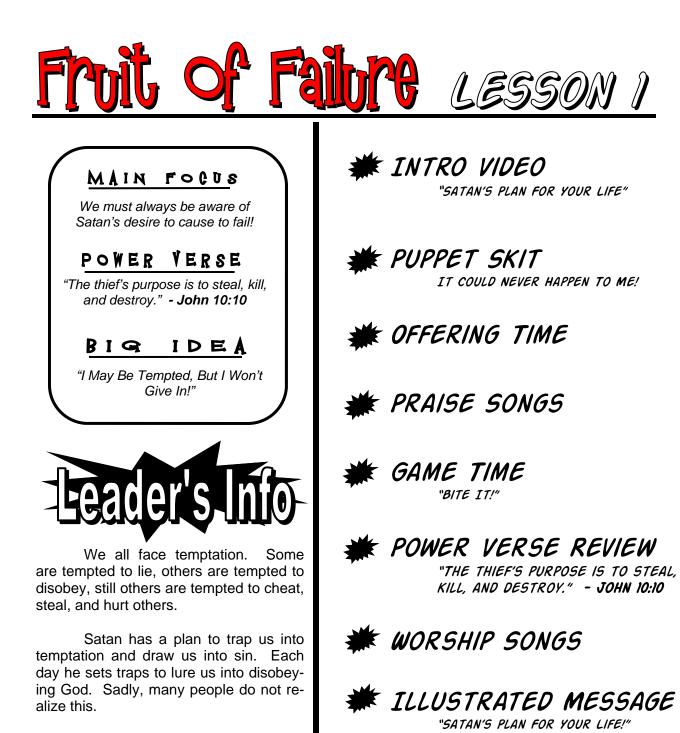
The FRUIT of FALURE

A FOUR WEEK CURRICULUM SERIES FOR ELEMENTARY CHILDREN ON "HANDLING TEMPTATION"

WEEKLY VIDEO SEGMENTS VIDEO COUNTDOWN PRAISE SONGS WITH ANIMATED BACKGROUNDS WISE OFFERING TIME SONG

DAGA OD GRAPHIC ART FOR PROMO POWER POINT SLIDES FAMILY DEVOTIONS PRINTABLE MANUAL



If we are going to avoid temptation, we must be aware that Satan is out there. We must be constantly aware of the traps he's laid out for us. If we ever think "it could never happen to me, there's nothing to worry about," then we will likely fall into his trap.

A strong Christian will be on the lookout and avoid the temptation trap.

RAP IT UP" VIDEO

REVIEW QUESTIONS





PUPPET SKIT

Character: Silly Willy is a hyperactive puppet that thrives on "scaring" the leaders/workers. (You can use any puppet your kids are familiar with in your services.)

Leader: What an important lesson we are learning today.

(Silly Willy makes some noise over by the puppet stage. When the leader goes to check it out, Silly Willy jumps up and scares them.)

Leader: Silly Willy! You scared me! Why do you want to do that?

Silly Willy: 'Cause it's hilarious!

Leader: Not to me!

Silly Willy: But, it is to the kids! Right, kids? (allow kids to scream their approval)

Leader: Well, it's not funny to me. But, anyway, what brings you here this morning?

Silly Willy: I heard you guys out here talking about sin and stuff.

- Leader: That's right. We are going to be learning the story of the Garden of Eden and how Adam and Eve committed the very first sin.
- Silly Willy: Really? Well, why do we need to learn about what happened to THEM?

Leader: Well, so that we don't make the same mistakes and sin.

Silly Willy: Not me. I don't have to worry about that.

Leader: What do you mean?

Silly Willy: I never have to worry about falling into the devil's trap.

- Leader: What makes you think you don't have to worry about that?
- Silly Willy: Because I am the best Christian ever. I am immune to sin. I can't sin. I am too good. So, I don't have to worry about watching out for temptation. I am the best.
- Leader: Now, Silly Willy, I don't know about that. The Bible teaches us that the devil wants to steal, kill, and destroy us. He wants to make all of us fall into sin. That means we ALL must be aware and watch out for the traps he puts out!

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PUPPET SKIT (CONTINUED)

Silly Willy: You mean, even I have to be careful and watch out for temptation?

Leader: That's right. ALL of us have to be careful. We can't think "it could never happen to us" or else we may let our guard down and fall into temptation.

Silly Willy: I don't want that! That would be terrible!

- Leader: It certainly would!
- Silly Willy: So, what do I do? What do I do?
- Leader: You have to always keep your guard up. Always look out for the devil's traps and pray that God will give you the strength to overcome it.
- Silly Willy: Wow! I sure am glad I talked to you today. I am going to always keep my eyes open to make sure I don't fall into temptation.

Leader: Good decision! We'll see you later, Silly Willy!

Silly Willy: See you later everyone! Bye!



GAME TIME

"BITE IT!"

Pre-Game: Our suggestion is that you "signal" it's game time not by saying "OK, so now it is time to play a game," but rather allowing the "Let's Play A Game" song *(from the music CD provided)* to be the audio signal. As soon as they hear the song interrupt you while you are talking, they will know they are about to experience one of the wildest games of their lives.



Items Needed For Game: Twelve apples, 2 baskets or containers, 1 table

How To Play: Choose six boys and six girls to participate. Line the boys girls up in the two single file lines facing the table set up across the room. Place the twelve apples on the table spread out. Place one basket (or container) at the foot of each team starting/finishing point.

This is a relay race. When you say go, the music begins, and one boy and girl run to the table. With their hands behind their back, they have to grab an apple with their teeth and run back to the finish line and drop it into the basket/container. Then, the next person in line goes and so on and so on. The first team to have all the participants complete the task is the winner.



ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

"SATAN'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE!"

Materials Needed: The Data CD; a fake tree; an apple

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data CD titled "Lesson One," begin with the slide titled "Satan's Plan For Your Life." There is a slide for each point in the message.



The Message: (title slide)

Today, I am going to tell you a story that you may have heard before. Over the next few times we get together, we are going to look at the same story through the eyes of the different characters in the story.

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 said, "Let there be light." And, there was light. Then, God spoke and created the earth, the trees, the animals, the sun, the moon, and the stars. He looked at it and said, "Everything is very good!"

But, there was something missing...humans. God took the dust of the earth and formed the first man. He breathed life into him and named him Adam. Then, he took a rib from his side and created the first woman and she was named Eve.

Adam and Eve had a wonderful life. They had everything they needed. All the food they needed. They had no problems, no worries, and no school. That means no tests, no studying, and no MATH! How many of you think that is a WONDERFUL life!

God only gave them ONE rule. (walk over the the fake tree you have set up) 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. (hold up the fruit off the tree) Just don't eat of the fruit of one tree. That's it! Just one rule! How many of you think that would be a great life? (allow kids to respond)

Adam and Eve were happy in their new life, but there was one person who was not so happy. His name is Satan. Satan had been watching Adam and Eve in their happy-go-lucky life walking with God and living it up in the garden. He had devised a plan that would ruin their lives forever.

One day, while Adam and Eve were walking in the garden, Satan took on the form of a serpent and came up to them. And that's the first lesson I want you to learn today:

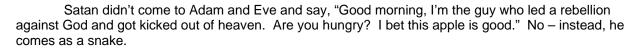
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ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

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1. Satan Comes In Disguise



Satan comes in disguise!

See, we read this story and we already know the bad guy is the snake because we have heard the story before. But, at this point in time, Adam and Eve didn't recognize the snake as anything other than just another of the animals.

You see, kids, Satan doesn't announce who he is or what he is planning. That's not the way temptation works. Think about it – if he announced his plans up front, no one would follow his plan, no one would be interested in the temptation. Can you imagine if Satan were honest?

"Hey – good morning. My name is Satan and I want to introduce you to drugs. They will kill your brain cells. They will destroy your life, your relationships and your future. You will be addicted. Your addiction will cause you to do terrible things you never dreamed of doing. You will get to go to prison. Your body will be destroyed. You will be hopeless and alone. All brought to you by me, Satan."

We laugh because it's ridiculous. Who would fall for that? Only an idiot. That's why Satan comes in disguise – pretending to offer you hope, love, and happiness. Why do you buy into the lies? Because you don't recognize Satan for who he is. There is no flashing neon sign that says "Watch out – Satan – Sin". Satan comes in disguise.

There's something else the Bible tells us about Satan in this story. It's found in Genesis 3:1, "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made." The word crafty means that he was good at what he does and will find ways to get it done no matter what. You see kids...

2. Satan Is Smart (slide)



Satan is not stupid. Part of what makes the devil the best liar who ever lived – is that he is extremely smart. He knows how to trick us. He knows our strengths and weaknesses and the things we like when it comes to sin. After doing these things for thousands of years, he is very good at tricking us and trapping us into sin.

That's why Satan doesn't announce who he is. Don't ever think our enemy, the devil, is weak and dumb. Satan knows that what he is trying to get you to do will hurt you. Satan is smart. He wants you to believe it is for your good, not for your destruction.

So, he says to Eve, "Hey, Eve. You know that one tree that God told you not to eat from? You

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ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

really ought to check that out. It tastes really good."

But, Eve says to him, "But, God said that if we eat of it we will surely die." Satan lies to Eve, "You will not surely die. God only said that because He knows that if you eat of this tree you will become just like God."

That's not what God said is it kids? (allow kids to respond) Satan is lying to Eve. He is deceiving her. And that's the third lesson you need to learn about Satan today...

3. Satan Deceives (slide)



Satan is a liar. He wants you to doubt God and then decide that God's word cannot be trusted – that God's word is not true. He tells you:

"Oh, I know God said that you shouldn't steal. But, God didn't mean that. He just meant that unless you really need it you shouldn't steal. It's no big deal to take just a small piece of gum. That's not really stealing." OR—

"I know the Bible says we should honor our Father and Mother, but not when they are wrong. They may have told you not to go to that movie, but they just don't know how fun it is going to be. Go ahead, it's OK." OR—

"It's true that God said you shouldn't lie, but He didn't mean it. It's OK to lie when you are trying to get yourself out of trouble."

All of these are lies that the devil tells us just like he told Eve. Sadly, many of us react the same way Eve did. She ATE the fruit. She disobeyed God. She followed Satan's plan for her life instead of God's. How sad.

Kids, if we are going to be able to stand up for God and not fall into Satan's plan for our lives, then we are going to have to recognize that Satan comes in disguise, Satan is smart, and Satan deceives. He wants us to fall into his trap. But, with God's help, we can avoid the trap of temptation and not give in.

ALTAR TIME: (play soft music)

Ask the children if they have been struggling with temptation in their lives. Have them come forward and pray for God to help them recognize when Satan is lying to them and trying to trap them. Pray that God will enable them to always be on guard and watching so that they do not fall into the devil's trap.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. What was today's Big Idea? Answer: I May Be Tempted, But I Won't Give In!
- 2. What was the name of the kid on the video? Answer: Parker
- 3. Who did we say has a plan to ruin our lives? Answer: Satan
- 4. What animal did Satan come in the form of? Answer: serpent (or snake)
- 5. True or False? Silly Willy thought he didn't have to worry about falling into temptation. Answer: *True*
- 6. The first lesson we learned today was that Satan comes in _____. Answer: disguise
- 7. The second lesson we learned today was that Satan is ______. Answer: smart
- 8. The third lesson we learned today was that Satan ______. Answer: deceives
- **9. What was today's Power Verse?** Answer: "The thief's purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy." John 10:10
- **10.** Do we have to give in to temptation? Answer: No!