

SESSION 2

LOSING EDEN

SESSION AIMS

To look at what happens in God's perfect creation when people exert their free will, and what his response to this is.

BIBLE REFERENCE

Genesis 3–11

GAME: WHAT KIND OF FRIEND ARE YOU?

Read out the questions in the additional resource section. Ask the pupils to vote, or to move to a corner to display their response to the questions. If you have time you may wish to ask them why they chose their response.

WEEK 1 RECAP

Last time we began our journey through the Bible. We thought about how, although it was written by many human authors, it all ties together as one big story, and Christians believe it is God's Word.

We looked at the very beginning of the Bible where it talks about God creating everything and describing it as "very good," and we thought about the special place human beings have as part of that creation. The Bible teaches that we were made in God's image to know him and to love him, and to be loved by him.

WHAT ARE WE COVERING THIS WEEK?

This week we'll see what happens to the creation God described as "very good" in the last session and discover that the addition of humans led to heartbreak. What will God do when his beautiful creation is ruined by people with no end to the pain and mess caused?

WATCH THE EPISODE ▶

GROUP WORK

Discuss: If you were the creator of the world, would you want people to have choice, including the choice to harm themselves and others? Or would you create people who were forced to do only good? Why?

Allow pupils to express their own opinions freely, thanking each for their contribution. Some may wonder why a good God would allow his creation to have choice if he knew they would use it badly.

What would you have done with Adam and Eve and the messed-up world if you were in God's shoes?

What do God's choices tell us about what he is like?

- ◆ *He is a relational God, who wants to know his creation and be with them.*
- ◆ *He is a God of love, who creates a perfect world for humans. He meets Adam and Eve in their failure and provides for them. He clothes them in animal skin, pointing forward to the time when he'll clothe them with his own righteousness.*
- ◆ *Justice is part of God's nature, and he cannot allow wrongdoing to go unpunished.*
- ◆ *He is a merciful God, who saves Noah, his family, and animals in order to repopulate the earth and give humans a second chance.*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

WHAT KIND OF FRIEND ARE YOU?

QUESTION 1

Your friend has to go to a boring family gathering and asks you to come too. Do you...

- ◆ *Go. They're a good friend—they'd do the same for you!*
- ◆ *Go. They'd never do the same for you, but you want to be a good friend.*
- ◆ *Lie, and say you're busy. You can go but it sounds really dull.*
- ◆ *Tell them the truth that you've got better things to do!*

QUESTION 2

Someone in your friend group is leaking your secrets, so you decide to tell each person a fake secret and find out who it is! When you find out, how do you feel?

- ◆ *Great! You've figured out who it is! Now you can confront your friend.*
- ◆ *Mixed. It's good to know who it is, but you're hurt by the betrayal.*
- ◆ *Guilty. Was it right to set them up in this way? Perhaps you should have done nothing.*
- ◆ *Rubbish. You wish you'd never told them anything in the first place. It would be better to have no friends than be hurt like this.*

QUESTION 3

Someone has written a nasty message on your friend's locker and everyone's talking about it. Do you...

- ◆ *Say you agree. It's probably true if someone says so.*
- ◆ *Join in a little bit. If you don't, it'll be you they're talking about next!*
- ◆ *Listen to the gossip, but don't contribute. Maybe you avoid your friend for a bit too?*
- ◆ *Stand up for your friend and say it's not true!*

QUESTION 4

You find out your friend has told loads of people who you fancy. What do you do?

- ◆ *Give them the cold shoulder and never speak to them again.*
- ◆ *Confront them about it, and tell them you don't want to be their friend any more.*
- ◆ *Give them a chance to explain. Perhaps it's not as bad as it sounds.*
- ◆ *Tell them it's ok. Sometimes you also say things you shouldn't!*