


# UNIT ONE: I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER

## LESSON 3: THE FALL... Man Says 'No'

### CONTENTS OF LESSON:

1. Instead of responding to God's love with trust and obedience, our first parents (and all humans after that) refused to trust and obey God, abusing the freedom of choice given to them. [CCC 396-7]
2. This choice was influenced by the 'fallen angel' Satan, who had himself rejected God and his reign. Jesus called him a 'liar and the father of lies.' [CCC 391-92]
3. The sin of Adam and Eve resulted in spiritual death for all mankind. We inherited 'Original Sin'. Human nature was wounded: fear of God, shame, jealousy, suffering, anger, violence and greed entered the world. [CCC 399-400, 404-5]
4. God did not abandon fallen mankind, but promised a Saviour who would become the 'New Adam' and would, through his obedience, win the victory over sin and death. [CCC 411]
5. In Baptism, Original Sin is removed by Christ's grace and we turn back to God, but the 'battle' continues. [CCC 405]
6.  We recognize our own wounded nature, our tendency to sin (concupiscence) and our need to hold onto Christ. [CCC 407] This is why we pray to the Father, 'Thy will be done'. [CCC 2854]

REFERENCES: Genesis 3:1-21; Romans 5:12,19; 6:23; John 8:44.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, Bibles, a chart-paper sheet/blackboard, markers/chalk.

AUDIO-VISUAL (OPTIONAL): 'Lifhouse Everything Drama' [Available on YOUTUBE]

### I. STARTER:

*[The video: 'Lifhouse Everything Drama' could be used instead of the picture story. The teacher brings out the points mentioned below from the students.]*

[Build up the picture story, on the blackboard/ chart-paper as shown alongside:]

- Last time we heard that right in the beginning there was only God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. [Draw triangle and heart] The 3 persons of God lived in love and harmony.
- God wanted to share his love and joy and goodness and so he began to create. He made angels. [Draw angels]
- He made the universe: the sun, the moon, the stars and planets. [Draw] He made the earth [Draw] with mountains, rivers, trees, birds, animals. [Draw, leaving place in the middle of the earth.]
- Finally we come to the 'crown of creation': man and woman, whom God made in his own image. [Draw man and woman] These people would be able to know him and share his life and love. The stage was set for the beautiful drama of love to begin!
- But then, there was trouble! One of the angels (called Lucifer, or Satan) looked at himself and saw how beautiful and powerful he was. He rejected God and refused to serve him. This fallen angel convinced others to join him in rebellion against God.
- Satan then came down to earth to tempt man and turn him against God. [Draw arrow] What happened next? Did man give in to Satan, or did he remain faithful to God? Let's find out for ourselves, using the Bible. The incident is related in story-form, but it is still a true event. It is known as 'The Fall'.



## II. DEVELOPMENT:

- [Give out the handouts. The students work on the top section, using their Bibles. Go over the answers, bringing out the following:]

  - The snake represents Satan or the devil. Jesus called him ‘a liar and the father of lies’. Satan directly contradicted God (that means he said the opposite) He said to Eve, ‘You will not die’. Though Adam and Eve did not fall down dead as soon as they ate the fruit, they did die a spiritual death. No longer would they be able to enjoy eternal life.
  - Adam and Eve stopped trusting God and disobeyed him. They rejected God. (Remember, they had the freedom to choose: to say yes or no.) SIN means all these things.
  - The biggest result was spiritual death. Sin separates us from the source of life: God. (It could be compared to removing the oxygen tube from a patient who can’t breathe.) Adam and Eve lost their friendship with God. Their human nature was wounded. They experienced shame (They hid themselves), fear, suffering. Their relationship with each other and the world was wounded.
  - Already God was pointing to Jesus, who would destroy Satan’s power.
- This brings us back to our picture story.
  - When Adam and Eve sinned, a barrier was created between God and man. [Draw horizontal bar.] Man had cut himself off from God’s love and life. Death had entered the world.
  - But God did not leave us to die. He knew that on our own we would be lost. There is no way that any of us can make the way back to God. So God sent his Son to become man and say ‘Yes’ on behalf of us. Jesus died on the cross [Draw vertical line and figure of Jesus] He broke the power of sin and death. Now it was possible for man to experience life again.
- We heard about Adam and how he said no to God. The Bible talks about a New Adam. Let’s find out what we can about him.

[Students work on the second half of the handout, reading the Bible references and searching for the answers in the ‘cross’ grid. The direction of the words is shown by arrows. After they have finished, bring out:]

  - JESUS is known as the New Adam because he was OBEDIENT to the FATHER. Through his death and RESURRECTION he won the VICTORY for us.
  - However we still need to fight a SPIRITUAL BATTLE. That is why we need the help of GOD.
  - ORIGINAL sin is what we inherited from our first parents. (Just as we may inherit certain diseases from our parents like diabetes, or heart problems.) We did not ‘commit’ original sin, but its stain is in us, since we belong to the human family. This sin was removed at our BAPTISM.
  - CONCUPISCENCE is our wounded human nature which has a tendency to SIN. (We easily sin.)

## III. INTERIORISATION/PRAYER:

Be silent for a while and try to realize who you are. You are part of the fallen human race. With all the rest of humankind you have sinned and deserve death. But God has sent Jesus to break the power of sin and death. Through Baptism your friendship with God has been renewed.

But the battle continues. Satan is still actively trying to lead us away from God. You are weak and get tempted to sin. But you still have a choice. Jesus taught us to pray, “Deliver us from evil!”

Quietly ask the Father’s help to fight and conquer the devil and his temptations, by the power of Jesus. [Students pray silently.]

## IV. ACTIVITY: (If time permits)

[In groups, students make posters to show the effect of sin on humankind and the victory that Jesus has won for us. They could use magazine pictures to make a collage. Display the pictures and affirm the ideas and thoughts expressed. NB: This activity could be done as a separate lesson, or as a home assignment.. The students could also plan a short skit or mime to reinforce the message.]

HOME ASSIGNMENT: ⇨ Read the handout.