

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 08 February 2009 *FAMILY SERVICE
HELPERS	TIME (mins)
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** God wants me to obey / Outside Eden
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Genesis 3-4:16
- **CONCEPT:** God wants me to obey

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in corporate praise and worship in the main church service through singing, the giving of tithes and offerings, and the family prayer time.
- To help kids understand their need of salvation through Jesus.
- To challenge kids and adults to give their hearts to Jesus in time for Valentine's Day.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Creation poem prompt cards (you practised with these last week)
- ✓ Graphics: Adam and Eve; Cain and Abel
- ✓ Actors – Adam and Eve
- ✓ Interview scripts for Adam and Eve, Rocky and Ringo
- ✓ Slide: Psalm 51:10-12
- ✓ Name tag box
- ✓ Evangelical literature (for adults and kids)

A. Worship and Prayer The praise band will lead the congregation in praise and worship – including: announcements, receiving of tithes and offerings, and the family prayer time around the altar.	~30 minutes	You'll need ...
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B. Message (with puppets)	~30 minutes	You'll need ...
<p>1. Recap <i>Invite kids to sit at the front of the church where you can address them, and the congregation, from the platform.</i></p> <p>- Welcome Rocky and Ringo. Chat with them about the weather outside the church in your locality and ask them about the weather on The Island, etc. Ask puppets and the congregation if they have noticed the days getting longer – it's bright almost until dinnertime these days, and the spring bulbs have just started to poke their heads through the soil in the garden.</p> <p>- <i>Address the congregation:</i> Did you know that, at one time, there was nothing? I mean, before there was cold weather in winter, before there were summer holidays, before you and I ever lived ... a long, long, long time ago, there was absolutely nothing. Just a big, dark empty space. Except for God. God was there in the beginning. But God wasn't happy with the darkness just as it was. He decided to start a great big art project! Over the last few weeks on The Island, we've been learning about God's wonderful, magnificent, artistic creation of the world ... and the boys and girls are going to remind us of what He made.</p> <p><i>Ask the seven kids you chose last week to come to the front. Make sure they stand in the correct order. Give them their prompt cards. Count the first reader in.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Day one brought heaven, earth and light. It must have been so very bright! Day two God made the clear blue sky – A place for many birds to fly. Day three brought land apart from seas, With all the plants, grass and trees. Day four shone forth moon, stars and sun. The work of God was not yet done. Day five we see the fish and birds. God did all of this with just His words. Day six God formed all animals and man To finish His creation plan. Day seven was especially blessed, A day for worship and for rest. </p> <p>(Adapted from: http://www.dltk-bible.com/creation_poem.htm)</p> <p><i>The kids may sit down again.</i></p> <p>- <i>Address everyone:</i> That's right! God made everything! One of the boys and girls told us that God made people on the sixth day of His creation. Do you remember what their names were? <i>Adam and Eve</i>. <i>Show graphics of Adam and Eve on screen.</i> God had made a beautiful garden paradise called Eden, and this is where He put Adam and Eve to live with all the animals Adam had named. The lion could live in the same garden as the little lamb. The bear could live in the same garden where the fish were swimming in the river. Everything was at peace with each other. There was no pain, no fighting, no crying, no fear and no death. It was such a perfect</p>	<p><i>Display The Island background on screen</i></p> <p><i>Poem prompt cards</i></p> <p><i>Adam and Eve graphics</i></p>	

<p>paradise that God even walked in the garden, talking with Adam and Eve!</p> <p>Adam and Eve were never hungry; they had everything they needed because God took care of them. They weren't lonely, they loved each other, and they were happy. There was just one rule that God had given them to keep. It was the only thing they weren't allowed to do. God had told them, '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.' (Genesis 2:17)</p> <p>We heard last week how Satan, the devil, God's enemy, slithered into the Garden of Eden in the form of a snake, and how he told Eve that nothing bad would happen to her if she ate fruit from that tree in the middle of the garden – she would only become wise like God. Well, do you remember what happened? Eve couldn't resist the temptation. She ran to the tree and took a big bite of the gorgeous fruit, and then she gave some to Adam to taste. As Adam and Eve ate the fruit, a change came over them. They weren't happy. This was a completely new feeling to them. They felt guilty. They knew that they had done something wrong.</p> <p>God was sad and disappointed. He had made these two people, Adam and Eve, to be His friends. He wanted them to love Him and obey Him; that's why He had made them. But they had done exactly what He had told them not to do. They had disobeyed Him ... and even though God loved them very much, He knew that He must punish them.</p> <p>God sent Adam and Eve out of the beautiful paradise Garden of Eden, and they would never be allowed to go back. Adam would have to learn how to work the ground – to plant trees and crops so that they could eat. But it would be very difficult and tiring work because the ground was hard and there would be many weeds. Eve would have terrible pain when she was having her babies. And when Adam and Eve grew old, they would both die. They had disobeyed God and they wouldn't take the blame for what they had done wrong. That was when 'sin' came into the world.</p> <p>* We have Adam and Eve with us today on The Island. They agreed to give an exclusive interview to Rocky and Ringo, our Island News reporters, about what happened in the Garden of Eden.</p> <p><i>Invite the kids playing Adam and Eve to the platform. Rocky and Ringo should ask the scripted questions and wait for Adam and Eve to answer.</i></p> <p>Rocky: Eve, why did you listen to the snake and ignore God's rule about eating the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden?</p> <p>Eve: The temptation was too much. The fruit looked so delicious and the snake convinced me that I wanted the same wisdom God had.</p> <p>Ringo: Adam, why didn't you stop Eve from eating the fruit?</p> <p>Adam: Well, I guess I thought that if Eve could eat the fruit, then I could eat it too.</p>	<p><i>Adam and Eve actors</i></p> <p><i>Interview scripts for Rocky and Ringo, Adam and Eve</i></p>
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Rocky:	Do you feel that your punishment from God was fair?	
Adam:	We sinned and we were punished. There is always a consequence for sinning and I am very thankful that God still loves us and cares for us. God created us, God judges us, and God loves us.	
Eve:	I agree with Adam. I'm not too happy about painful childbirth, but the punishment could have been much worse. God could have completely turned His back on us.	
Ringo:	Adam and Eve, why did you hide from God when He came looking for you?	
Adam:	After eating the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, I knew that I had sinned. I didn't want God to see me. I felt ashamed and embarrassed.	
Eve:	It wasn't easy to talk to God after disobeying Him. I thought He would be angry with us and I was frightened.	
Rocky:	Did you think that you could hide your sin from God?	
Adam:	I guess we did, but God is all-knowing and all-loving. He knew right away that we had eaten fruit from that tree. It might have been better to admit our mistake right away and ask for forgiveness.	
<p>*Interview idea from http://rotation.infopop.cc/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/871101078/m/986109329</p>		
2. Set the scene		
<p>When Adam and Eve sinned, when they disobeyed God, the world changed forever. Life became difficult for them. They had to work hard, they got hurt, sometimes they were afraid and eventually they would die ... but worst of all was that there was now a big wall of sin between people and God.</p>		
3. Tell the story		
<p>Some time after Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden, they became mummy and daddy to two boys. Their new sons' names were Cain and Abel. <i>Show graphics of Cain and Abel on screen.</i> Cain, the older boy, was a farmer who worked hard in the fields growing crops and fruit and vegetables to eat, while Abel, the younger boy, was a shepherd.</p>		
<p>One day, both the boys brought special presents to offer up to God. Cain brought some vegetables and corn from the fields, while Abel brought the best lamb from his flock. God looked down and was very pleased with Abel's gift of his best lamb. However, He wasn't so happy with Cain's gift. Now, Abel brought the best thing He had, but it could have been that Cain's gift wasn't good enough for God. Just imagine if you opened up a birthday present and found that it was a broken toy, or out-of-date sweets, or a new jacket with a tear in it. You wouldn't be too happy because it wouldn't be the best gift. It could have been that Cain gave his present to God with a bad attitude, thinking how silly it was to give your best things to God.</p>		
<p>Whatever Cain's reason was, when God wasn't happy with the gift,</p>		

Cain and Abel graphics

Cain became very angry and upset. "God must have favourites," he thought. "God must prefer my brother Abel over me." God spoke to Cain and asked him, "Why are you angry and upset, Cain? Do the right thing and I will accept you. Please don't give in to sin and do the wrong thing. You must control your anger!" (paraphrase Genesis 4:6-7)

Let me tell you what happened next. It's an ugly story. It's violent, aggressive and downright sad.

Cain managed to hide his anger for a little while, and he went to find his brother. "Abel," he said, "let's go out to the field." The two brothers headed out together. Abel was chatting away but Cain didn't say too much. God's words were ringing in his ears – "You must control your anger!" "You must control your anger!" But the feeling of anger was so strong. It wasn't fair! Cain wanted justice! ... When they were far enough away from home, where no one could see them, Cain turned on his brother. All the anger he had felt earlier when God refused his gift came rising up within him, and he lashed out at Abel, beating him so hard that he killed him! Cain had committed the first murder in history. Cain had killed Abel, his brother.

Just like his mum and dad, Adam and Eve, who had disobeyed God and tried to hide from Him, Cain did the same thing.

God said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," Cain replied. "Am I my brother's keeper? Am I supposed to know where he is and what's he's doing every minute of the day?"

God said, "What have you done? I saw how you killed your brother in cold blood. You must be punished for what you have done! When you go to work in the fields, planting fruit and vegetables and sowing seeds, they will not grow for you! You will be a restless wanderer, always travelling from place to place on the earth." Cain left home and went to live in a new place, taking with him all those feelings of guilt, sorrow and fear for what he had done.

4. Explain

When Cain disobeyed God, he was separated from God forever. He couldn't be God's friend any longer. The Bible doesn't tell us if Cain was ever sorry for what he had done, and if he asked God to forgive him. If only Cain had said sorry away at the beginning for bringing that gift that was less than the best, if only Cain had asked God to help him get on top of his anger and not try to fix things in *his* way, then maybe this story wouldn't have such a sad ending.

- *Address kids:* Boys and girls, are you a friend of God? The bad thing is that we're all born with sin in us. Sometimes it just seems so easy and natural to say something nasty, or think mean thoughts about someone, or even do something bad to another person. That sin is exactly what separates us from God. But, boys and girls, the great news is that there *is* a way for us to be friends with God. God had a plan to get rid of our sin. It was the only way it could happen. God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a cross. When Jesus died and came back to life again, He defeated sin and death, and He made a

way for us to be friends with God, to live with Him forever. That's how much He loves us.

But we have to talk to Jesus and tell Him that we're sorry for those sinful thoughts and words and things we have done. We have to mean it, and be truly sorry, and ask Jesus to forgive us, no matter how bad we have been. And if we believe in Him, and ask Him to come and live in our hearts, then He will always be with us as our best friend. If we do something wrong after that, or make a mistake, then Jesus will be sad, but if we're sorry and ask Him to help us, then He will.

- *Address congregation:* I have more good news today. You see, this isn't just a kids' story. In God's eyes, we're all children. We all need someone to look after us. We might think we're independent, but the reality is that we're so very dependent on the hand of God. So I ask you the same question: Are you a friend of God? Are you happy and content that there is a huge wall of sin separating you from supreme joy and eternal life in heaven with your Creator? It really doesn't matter what your life story tells. It doesn't matter in what state you walked through the church doors this morning. What *does* matter is the state in which you're going to leave.

Jesus died to take the punishment for your sin as well as for the children's sin. God has a cheque with your name written on it, and just like Chris Tarrant offers the contestants on *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* you can choose to accept the prize, or you can reject it and keep on risking life, never sure if you're going to make it through.

King David, the man after God's own heart, made mistakes. He wrote a prayer that continues to challenge me in my faith. *Show verses on screen.* It says:

Slide: Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Psalm 51:10-12)

If you want the cheque, if you want the certainty of knowing that your future is secured, talk to the Lord. Tell Him you're sorry for what has gone before. Ask Him to forgive you. Pray David's prayer. Invite His Spirit to live in your heart, and enjoy the peace of knowing that He will always be with you ... "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

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You see, God already loves you. So, the best gift that any of you can give to God, no matter how old you are, no matter what has happened in your life, no matter if you're really clever at counting and doing sums or you're really not so clever at remembering spellings, no matter how you look, no matter how you dress, no matter what ... the best gift any of you can give to God is your heart.

This week, you will be bombarded with the colour red, with hearts

<p>and flowers, and adverts giving you advice on how to tell that special person in your life that you really love them. For this coming Saturday is Valentine's Day. Wouldn't it be truly wonderful if you were to find true love this Valentine's Day? The purest, most special, supernatural love of a mystical friendship between the Creator of the Universe and you. God tells us in the book of Jeremiah, "... come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:12-13) Jesus would love to receive your heart today.</p> <p>Let's all pray: Dear Lord Jesus, we thank You for being with us today on The Island. We thank You for Your Word, the Bible, and for the lessons You teach us. We thank You for making a way for us to be saved from sin, a way for us to be best friends with You, a way for us to be with You in heaven. We thank You, Lord Jesus, for dying on the cross in our place, and we rejoice that You are alive today, taking care of us and leading and guiding our paths. Lord, I pray that You would continue to draw close to each boy and girl, and each grown-up, in our meeting today. I pray that You would make our hearts pure, stay with us, and bring to each one of us the joy of Your salvation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.</p>	
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<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets) 5 minutes</p> <p>1. Invite the band to lead the kids and the congregation in singing <i>Jesus Loves Me</i>.</p> <p>While they are preparing, invite the kids and the adults to pray as they sing, encouraging them to feel free to come to the front of the church and kneel at the altar to pray if they wish.</p> <p>Invite the kids and the adults to come and talk to you (or the Senior Pastor) after the service if they have any more questions about how to ask Jesus into their lives.</p> <p>2. Invite the Senior Pastor to close the service in prayer.</p> <p>3. Remind kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave.</p> <p>*Have some evangelical literature available for anyone who responds to your invitation.</p>	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p> <p><i>Evangelical literature (for adults and kids)</i></p>
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THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 08 February 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story and concept by playing Valentine party games, and making a Valentine invitation card.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Jar of sweeties (heart-shaped if possible) – make sure you have counted these beforehand
- ✓ Record sheet and pen for guessing sweets in the jar
- ✓ Memory verse task: 5 balloons (red/pink heart-shaped if possible) with a section of the verse written on paper, folded up and inserted in each balloon. Divide the verse as follows: *Love one another. / As I have loved you, / so you must / love one another. / John 13:34*
- ✓ Activity: Tables
 - Pre-made invitation card (see Activity section below for instructions and photos)
 - Pre-printed invitations on paper or card with the text: *I would LOVE you to come with me to The Island, Sundays 11:30am and 6:30pm, Carrickfergus Church of the Nazarene.* (Change this as appropriate to you.)
 - Art materials for card decorating (e.g. paper doilies, sequins, glitter, stickers, colouring pens and pencils, glue, etc.)
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>E. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing a song together. (<i>Royalty</i>) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Competition: Before you start the main activities, show kids a jar filled with small sweeties (heart-shaped if possible). Allow children to guess how many sweeties are in the jar and record their estimate on a sheet of paper. Put this to the side until the end of the lesson. <i>Make sure you have counted the sweeties beforehand!</i> 	<p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i> <i>Jar of sweeties (pre-counted)</i> <i>Guess record sheet and pen</i></p>
<p>F. Memory Verse (with puppets) 10 minutes <i>"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a few questions to recap this morning's story: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What were the names of Adam and Eve's first two sons? <i>Cain and Abel</i> - What did Cain offer to God? <i>The best fruit he had grown</i> - What did Abel offer to God? <i>The best lamb of his flock</i> - God wasn't happy with Cain's offering. How did Cain react? How did he feel and what did he do? <i>He was angry and so jealous of his brother Abel that he killed him!</i> 2. <i>Explain:</i> Boys and girls, God was not pleased with Cain because he had a bad attitude. That means that he was offering something good to God, but he didn't really want to do it. He didn't want to give his best to God. And God knew this. When God told Cain that his offering wasn't good enough because it wasn't the best that Cain could give, Cain got so angry that he committed the first murder! He killed his brother Abel. God was even more unhappy with Cain. Cain had spoilt his friendship with God because he disobeyed. Sometimes we behave like Cain too, don't we? Sometimes we get jealous of our brothers and sisters and even our friends. Sometimes we get mad and angry with people and we do things that we shouldn't do in the heat of the moment. But that's not how God wants us to behave. God has a different way for us to live with each other ... and it's all about LOVE. 3. <i>Explain:</i> I need 5 helpers to teach us today's memory verse. <i>Choose 5 children and bring them to the front.</i> I need you to help me solve a problem. Today's verse has been broken up into pieces and is inside these 5 balloons. I'm going to give each of my 5 helpers a balloon, and they must burst the balloon to get the verse out! When each of you have your own piece of the verse, you need to stand in the correct order so that the rest of us can read and learn the verse. 4. Give each of your 5 helpers a balloon (heart-shaped or red/pink if possible). These should be prepared before the lesson – divide the verse into five sections and write each section on a sheet of paper. Fold up the sheets of paper and insert each one into a separate balloon. Inflate the balloons. The kids can burst the balloons by sitting on them, standing on them, squeezing them, 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>5 balloons with sections of the verse folded up inside each one</i></p>

<p>Valentine theme with pink and red hearts. Leave the decoration up to the individual children.</p> <p>7. Tidy up and set tables to the side.</p>	
<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets) 5-10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask one boy and one girl if they can recite the memory verse. The puppets / another leader will judge if they deserve a prize. Award the prizes. 2. Sing a song in closing. (Super Strong God) 3. Close in prayer. Challenge kids to remember what it means to love and obey. We can find out how to obey God by reading His Word, the Bible. We should try to love everybody, not just on Valentine's Day, but all the time! 4. Competition results: Check the list of guesses and award the jar of sweeties to the child whose guess was closest to correct. If there is a draw, divide the sweeties into small food bags and use it as a lesson in loving through sharing! 😊 5. Remind kids to come back next week and to bring someone with them! Make sure kids leave their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>Small prizes – bookmarks, stickers, etc.</i></p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Sweetie jar</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>

