

“Animal Tales” - LESSON 1

“The Snake”

Main Focus:

We must be aware of Satan's tricks to tempt us into sin



Power Verse:

“...God is faithful...When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:13



Watt's Up:

“Ssssstay Away From Ssssin!”

LEADER'S INFO

Satan has been around since the beginning of the world. His desire has been to cause man to turn against God and do his own thing.

All of this began in the Garden of Eden. Eve made a huge mistake, but it wasn't just an isolated incident. There were several mistakes she made that added up to the ultimate mistake of the original sin.

As we learn from the story of how Satan took the form of a snake to deceive Eve (and Adam) we will see the progression she went through and the steps she could have avoided.

We are all tempted, but we don't have to give into that temptation. The only way we can handle the pressure is to recognize that sin is rarely an isolated act, but rather a series of events that lead up to the ultimate act of giving into temptation.



“The Spark” Intro Video

Emilie visits a snake



“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt's Up?”



Character Skit

“The Actor”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Animal Trivia”



Bible Story

“The Snake In The Garden”



Power Verse Video

“...God is faithful...When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:13



Call To Action

“Ssssstay Away From Ssssin!”



Brain Drain

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

We must be aware of Satan's tricks to tempt us into sin



Power Verse:

“...God is faithful...When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:13



Watt's Up:

“Ssssstay Away From Ssssin!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Animal Tales” Video

“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

- “Watt's Up?” Teaching Video
- “Watt's Up?” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “The Actor” Theme Graphic/Music
- Large goatee
- Moustache
- Sunglasses

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game On!

- “Game On!” Bumper Video
- “Animal Trivia” Game

Bible Story

- “The Snake In The Garden” Graphics
- Bible

Power Verse Video

- “Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Ssssstay Away From Ssssin” Graphics
- Smart phone
- Pair of sneakers

Brain Drain

- “Brain Drain” Bumper Video
- “Brain Drain” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Sin Snake Print Piece
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Stay Away Print Piece
- Bean bags
- Pen or pencil
- Way Out Print Piece

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Emilie visits a snake

“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

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Character Skit

“The Actor”

Offering Time

Game On!

“Animal Trivia”

Bible Story

“The Snake In The Garden”

Power Verse Video

“...God is faithful...When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.” - 1 Corinthians 10:13

Call To Action

“Ssssstay Away From Ssssin!”

Brain Drain

Review Game

Small Group Experience



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “The Actor” *(he is a “method actor” who really gets into his roles which just happen to always be animal roles)*

ACTOR: *(has a large goatee, moustache, and sunglasses, waving and bowing to the kids)* Yes! Thank you, thank you! Oh, you’re too kind. Please, hold your applause!

Leader: I’m not really sure what’s going on here. Who are you?

ACTOR: *(laughs)* You’re hilarious! You **MUST** know you’re talking to the **GREATEST** animal actor of **ALL TIME**!

Leader: Animal actor? You’re an actor...that plays...animals? That’s actually a thing?

ACTOR: YES! Animal Actors are a proud tradition in Hollywood! I’ve been doing it for **YEARS**! I’ve played **EVERY** animal you could think of! Remember that really **SCARY** movie with the giant shark? *(sings a bit of the “Jaws” theme)*

Leader: Hold up - YOU played that shark?

ACTOR: Actually, no. It was really 32 guinea pigs stuffed into a shark costume. **BUT**, it was **ALMOST** me! And I’m preparing for my **GREATEST ROLE YET!** The **SNAKE!** Excuse me, while I get into character *(lays down on his stomach and tries to slither around)*

Leader: Do you need help?

ACTOR: No! I must do this on my own! I must **BECOME THE SNAKE!** *(“slithers” standing back up then wraps arms around the leader)*

Leader: What are you doing now?

ACTOR: I will use my powerful **SNAKE** muscles to crush you, then unhinge my jaw to eat lunch.

Leader: You are **NOT** going to eat me!

ACTOR: *(laughs)* Don’t be silly! I’m just going to eat half of you.

Leader: **LET GO OF ME RIGHT NOW!**

ACTOR: *(let’s go)* **ACTING!** Thank you! *(takes a bow)*

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Leader: Please, just stop. We’ve got a LOT to talk about in today’s lesson!

ACTOR: You’re talking about SNAKES, right? I figured I’d be the perfect person to talk to!

Leader: We’re not talking about ACTUAL snakes. We’re talking about the SNAKE in the Bible. You know - the devil? The one that tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden?

ACTOR: *(gasps)* That lying FIEND?! I wouldn’t DARE act like THAT snake! *(very dramatic)* DON’T LISTEN TO HIS LIES! FOLLOW GOD’S PLAN! *(nudges the leader)* How was that?

Leader: That’s actually part of the lesson we’re learning - we can’t listen to the devil’s lies! We need to follow God’s plan!

ACTOR: ACTING! THANK YOU! *(takes a bow)* It’s too bad that snakes don’t have any legs.

Leader: Why’s that?

ACTOR: Because aren’t you supposed to RUN from temptation? *(feverishly runs in place)*

Leader: *(sighs)* Yes, yes you are.

ACTOR: ACTING! THANK YOU! *(takes a bow)* I do my own stunts. Well, almost all of them. Don’t wanna mess up what I call “the paycheck”. *(points at his own face and grins)*

Leader: As fascinating as this conversation has been, we really need to move along with the rest of today’s lesson - this whole CROWD of kids is ready to learn all about -

ACTOR: WAIT!!! All about how to handle TEMPTATION!

Leader: And that’s what I was about to say.

ACTOR: ACTING! THANK YOU! *(takes a bow)* Well, I must go back to my trailer and get into this role of “The Snake” that I am going to be playing. I need to go over my lines. They’re VERY demanding. *(clears his throat)* HISSESSSSSS *(coughs)* No, no, let me try that again. *(blows a raspberry)* No, no, maybe with an accent? *(moos like a cow)* THERE WE GO! I’ll see you later, everyone! EXIT! STAGE LEFT! *(drops to the floor and tries to slither offstage, mooing as his theme music plays)*



GAME ON!

“Animal Trivia”

Items Needed For Game:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1

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Preparation:

Start with the game title slide, “Animal Trivia”. Choose three boys and three girls to play.

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How To Play:

The contestants will take turns answering these hilarious questions about animals. There are ten questions total.
The team that answers the most questions correctly wins!



Bible Story

“The Snake In The Garden”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (as shown)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Genesis 3; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

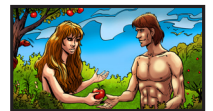
Today’s Bible Story is one of the most famous Bible stories ever. It is, in fact, the first story in the Bible where an animal is center stage. This story takes place at the very beginning of time. There was no earth, no moon, no sun. Everything was dark and empty. Then, God spoke and created the Heavens and the Earth. He created animals, plants, and finally - human beings. The first man was named Adam, and the first woman was named Eve.



Adam and Eve had a wonderful life. They had everything they needed. God gave them only ONE rule. He said, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” Well, that’s pretty easy. Just one rule. All Adam and Eve needed to do was obey God, and He promised to provide for them and protect them.



(show pic) One day, while Adam and Eve were walking in the garden, Satan took on the form of a snake and came up to them. Satan asked Eve, “Did God say you can’t eat ANY fruit in the garden?” Eve answered, “We can eat any fruit EXCEPT this tree!” Satan responded, “God just doesn’t want you to be as smart as He is.”



Eve made a terrible mistake. She listened to Satan’s lies and fell for them. She decided to ignore God’s commands and do things the way SHE wanted. (show pic) Eve took some of the fruit and ate it. With that, she gave into temptation and committed the first sin. To make things worse, (show pic) Eve turned and gave some of the fruit to Adam. Guess what? Adam made the same terrible choice. Adam gave into temptation and ate of the fruit. With that, Adam and Eve committed the very first sin.



It’s hard to believe, isn’t it? Adam and Eve had a perfect life with only ONE rule. They could have and should have obeyed God and allowed Him to provide for and protect them. If only they had listened to God instead of that lying snake, the devil. (show pic) God forced Adam and Eve out of the garden and put an angel to guard the entrance of the garden. Adam and Eve had to face the consequences of their sin, and it was a sad, sad day.

Today, we are going to learn from this story. We are going to learn about how we can make a better choice than Adam and Eve did. We can choose to resist temptation instead of giving into it.



Call To Action

“Ssssstay Away From Ssssin”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; a smart phone; a pair of sneakers

Preparation:

Begin with the graphic slide titled “Ssssstay Away From Ssssin!”

The Message: *(title slide)*



(hold up the smart phone) Boys and girls, I have something right here that is going to change your life! I discovered an app the other day called “The Temptation Blocker.” It is so awesome. It makes life so much easier when it comes to dealing with temptation.

Let me explain. Imagine you are sitting in school taking a test and the teacher walked out of the room for a second. You get the thought to look on your neighbor’s paper, but the app turns on and sends a signal to your brain that shuts down your neck muscles, so you can’t look sideways at your neighbor’s paper. Whew! Temptation blocked!

Or imagine you are asked by your mom whether or not you were the one who broke her favorite glass vase. You know you did it, but you are tempted to lie. Suddenly the “Temptation Blocker” turns on and freezes your tongue so you can’t talk. No talking, no lying. Whew! Temptation avoided!

Isn’t this an amazing app, boys and girls! It keeps you and I from EVER having to deal with temptation again. Well, there’s a big problem. Although that would be great if such an app existed, I am afraid it does not. There is no app to “zap” away temptation. It’s up to us to learn how to handle our own temptations.

Today, we are going to look at our Bible Story and learn how we can learn from the mistakes of Adam and Eve. We will learn to handle temptation when it comes our way. You remember what happened, don’t you? Adam and Eve were walking in the garden one day and Satan came to them in the form of a snake and actually talked to Eve, “Hey, it’s okay if you eat of the fruit of this tree. I know God said you would surely die, but that’s not true. He knows that if you eat this fruit you will become just like Him.”

Satan lied to Eve and told her she couldn’t trust God. Satan lied to Eve and told her that God wasn’t telling her the truth, that He just didn’t want them to become like Him. That’s the first mistake that Eve made. She never should have listened to Satan’s lies. And if you want to avoid temptation...

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Call To Action (Continued)

Don't Listen To Satan's Lies - Trust God's Plan! (slide)



Satan lies to us all the time just like he lied to Eve. He may not come to us directly with his lies. Many times he uses television, movies, and even friends to lie to us. He tells us that we won't really get in trouble if we sin. He lies and says, "One sin won't really matter." He lies and says, "Everybody's doing it, so it's okay." We can't listen to Satan's lies because they are not true. God loves us and has a plan for our lives. If we trust Him, we will listen to His words. We must believe the Bible and obey God, not listen to Satan's lies.

Eve listened to the lies of that no-good snake. You know, once she heard the lie, the story should have ended right there. The story should have read like this: "You will not surely die," the snake said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So Eve looked at the snake, grabbed a nearby branch, and smacked the snake on the head. Then, Eve ran as far and as fast as she could. From then on, whenever Eve saw the snake, she ran. And – they lived happily ever after in the Garden of Eden.

But sadly that's not what happened. Eve didn't run from temptation. She hung around and allowed that snake to tempt her even more. Here is the lesson we learn...

Don't Hang Around - RUN From Temptation! (slide)



Kids, do you see these? (*hold up the pair of sneakers*) These can be your best weapons in fighting temptation. When that old snake, the devil, starts lying to you, don't hang around. Get your shoes on and RUN! Run as far and as fast as you can. It's hard to give into temptation when you are running in the other direction. But Eve didn't do that. She hung around. Worst of all, she ended up eating the fruit that God told her not to eat. Then, she turned to Adam and offered him some.

Here's where we can learn a lesson from Adam. He saw Eve give into temptation. He should have spoken up and told her, "DON'T DO IT! YOU'LL RUIN YOUR LIFE! RUN!" Instead, what did he do? He took the fruit and ate some, too. The lesson we can learn from Adam is...

Don't Follow The Crowd - Do What's Right! (slide)



Kids, let me tell you something. When everyone else around you is choosing to do wrong, you do what's right! If everyone around you is going the wrong direction, you do what's right! Set the example! Follow God's plan! Speak up! Don't let them believe Satan's lies. Don't follow the crowd! Do what's right!

It's so sad what happened to Adam and Eve. It's sad to realize that they didn't HAVE to give in. They could've handled temptation the way we talked about today:

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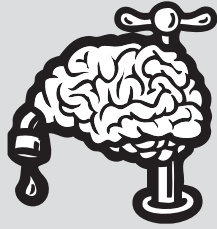
Call To Action *(Continued)*

1. Don't Listen To Satan's Lies—Trust God's Plan
2. Don't Hang Around—RUN From Temptation
3. Don't Follow The Crowd—Do What's Right

That's the plan that you can follow, kids. If you want to handle temptation and not give into that mean old snake, the devil - just follow those three simple steps. God will give you the strength you need to defeat temptation.

Altar Response: *(play soft music)*

Now that you have laid out the steps to avoid giving into temptation, recognize that many of the children in your group have given into temptation even this week. Allow them to confess their sin to God. Then, pray with them that God will help them follow the three steps in the plan to defeat temptation.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; “Brain Drain” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “Ssssstay Away From Ssssin!”

2. What were the names of the first two humans?

Answer: Adam And Eve

3. What form did the devil take in order to trick Eve?

Answer: Snake

4. True or False: God told Adam and Eve not to eat of any tree in the garden.

Answer: False

5. What did Eve do after she ate the fruit?

Answer: Gave Some To Adam

6. God posted an _____ to guard the entrance to the garden.

Answer: Angel

7. According to our lesson today, “Don’t Listen To Satan’s Lies - _____ God’s Plan.”

Answer: Trust

8. According to our lesson today, “Don’t _____ - RUN From Temptation.”

Answer: Hang Around

9. According to our lesson today, “Don’t Follow The _____ - Do What’s Right.”

Answer: Crowd

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: I Corinthians 10:13