



**Educate
+ Engage**



THE WAY
OUT



HIS WAY IS BETTER

OVERVIEW

We have all felt it. That pull to do life our own way. To make our own choices. To go in a different direction than what God wants. It is one of the oldest temptations and also one of the strongest. Adam and Eve were the first ones to face this temptation, and things fell apart when they went their own way. But God did not leave them without help. Even when we mess up, He can always make a way out.

This series teaches students that life is full of temptations. It is tempting to:

- Try to find your own way
- Let past mistakes define your future
- Try to please everyone around you
- Put other things before God

But God always provides a way out. The goal is to help students recognize these temptations and trust that following God's way is always the right path.

Scripture Passage

I Corinthians 10:13 (KJV)

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

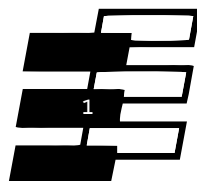
(See also Genesis 3:1–24, KJV.)

EDUCATE

Point 1: Temptation starts when you doubt God.

(See Genesis 3:1–3.)

Adam and Eve had a perfect life. No shame, no guilt, no fear. Everything was right because they trusted God completely. They believed what He said, and they felt safe. But when Satan showed



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up, he asked a sneaky question: "Did God really say that?"

That is exactly how temptation starts. The enemy wants you to doubt God. He wants you to question if God's way is really the best way.

Have you ever doubted something God said? What caused that doubt?

When we doubt God, it slows us down. It makes us freeze in fear. Imagine walking across a frozen pond. Your friends tell you it is totally safe, but you do not believe them. You get down on your belly and crawl super slow across the ice because you are scared. Suddenly, you hear something. You look up and see a huge truck driving across the same ice with no problem. You could have walked across easily, but your doubt made it so much harder.

That is what happens when we doubt God. We make life harder than it has to be.

Eve started to doubt, and then she added to God's Word. God said not to eat from the tree, but Eve told the serpent they could not even touch it. God never said that. Maybe Eve had been hanging around the tree, thinking about it a little too much.

Why do we sometimes get close to things that tempt us even when we know they are wrong?

When we get too close to temptation, it is easy to fall.

Point 2: Temptation grows into disobedience.

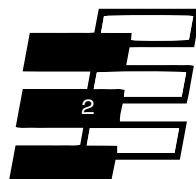
(See Genesis 3:4–20.)

After planting doubt, Satan straight-up lied to Eve. He told her, "You won't die if you eat it." He made sin sound like a good idea. That is what Satan still does. He makes wrong things look fun, easy, or even harmless.

But just because something looks safe or good does not mean it is. Have you ever seen a candy that looks awesome but tastes terrible? Or clicked on a video that looked fun but messed you up inside? That is how sin works. It promises one thing but gives you something else.

Can you think of something that looked good at first but turned out to be harmful?

Eve thought the fruit would make her wise and happy. She thought it would make her life bet-



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ter. Adam went right along with her. They both gave in to the temptation to go their own way instead of following God's way.

Right away, they felt different. They knew they had messed up. They felt exposed, ashamed, and scared. So, what did they do? They hid from God. They tried to cover their mistake, but that was not enough.

When God found them, Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent. Nobody wanted to take responsibility.

Why do people try to blame others when they know they did something wrong?

Blaming other people does not fix our mistakes. It just keeps us stuck in shame and fear.

Point 3: God always makes a way out.

(See Genesis 3:21–24.)

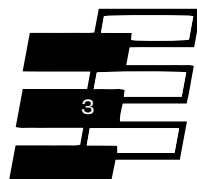
Even though Adam and Eve sinned, God did not leave them in their mess. Their fig leaves could not really cover them. God provided a better covering by making clothes out of animal skins. For that to happen, something innocent had to die. This was the first sacrifice. It pointed forward to Jesus, who would one day come to cover our sin completely.

Illustration: Go Back to the Cross

There is an old story from the days when pioneers traveled across the western plains of America in covered wagons. A group of travelers was moving across dry grassland when suddenly someone noticed a long line of smoke in the distance. Wildfire! The dry grass was like tinder and the wind was driving the flames straight toward them. There was no time to outrun the fire. Panic spread through the camp. Then one man who had seen this before calmly gave orders. He set fire to the grass behind them. As the flames burned back a wide area, he told everyone to move onto the burnt ground.

As the wildfire approached, the people cried out in fear, but the man reassured them, "The fire cannot reach us here. We are standing where the fire has already been."

And so it is with Christ. The wrath of God against sin is like a consuming fire, but at the cross, the fire of God's judgment fell on Jesus. When we stand by faith at the foot of the cross, we are safe, because we are standing where the fire has already burned.



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God removed Adam and Eve from the Garden. That was not just punishment. It was protection. If they had stayed, they might have eaten from the tree of life and lived forever in their broken, sinful state. God was protecting them so He could one day bring them back to Him by the work at Calvary.

God always makes a way out of temptation. When you feel like going your own way, you can stop and remember that His way is better.

Closing

We all face the temptation to go our own way. It seems like our way will be easier or more fun. But going our own way always leads to pain and regret. Adam and Eve found that out the hard way. God's way leads to life, peace, and freedom. God always provides a way out.

ENGAGE

Let's pray together. Ask God to help you trust Him and not doubt His Word. Ask Him to give you strength when you feel the pull to go your own way. If you have been trying to handle life without God, now is the time to turn back to Him. He loves you. He has already made a way out. You just have to take it.

