

How Do I Make Good Choices?

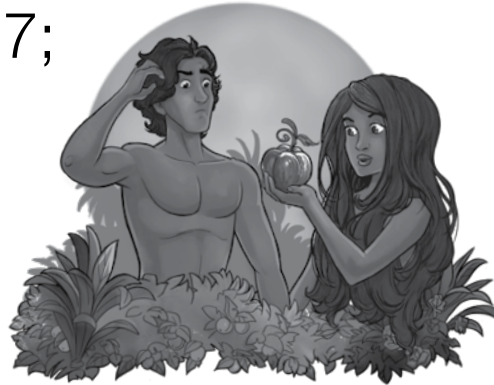
Genesis 2:9; 15-17;
3:1-13; 20-24

Big Idea

God gives each of us choices about how to live.

Lesson Aim

To consider how people can make good choices in the light of what they know about God.



Learning Outcomes

The students will be able to:

- Explorers** identify that God loves people even when they choose not to do what God says.
- Adventurers** discuss how God can help people to make good choices.
- Navigators** describe some choices that can be made every day to live as a friend of God.
- Voyagers** discuss freedom of choice in the light of Adam and Eve's story.

Lesson Notes

This lesson seeks to address the question, 'How do I make good choices?' from the Biblical account of Adam and Eve. Although they knew God had created them for a relationship with him, when tempted, they chose to disobey God. The consequences were catastrophic, explaining much of what we see in the world today.

Previously, we have considered God, his creation, and his gracious care of each individual. In Genesis 2 this picture is expanded. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve chose to ignore God's instruction and eat of the fruit in the middle of the garden. As students explore this together, they will see the consequences of that choice and consider how they can make good choices in their lives.

As the unit concludes, students are reminded of the truth of the Unit 1 Bible Verse that God is the one who made the world and that it was very good. God knows what is best for his creation, including people. Even when people make choices that lead away from him, God freely offers forgiveness and a restored friendship with him for those who ask. God doesn't give up on people. This is most clearly seen in God's gracious promise to send one who will strike the snake 'on the head' (Genesis 3:15) which would lead to the overthrow of the curse and full restoration of the life with God that was originally intended. This promise is fulfilled in Jesus.

In this lesson the word 'snake' has been chosen, consistent with the CEV translation. There are various ways of viewing the identity of the snake in Genesis 3, however the Bible passage does not give direct information. Teachers should avoid discussion about this topic. Discussion about the Devil/Satan is often a source of complaints from parents. If students ask questions, it is most helpful to acknowledge that the Bible doesn't say, but rather the Bible helps us to understand what Adam and Eve chose to do and God's response.

Value

Freedom

Teaching Tip

Giving Choices

God values our freedom. Choices can also be a powerful tool for classroom management. Giving students a choice between two options, which are both acceptable to the teacher, can be a great way to allow students the freedom to choose and to feel that their opinion and interests matter. It also supports students to learn to be responsible for their behaviour.

Learning Outcome

Explorers will identify that God loves people even when they choose not to do what God says.

Resources List

- Unit1_Lesson4.pdf (Question and Explore)
- Unit1_Lesson4.ppt (Question and Explore)
- Song: *My God is So Big* (Question)
- Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Video (verse only) (Discover)

Question

○ I'm Following Game (3-5min)



Demonstrate a simple clapping pattern for the children to follow.

Invite volunteers one at a time to give directions such as fast, slow, loud, quiet etc and repeat the pattern as directed.

Ask: Would the game work if we didn't follow the instructions?

Link: God made the world, and he knew how it worked best. The first people God made had to decide if they would follow what God said or not.

○ Class Rules (3-4min)

List some of the class rules or home rules (see Unit1_Lesson4.pdf or the PPT)  

Ask: Why do we have rules like these? (*Accept responses. To keep us safe. So we can look after each other.*) What might happen if you don't follow those rules? (*Accept responses.*)

Link: The first people who lived on earth, had to decide if they would choose to do what God said or not. Let's find out what happened.

○ Song: My God is So Big (3-4min)

Sing *My God is so Big* together.

Explore

○ In the Garden (3-5min)

Note: Be aware of the sensitive nature of the story as it mentions death and difficult consequences.

Keep the focus of the story on God's love for people.

Use the PPT or print from the PDF to illustrate the story.

Say: God made a very good and perfect world. God placed the first people, Adam and Eve in his garden. Their job was to look after all the animals and plants. There were many trees with delicious fruits. Adam and Eve could eat from all of them, except one. God said, 'Don't eat from this tree, or you will die.'

Ask: Would you follow what God said? (*Accept responses*)

Say: One day, the snake, who was very sneaky, came to Eve and said, 'Did God really say that you mustn't eat fruit from any tree?'

Eve replied, 'God told us that we can eat from all the trees, except one. If we eat from it, we will die.'

Then the snake said to Eve, 'You won't die, it will make you clever, like God.'

Eve looked at the fruit and saw that it looked good. She had to choose whether to follow what God said. What would she do?

Eve ate some of the fruit, and gave some to Adam. He ate some too. As soon as they did, they realised they had done the wrong thing. They heard God walking through the garden and they ran and hid.

Because Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, they were sent out of the garden and their lives became hard. The world was not perfect anymore and their friendship with God had been broken. But God still loved the people he had made. God would make a way for people to be friends with him again.

Discover

○ Unit 1 God's Love (2-3min)

Ask: What did Adam and Eve choose to do? Was it a good choice?

Say: Last week we explored how much God loves us and cares for us.

Ask: Do you think God still loved the people he made? (*Yes.*) Does anyone remember how God shows he loves us? (*Accept responses. God made us, knows us, is always with us, protects us.*)

Say: God shows us he loves us, by doing all those things. He's always ready to help us be his friend and to make good choices.

Pray: Thank you God that you love us no matter what.

○ Unit 1 Bible Verse (3-5min)

See Adventurers Lesson 4, alternatively revise the rhyme from Adventurers Lesson 1.

Finish Off

Say: God loves people no matter what. He wants to be friends. He also wants people to make good choices.



Question

○ Simon Says (3-5min)

Play a simple game of Simon Says. Remind students of guidelines for moving safely in the space.

Invite a volunteer to call out the instructions. Next, invite two volunteers to call out instructions at the same time.

Ask: Does the game work when we have two 'Simons'?

Link: When there were two 'Simons', it was hard to play the game. It was hard to know who to follow. Sometimes, it can be hard to decide what to do and that's what happened in our story today.

○ Class Rules (3-4min)

See Explorers Lesson 4.  



Explore

○ In the Garden (3-5min)

See Explorers Lesson 4.

○ Draw and Tell (3-5min)

Draw simple stick figures as you tell this story. See Unit1_Lesson4.pdf for an example. 

Say: When God made the world, including all the animals, plants and people, it was very good. God made Adam and Eve and placed them in a beautiful garden.

Read: Genesis 2:9, 15-17 (*Draw some fruit trees.*)

Say: Sometimes it can be hard avoiding something you're told not to do, if you want to do it. Hands up if you've had that problem? At first Adam and Eve followed what God said. (*Draw stick figures for Adam & Eve.*) But then something happened.

Read: Genesis 3:1-7. (*Draw the snake. Draw Eve and Adam with the fruit.*)

Read: Genesis 3:8. (*Draw a wavy line to represent God walking in the garden.*)

Say: God knew Adam and Eve had eaten the fruit. They had chosen to disobey God and this had spoiled their friendship with God. They were sent out of the garden and the world that God had made was no longer perfect, but broken. (*Draw broken lines through the picture.*)

Ask: Is this the end of the story?

Say: No way. God still had a plan, a plan to fix the friendship between people and himself. We'll be discovering God's plan this year, and how we can choose to be part of it too. (*Draw a group of smiling faces.*)

Discover

○ Song: God Made You and Me (3-4min)

Sing *God Made You and Me* by John Fryer.

○ Fuzzie's Dilemma (2-3min)

Use the script in Multi-Age Lesson 4 *Fuzzie's Dilemma*.

Ask: What did Fuzzie choose to do? Is this a good or bad choice? Why? It's not always easy to make good choices. Who can help us make good choices? (*Parents, teachers, God.*)

Ask: So far this term we have been asking the question, 'Who is God?' What answer would you now give to the question, 'Who is God?'

Say: God loves people and wants to be friends. He wants people to make good choices.

Ask: Where could we find out more about what God wants people to do? (*The Bible.*)

○ Unit 1 Bible Verse (3-5min)

Play the *Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Video (verse only)* and sign along.

Say: When God made the world, it was very good. People were friends with God and each other. They listened to God and looked after the world.

Ask: What went wrong? (*Accept responses. People chose not to do what God said.*)

Say: God made the world, so he knows how life works best. God is always ready to help people make good choices. We'll find out more about God's amazing rescue plan this term.

Repeat the Unit 1 Bible Verse and signs.

Finish Off

Say: God is always with people and ready to help them make good choices. One day, God would send someone who would fix the broken world and make it perfect again.

Learning Outcome

Adventurers will discuss how God can help people to make good choices.

Resources List

- Unit1_Lesson4.pdf (Question, Explore and Discover)
- Unit1_Lesson4.ppt (Explore and Discover)
- Song: *God Made You and Me* (Discover)
- *Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Video (verse only)* (Discover)



Unit 1 Lesson 4 How Do I Make Good Choices?

Learning Outcome

Navigators will describe some choices that can be made every day to live as a friend of God.

Resources List

- Unit1_Lesson4.pdf (Explore)
- Unit1_Lesson4.ppt (Explore)
- Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Video (verse only) (Discover)
- Song: *My Best Friend* by The Lads (Discover)

Question

○ Survey About Choices (5-6min)

Say: Every day we make many choices. Let's look at some of the choices we might make.

List on the board 4-5 everyday decisions that students may need to make, e.g. what to: eat for breakfast, watch on television, game to play, who to play with.

Suggest two options for each decision.

Invite the students to vote by raising their hands for each preference and record responses.

Say: Our quick survey shows us that we aren't programmed to do or like the same things. God made people so they can make choices for themselves. Let's find out what happened the first time people had a big choice to make.

○ I, Robot (4-5min)

Select a student to act like a robot.

Give them simple instructions to follow.

Ask: If you had a robot what would you want it to do? (*Accept responses.*) What can't a robot do? (*Cannot think outside its programming.*) What might happen if a robot made its own decisions? (*It would be out of our control.*) If God had made people to be robot-like, what would life be like? (*Accept responses.*)

Say: God did not make people to be robots. Let's find out more.

Explore

○ Drama: Just One Bite (4-5min)

Use the drama 'Just One Bite'. See Unit1_Lesson4.pdf. Select five volunteers.

Choose one of the other activities to do whilst giving the volunteers a few minutes to read over their lines, so they can read it expressively.

○ In the Garden (3-5min)

See Explorers Lesson 4.

Discover

○ Unit 1 Bible Verse (3-5min)

See Adventurers Lesson 4. 

○ Another Choice (2-4min)

Say: God loves people, even when they choose to turn away from him. People can also choose to follow God, and live as his friend. Sometimes that can be a big decision, but sometimes it's lots of little decisions made every day.

Ask: Can anyone think of some little decisions people might make if they want to live the way God wants? (*Accept responses. Read the Bible, praying, being kind to others, being thoughtful about how we use items and dispose of rubbish etc.*)

Say: I choose to live God's way. Sometimes it is hard, and sometimes I do the wrong thing. But God helps me. One way God helps me is when I pray.

God can help you too. I am going to pray aloud now, and if you would like to, you can add your own ideas silently in your head when I pause. If you agree, you can say 'Amen' at the end.

Pray: Dear God, I am sorry (*pause*). Please forgive me. Thank you that you always love me. Help me to follow you and make good choices, especially to (*pause*). Amen.

○ Navigators Magazine (7-8min)

Invite students to record any questions they have about God in the front pages of their magazines or collect them in a question box to explore this year.

○ Song: My Best Friend (3-4min)

Sing *My Best Friend* by The Lads.




Invite the students to consider what it might be like if 'God came down.'

Say: We'll find out more in the next unit.






Finish Off

Say: The Bible says that God made everything, so he knows what's best. He's always ready to help people make good choices. Even though everything was spoiled when Adam and Eve went their own way, God had a plan to fix everything. We'll find out more about that in the next unit.


Question

- **I, Robot (4-5min)**
See Navigators Lesson 4.
- **Decision-Making Process (3-4min)**  
Discuss in groups of 2-3 students: How do people make decisions? How do you make decisions? Who might influence you when you make a decision? (*See Unit1_Lesson4.ppt or print from the PDF.*)
Link: Let's see what happened the first time people were tempted to make a bad decision.
- **Freedom Discussion: Part 1 (3-5min)** 
Display PPT and invite the students to discuss the questions on the slide in small groups.
Invite the groups to share their responses with the class and record their responses.
Link: God gives people freedom to make choices. Today, we'll hear of a choice the first people made.

Explore

- **Adam and Eve's Choice (5-7min)**  
Use the PPT to display the Bible passage or print from the PDF for this retelling.
Please note: Verses are selected as appropriate for this age group.
Say: In the beginning, the Bible says God created everything. The most special part of his creation were people. The first people were Adam and Eve. God gave them a beautiful garden with everything they needed, but there was one rule.
Read Genesis 2:9, 15-17.
Ask: What was the rule? (*Not to eat from the tree that would give them knowledge of good and evil.*)
 What did God say would happen? (*They would die.*)
Say: Adam and Eve soon had a big decision to make.
Read Genesis 3:1-5.
Ask: What would you do? (*Accept responses.*)
Read Genesis 3:6, 8-9 and then 11-13, beginning from the sentence 'God asked. "Did you eat..."'
Ask: What has changed because of their choice? What is unchanged? (*Accept responses. Using the passage, prompt students to consider the consequences in terms of the world, the friendship between each other, and with God. Prompt the students of last lesson's focus on God's love.*)
Read Genesis 3:21-23.
Ask: What evidence can you see that God still cares for Adam and Eve?
Say: Adam and Eve made the choice to disobey God. But God still loved them. He promised that someone would come who would make everything right again. God continues to allow people the freedom to choose if they will ignore him or live as his friends.
- **In the Garden (3-5min)**  
See Explorers Lesson 4.
- **Drama: Just One Bite (4-5min)** 
See Navigators Lesson 4.

Discover

- **Another Choice (2-4min)**
See Navigators Lesson 4.
- **Freedom Discussion: Part 2 (2-3min)**
Review the discussion from the start of the session and invite the students to consider if there is anything they would change or add in the light of Adam & Eve's story.
- **Unit 1 Bible Verse (3-5min)**
Display and discuss the student's posters if you made these last lesson. Alternatively, watch the *Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Video (verse only)* and sign together. 
Ask: If someone your age believed this verse, how would it affect their words and actions?
Say: God made the world, so he knows how life works best. God is always ready to help us make good choices.

Finish Off

Ask: What will you do with the freedom to make choices about God?

Learning Outcome

Voyagers will discuss freedom of choice in the light of Adam and Eve's story.

Resources List

- Unit1_Lesson4.ppt (Question, Explore and Discover)
- Unit1_Lesson4.pdf (Question, Explore and Discover)
- Bible Verse posters from last lesson, Blu-tak (Discover)
- *Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Video (verse only)* (Discover)



Unit 1 Lesson 4 How Do I Make Good Choices?

Learning Outcome

Students will identify the choice Adam and Eve made and be introduced to its impact.

Resources List

- Fuzzie Puppet (Question)
- Unit1_Lesson4.pdf (Explore and Discover)
- Unit1_Lesson4.ppt (Explore and Discover)
- Unit 1 Introduction Video (Discover)
- Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Video (Discover)

Question

○ Simon Says (3-5min)

Play a simple game of Simon Says with one volunteer. Set guidelines for moving safely in the space.

Next, invite two volunteers to simultaneously call out instructions.

Ask: Does the game work when we have two 'Simons'?

Link: When there were two 'Simons' it was hard to play the game. It was hard to know who to follow. Sometimes, it can be hard to decide what to do and that's what happened in our story today.

○ I, Robot (4-5min)

See Navigators Lesson 4.

○ Fuzzie's Dilemma (3min)

Fuzzie = F, Teacher = T

T: Hello Fuzzie.

F: (Fuzzie enters scratching head) Hello.

T: Fuzzie, you look a bit confused.

F: Mum says she'll take me to the park.

T: You love going to the park.

F: (Excitedly) It's the one with the super huge slide and the hippopotamus statue.

And Max and his dad are coming too.

T: That sounds great. I hope you have lots of fun.

F: Yeah. But Mum says I have to put the washing away.

T: Ok, I'm sure that would be a big help.

F: And stack the dishwasher and tidy my

room. (Sighs)

T: But you don't want to? Is that the problem?

F: I want to have fun now! I don't want to do all those jobs. Mum says she won't have time to go if I don't help.

T: Sounds like you've got a big decision to make.

F: I really want to go to the park, but I really want to have fun right now! I don't know what to do. It's too hard to decide!

T: You're right. Some choices can be tricky, Fuzzie.

F: (nods) I think I'd better go and get started. I want to make a good choice.

T: That's a good idea. Bye Fuzzie.

Explore

○ Drama: Just One Bite (4-5min)

See Navigators Lesson 4.

○ In the Garden (3-5min)

See Explorers Lesson 4.

○ Draw and Tell (3-5min)

See Adventurers Lesson 4.



Discover

○ Unit 1 Revision (3-4min)

Display the Unit1_Lesson4.ppt or print from the PDF the three pictures from the Bible Timeline: creation, Adam and Eve's disobedience and people today.

Say: In this unit we have learned from the Bible that God made everything. We have learned that God loves and cares for people. When Adam and Eve, the first people, chose to turn their back on God, everything changed: their relationship with each other was damaged, their relationship with God was broken and their relationship with God's creation was ruined. The worst part is that the damage still continues right up to today. Without God, it cannot be fixed. But God knew what would happen, and even before the very beginning, he had a plan to send someone who would come and make everything good and right again. We'll learn more about that this term.

Ask: So, how would you now answer the question, 'Who is God?'

○ Unit 1 Bible Verse (3-5min)

Play the Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Video.

Say: When God made the world, it was very good. People were friends with God and each other, they listened to God and looked after the world. What went wrong? (*People chose not to do what God said*).

Say: God made the world, so he knows how the brokenness could be fixed. We'll find out more about God's amazing plan this term.

Finish Off

Say: Adam and Eve chose to turn away from God. Their friendship with God was broken. One day, God would send someone who would make everything right and good again.