body as possible – gone brown?*)

3) Separated from God

Because of their bad decision to disobey God, Adam and Eve’s relationship with God was completely broken. (*Cut apple in half across the middle using sharp knife on chopping board. Do this quite dramatically!*)

- No longer could they enjoy walking closely with Him because God is holy and perfect and cannot even look at sin.
- They were sent out of the garden;
- they were separated from him. (*Hold two halves of apple apart*)

Now you might think: how sad for Adam and Eve, but what has that got to do with us?

- The Bible tells us that like Adam and Eve, we have all chosen to sin,
- we have all chosen to rebel against God in one way or another, and so we, like them, are separated from Him too,
- but the good news is that God didn’t give up on us.

God loves us so much that He wanted to put the relationship between Him and us right,

- even though it is our fault that it was broken.

4) Jesus came to rescue us.

God’s rescue plan involved sending His Son Jesus into the world.

- He put a sign in the sky to show people that Jesus was coming.
- The sign was a special star.
- Did any of you know that there is a star inside every apple? (*Show one side of the apple where the core is in the shape of a star*)

Jesus didn't enter the world as the mighty powerful King He is, ☐ but he entered as a baby,

- born in Bethlehem.

Unlike us, Jesus lived a totally sinless life,

- loving and obeying his heavenly Father perfectly.
- Jesus made no bad choices!

When he was 33 years old, Jesus was crucified on a cross accused of crimes that he hadn't committed.

- Three days later he rose again from the dead and is now reigning as King in heaven.

The Bible teaches us that when Jesus died and rose again,

- He did it to pay for all the wrong things, the sins that we have done.

5) Our response

We are now faced with the biggest choice of our lives.

- If we choose to take our tiny seed of faith (*Pick up a seed from the centre of the apple and show it*)
- and put our trust in Jesus, then we will be given a brand new life. (*show second perfect apple*)

Our sins will be forgiven,

- we will be welcomed into God's arms to know Him as our loving Heavenly Father,
- and we will live in relationship with Him for ever....as the apple of his eye.

Not only that but we are given a special gift.

- The Spirit of Jesus comes to live inside us, helping us to choose to be obedient,
- and changing us so that we start to want to please God rather than ourselves. What happened in the garden of Eden is restored in Jesus.

However if we choose to not place our seed of faith in Jesus, (*throw away the seed*)

- we can carry on living life our own way,
- disobeying and rejecting God....but then we will be separated from Him.

This choice faces every single man, woman, boy and girl.

- So with such a wonderful offer of love available to you, choose wisely.

Creed, intercessions...

Response:

You will need a couple of bowls of seeds. Black sesame seeds (that look like apple pips) could work well.

Pass around pieces of paper with Seed on. Invite people to hold their small "seed of faith" in their hands and then pray...

Thank you Jesus that you died for me, and that I am free to make good choices because of the gift of your Holy Spirit. Help me to live by faith and to trust you every day. Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

Conclude the time of prayer by saying the Lord's Prayer together (OOS)

Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

- Life is full of choices. Some of them have big consequences.
- Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and so they ended up separated from Him.
- We too have chosen to sin but if we choose to trust Jesus our sins can be forgiven and we can know God as our Father

Notices inc banns(!), Final Song: 640 You shall go out with joy

Closing responses and :

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**