

Adam's Second Daddy

SMALL GROUP LESSON



Lesson Objective:

In another study, we examined what God says about our identity. Humanity's first dad was perfect in every conceivable way. Tragically, that original, pristine creation, while retaining much of its God-bestowed beauty, has been marred by sin. All of creation has been affected by humankind's choice to disobey God. In this lesson, we will explore the horrific consequences of submitting to Adam's second daddy.

Set Up Info:

Supplies Needed:

1. Computer or internet connection to watch the YouTube video
2. A ball
3. A white erase board or a large flip chart and appropriate writing utensils.
4. A chart of the Group Activity
5. Bibles so you can look up the Scripture story (or copy the ones below)
6. A passion to see students transformed in their thinking about who we were created to be – our identity.

Instructive Prep:

In another study, we saw the unique and awesome role humankind was to play in God's creation. Unfortunately, our world is a paradise lost. The wars, violence, immorality, and injustice were not present in Genesis 1 and 2. How did creation, once so beautiful, descend into heart-wrenching pain? The answer, of course, is Genesis 3 – the story of Adam and Eve's fall from innocence. A proper understanding of The Fall is just as important as the creation account itself.

This session is designed to help students arrive at a much deeper understanding of the extent to which sin has infected our world and, more importantly, us. Genesis 3 has affected all of us. We have hurt others and just as others have hurt us. While those sins are never justified, a look at the underlying cause of this world's evils will enable us to better interact with reality – to be more resilient.

The progression of these studies is four-fold: *learn, feel, do and what next*. We want students to learn something new, connect at an emotional level to some degree, and participate in doing something during study that brings them to a point of decision. Finally, the *what next* focuses on a change of attitude and/or behavior, which you will find in the challenge of the Life Application section. Remember, the goal is a complete transformation in kids' lives (i.e. spiritual, emotional, mental, and behavioral), so the application section based on God's truth is really the crux of the time together! Have fun and lead well.

INTRO:

Did you know that the nature of sin is empirically proven every single day of our lives yet is the one aspect of our faith that is most consistently denied? Let's face it; people simply do not want to own up to the fact that they are violators of a supernaturally given moral law. Our conscience convicts us when we do wrong. We, like Adam and Eve, fail to represent God.

INTRO STORY:

Finding Nemo.

Pixar Animation Studios has an impressive track record for creating entertaining movies for both children and adults. One of the keys to their success has to do with their plot lines. If you're a fan of their movies, you know what I mean. You see the power of a story is the plot, not the stunts, pyrotechnics, or graphics. The better a writer does at touching upon eternal, timeless themes, the more professional success the writer will gain. Pixar gets this!

In this movie, Nemo and his father, Marlin, live together in a sea anemone. Marlin is overly protective of his son. An attack by a killer eel early in the movie explains Marlin's paranoia of the open sea. The pain of losing his wife and family causes him to exert more protection for his only son than is necessary. Consequently and

understandably, Nemo grows weary of his father's oppressiveness. This mounting tension is the catalyst for a verbal spat that spurs Nemo to do that which his father explicitly forbade. His disobedience results in Nemo's capture by scuba divers and taken to a dentist's office aquarium in Australia. The rest of the movie chronicles Marlin's heroic quest to find his son at all costs. It is a powerful modern day parable of a father's love for his son.

The scene we're about to watch is that moment of separation. The setting is Nemo's first day of school. Marlin nervously drops his son off at school, warning him not to venture into the open sea. Nemo's obedience is put to the test when some of his buddies happen up the edge of the reef. Off in the distance, they see a "butt" (meaning boat). Immediately, they try to outdo each other, prodding Nemo to join them. He resists their pressure for a while, but when his dad shows up and belittles him in front of his classmates, Nemo takes off and does the unthinkable.

Take a look!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RhX3lRlQMg>

Intro Questions:

1. What is one of your favorite movies of all time? Why do you like it so much?
2. What do you think makes a movie good?

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Take a ball and give it to one student. They can pass or toss it to another student to begin the discussion on question one. After answering, each person gets to pass it to someone who hasn't answered. Do the same randomness through all the questions.

1. Do you have parents like Nemo's father? If so, what might cause them to act the way they do? How do you typically respond?
2. Do you believe Nemo was justified in doing what he did? Why or why not?
3. What was the result of Nemo's choice to touch the "butt"?
4. Have you, like Nemo, chosen to reject your parent's advice recently? If so, what were the consequences for your actions? Or, perhaps you chose to obey. If so, what were the consequences for your obedience?

Comment: *What we are trying to draw out of our students is that disobedience to our earthly parents results in negative consequences. When we disobey we move ourselves outside the umbrella of protection that our parents provide. In the same way, Adam and Eve made the choice to disobey their first Daddy by eating of the fruit. As a result they*

got for themselves a new, second daddy. They sinned and therefore became a slave to the effects of sin, which ultimately ends in spiritual and physical death.

CENTRAL BIBLE PASSAGES:

Genesis 3:1-24

Human Disobedience

¹Now the snake was the most cunning animal that the LORD God had made. The snake asked the woman, “Did God really tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?”

²“We may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden,” the woman answered, ³“except the tree in the middle of it. God told us not to eat the fruit of that tree or even touch it; if we do, we will die.”

⁴The snake replied, “That’s not true; you will not die. ⁵God said that because he knows that when you eat it, you will be like God and know what is good and what is bad.”

⁶The woman saw how beautiful the tree was and how good its fruit would be to eat, and she thought how wonderful it would be to become wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, and he also ate it. ⁷As soon as they had eaten it, they were given understanding and realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and covered themselves.

⁸That evening they heard the LORD God walking in the garden, and they hid from him among the trees. ⁹But the LORD God called out to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden; I was afraid and hid from you, because I was naked.”

¹¹“Who told you that you were naked?” God asked. “Did you eat the fruit that I told you not to eat?”

¹²The man answered, “The woman you put here with me gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

¹³The LORD God asked the woman, “Why did you do this?” She replied, “The snake tricked me into eating it.”

God Pronounces Judgment

¹⁴Then the LORD God said to the snake, “You will be punished for this; you alone of all the animals must bear this curse: From now on you will crawl on your belly, and you will have to eat dust as long as you live. ¹⁵I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring’s heel.”

¹⁶And he said to the woman, “I will increase your trouble in pregnancy and your pain in giving birth. In spite of this, you will still have desire for your husband, yet

you will be subject to him.”

¹⁷And he said to the man, “You listened to your wife and ate the fruit which I told you not to eat. Because of what you have done, the ground will be under a curse. You will have to work hard all your life to make it produce enough food for you. ¹⁸It will produce weeds and thorns, and you will have to eat wild plants. ¹⁹You will have to work hard and sweat to make the soil produce anything, until you go back to the soil from which you were formed. You were made from soil, and you will become soil again.”

²⁰Adam named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all human beings. ²¹And the LORD God made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife, and he clothed them.

Adam and Eve Are Sent Out of the Garden

²²Then the LORD God said, “Now these human beings have become like one of us and have knowledge of what is good and what is bad. They must not be allowed to take fruit from the tree that gives life, eat it, and live forever.” ²³So the LORD God sent them out of the Garden of Eden and made them cultivate the soil from which they had been formed. ²⁴Then at the east side of the garden he put living creatures and a flaming sword which turned in all directions. This was to keep anyone from coming near the tree that gives life.

Romans 1:18-25

¹⁸God's anger is revealed from heaven against all the sin and evil of the people whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known. ¹⁹God punishes them, because what can be known about God is plain to them, for God himself made it plain. ²⁰Ever since God created the world, his invisible qualities, both his eternal power and his divine nature, have been clearly seen; they are perceived in the things that God has made. So those people have no excuse at all! ²¹They know God, but they do not give him the honor that belongs to him, nor do they thank him. Instead, their thoughts have become complete nonsense, and their empty minds are filled with darkness. ²²They say they are wise, but they are fools; ²³instead of worshipping the immortal God, they worship images made to look like mortals or birds or animals or reptiles. ²⁴And so God has given those people over to do the filthy things their hearts desire, and they do shameful things with each other. ²⁵They exchange the truth about God for a lie; they worship and serve what God has created instead of the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever! Amen.

Romans 5:12

¹²Sin came into the world through one man, and his sin brought death with it. As a result, death has spread to the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

Romans 6:23a

²³For sin pays its wage—death....

Comment: *The point of all these passages is to show how sin entered the world and its consequences for humankind. Stress that sin was not part of God's creation original design in any capacity whatsoever. Satan introduced disobedience to the human race. He is the one ultimately responsible for all the evil in our world. Sadly, many lose their religion or reject belief in God over the problem of evil. They misdirect their anger. Rather than accusing God for not vanquishing the effects of sin, they ought to be turning to him in repentance and seeking his salvation from the consequences of sin and death*

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. As a group, create a chain of command for Genesis 1 & 2. Then create one for Genesis 3. Your answers should resemble the following charts:

<u>Genesis 1 & 2</u>	<u>Genesis 3</u>
God	God
Man/Woman	Serpent
Beasts of the Field (i.e. Serpent)	Woman/Man

Notice the positional change of the “king” of the beasts, the serpent. He lured Adam and Eve away from God. They chose to listen to the serpent when in fact they should have commanded the serpent to flee. The moment they submitted to his advice, they simultaneously got Satan as their daddy.

2. After completing #1 together, discuss amongst the group how this truth affects their attitude toward God and Satan. Begin to discuss how God can fix this mess they found themselves in. What is God going to do with Adam's new daddy? How is he going to do it?
3. In the movie *Finding Nemo*, Nemo made several attempts to escape the aquarium in the dentist office, but there was nothing he or his friends could do to reunite Nemo with his dad. We've already established that we are like Nemo in that we have all chosen to disobey God. In fact, the two are only reunited because of Marlin's dogged pursuit of his lost, disobedient son. Discuss how this plot line parallels the condition of the human race.
4. Write your own challenge.

GROUP ACTIVITY:

Organize the following terms according to the appropriate rank structure of each of these chapters: Beast of the Field (i.e. Serpent), Man/Woman, Woman/Man, God

Genesis 1 & 2

Genesis 3

