

## That Fruit *Does* Look Good: Who Can I Trust?

by Annette Gullick 10/1/2001

### Lesson Four

**Lesson Objective:** That students would learn to discern between Satan's lies, their desires, and God's truth.

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 3:1-7

**Bible Truth:** Adam and Eve sinned because they allowed Satan's lies and their desires to obscure God's truth.

#### Before You Begin:

- ◆ bowl of tempting candy
- ◆ sign "Do Not Eat"
- ◆ candy
- ◆ tape
- ◆ blindfold
- ◆ Bibles
- ◆ chalkboard or large paper to write on
- ◆ blank sheets of paper
- ◆ pencils
- ◆ paper with bible verses written on them

#### Opening:

Before the students arrive place the bowl of candy in a central and obvious place. Above it tape a sign which reads "Do Not Eat." As the students arrive talk to them as if the bowl weren't there, but keep an eye on how they react. Then, after an opening prayer, ask them:

- *How difficult was it to obey the sign?*
- *What made it harder? (I like that kind of candy) What made it easier? (You were standing nearby and could see me.)*
- *What are some typical temptations that you face on an everyday basis?*

*Learning to recognize and defeat temptation can make or break our lives. Every morning thousands of people wake up, wanting to kick themselves because of temptations they fell for. Many lost all their money in a get-rich-quick scheme. Others wake up regretting that they fell for the temptation to get drunk, and the embarrassing things they did as a result. Others regret the damaging things they*

***said to their parents or friends when they fell to the temptation to get angry. Today we want to learn how to avoid this grief by learning from a couple who fell.***

Lead in a prayer, asking God to help us all listen to Him.

### Interactive Learning

Ask for 6 volunteers then explain that they will be involved in an activity to see how well they can listen. Divide the 6 students into three pairs and give each pair a blindfold. Tape three pieces of candy on the wall about 10 feet away from where the volunteers are standing. Ask the teams to blindfold one member while you describe the rules: the blindfolded person will be spun in a circle three times by their partner before setting out to try to get the piece of candy taped to the wall. Their partner cannot touch them but will direct them verbally towards the candy, while the other class members will be calling out erroneous directions. If the blindfolded person touches any part of the wall except the candy they must quit and take off their blindfold. But if the blindfolded person touches the candy without touching the wall first, they may eat it. Make sure you have a piece for their partner also. When all three teams have reached the wall have the students return to their seats and ask them:

- *Which team was the most successful and why?*
- *How is this game like our lives? (Lots of people tell us what to do and sometimes it's hard to decide who to listen to.)*

***Today we continue our study on the lives of Adam & Eve, looking at what happened when they allowed Satan's lies and their desires to obscure God's truth. As you mentioned at the beginning of the class we face lots of temptations and decisions every day and it's not always easy to know what is the right thing, or once we know, to do it. Today we want to see what we can learn from Adam and Eve's lives to help us.***

### Bible Application

Ask for volunteers and assign them the roles: narrator, God, Snake, and Eve. While the other students read along silently, have them read Genesis 2:16,17 and 3:1-7 according to their roles. Then ask the actors to read through the passage again, this time putting special emphasis on the words as if they were really that person.

Write on a chalkboard, large paper or overhead the headings " God," " Satan," " Eve," then ask the students the following questions, writing the correct answers on the board.

- *Exactly what did God say to Adam in 2:16, 17?*

- **What did Satan, in the form of a snake, say to Eve in 3:1? In 3:4? In 3:5?**
- **What did Eve say in 3:2,3? In 3: 6?**

***In these few verses we see some patterns of how Satan's lies and our desires lead us to sin. Satan is called "a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44) and here we see some of his strategies.***

- **Did he lie when he asked, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" (No, but he distorted God's command by emphasizing God's prohibition instead of his provision.)**

**Write on the board beside Satan v. 1 "distorts what God says"**

- **Did he lie when he said, "You will not surely die"? (Yes, because God had said they would die)**

**Write beside v.4 "says that what God says isn't true" and "says that we won't get punished."**

- **Did he lie when he said, "when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil"? (No, because eating the fruit did bring Adam and Eve the knowledge of good and evil.) *And although this was not a lie, it was an attempt to use the truth to cause them to sin by saying that what God told them was not really the best thing for them.***

**Write beside v. 5, "says God is depriving us of something good."**

***After all these years Satan still uses the same strategies with us, doesn't he? He distorts what God actually says, he tell us that God lied, that he won't really punish us, and that he is depriving us.***

- **Now lets look at what Eve did. How is her answer in v. 3 different than God's original command? (God didn't say anything about touching, he just said not to eat it.)**

**Write beside v.3 "adding to God's command."**

***It is incredible that here at the very beginning of history when God had only asked people to do ONE thing, we see mankind adding to God's command. Throughout the Bible we see that people have disobeyed God's commands in two ways: ignored them or added to them. We see in Scripture that both of these are wrong: to ignore them leads to sin and punishment, but to add to them, as we see in the case of the Pharisees of Jesus day, leads to other sins, like pride and self-righteousness (Luke 18:9-14) which also bring punishment. It is interesting to note, and an important warning for people in the church, that Jesus' harshest criticisms were for the "legalistic" Pharisees who added to God's laws and focused on externals.***

- ***What were Eve's reasons for eating the fruit in v. 6? (It was good for food, pleasing to the eye, desirable for gaining wisdom.)***

Write on the board "seemed healthy," "attractive," "interesting and helpful for 'self-actualization.'"

- ***Can you think of an example of how Satan's strategies and our desires lead us into sin?***

## Commitment

***The best way to be able to discern God's truth from Satan's lies and our sinful desires is to search the Bible to see what God says about that particular issue. Let's look at what God's Word says about some important issues. (Divide the students into four groups and give to each group a pen or pencil, a blank piece of paper and small piece of paper with the following verses written on it):***

**Group 1: Lying--Acts 5:1-11; Prov. 6 16-21, 12:22**

**Group 2: Cheating-- Prov. 10:9, 11:1,3, 13:11**

**Group 3: Choosing Friends and Boy/Girlfriends--Prov. 12:26, 13:20; 1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1**

**Group 4: Sex Outside Marriage--Prov. 5:1-5; Eph 5: 3-7; 1 Thess. 4:1-5**

Each group should appoint a secretary to take the blank piece of paper, draw three columns and title them: God's Truth, Satan's Lies, My Sinful Desires. Then as a group think up examples of some of Satan's lies regarding their topic, and what desires make that sin attractive to them. Ask them to write down at least two for each category. Then they should read the Bible verses to see what God's truth is. After they have finished have them share their answers with the rest of the group.

## Closing

***Weeks ago we studied about God placing His image in us. Thus, we reflect God's image by using the minds that he has given us to discern what is right and wrong. Then, by using our God-given wills, (strengthened by God's Spirit) we can choose to do what is right. Here are some tips to help us learn to discern between what God says is right and wrong:***

**[After you practice saying these tips, you may want to write these tips on a black board or hand out copies on papers for the students to take home.]**

### 1) Know what God really says:

***Don't be content just hearing what other people say. Go straight to God's Word to find out what He really says. Don't let other people add to or subtract from it.***

## **2) Pay attention to your conscience and the Holy Spirit in you.**

*Frequently we have a sense that what we're about to do is wrong but we ignore it and quickly do it anyway. If you want to know if something is wrong or not, ask God about it. He will tell you through His Word, His Spirit, and His people.*

## **3) Ask people you respect .**

*Parents, pastors, teachers, youth leaders, and older friends and family call all help us sort out tough questions--do you think Eve would have eaten that fruit if she had asked Adam what he thought first?*

**Ask the students to say the three tips with you several times. Then ask if anyone thinks they can say them on their own. Have several volunteers say the three tips, rewarding them each with some of the candy from the opening. In closing say the tips as a group and give candy to everyone.**

**Close with a prayer asking God to help the youth learn to discern what he wants them to do and to give them the strength to do it.**