

Sudden Knowledge



After the Lord God created the heavens and the earth but before the plants and animals were created, the Lord God formed a human from the soil. After the trees, plants, and all the animals were created by the Lord God, the human was placed in the garden of Eden to farm the land. But the fruit of one tree was off-limits to the human; it was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God said to the human, “You can eat all you want of everything in the garden, but do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat the fruit from it, you will die.”

After the Lord God created the animals, the human was still lonely, so the Lord God created a woman for the human.

Of all the animals in the garden of Eden, the snake was the smartest. The snake said to the woman, “Is it true that there is a tree in the garden that the Lord God told you not to eat its fruit?”

“We can eat as much as we want of any tree in the garden, but we are not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden,” the woman said. “If we eat from it, we will die.”

“Ha! You won’t die,” said the snake. “If you eat from that tree, you will know the difference between good and evil. You will be like the Lord God.”

The woman looked at the tree. The fruit hanging from it looked delicious, and wouldn’t it be good to be wise like God? So she took fruit from the tree and gave some to the human, her husband.

As soon as they tasted the fruit, the woman and her husband looked at each other and recognized that they had no clothes on. They were suddenly embarrassed and sewed fig leaves together to make clothes for themselves.

I wonder what the Lord God thought about the woman and the human now.



Serpent's Head Prayer

1. Read Genesis 3:14–15. How do you understand the actions of the woman's offspring?
2. Decorate a section of an egg carton to look like a serpent's head.
3. On a scrap of paper, write or draw about a time you chose to break God's boundaries and caused damage to your relationship with another person, with the natural world, or with God. No one will see this paper but you.
4. Crumple the paper into a ball, and put it inside the serpent's head.
5. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for sending Jesus Christ to be your Savior from sin and death.
6. As you say "Amen," stomp on the serpent's head to symbolize your trust in Jesus' victory over sin!

