

Get the class to discuss: Why are we temptable? Is goodness apart from freedom really goodness? Contrast Jesus' method of meeting Satan's temptation.

2. *The effects of sin.* Emphasize: (a) The social side,—the sinner curses his associates, even his dearest friends. (b) It destroys peace of mind and purity of thought, vs. 7-11. (c) It leads to a sense of separation from God, v. 10. Show that it was Adam and not God who withdrew from fellowship. (d) The consequences in pain and sorrow. Note the effect on the serpent, the woman, the man, the land, and ordinary life. Sum up in the last penalty, death, v. 19; Rom. 5:12-21.

Now take up the moral issues involved: (1) The pain and sorrow of life due to sin becomes the occasion of a return to God. (2) Although man has sinned, he is still the object of God's love. Emphasize the promise of the Redeemer (v. 15), and the restoration of the world to God.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Introduce this Lesson by calling attention to the beautiful garden world in which we left Adam and Eve last Sabbath. Life seemed to be complete when God found a help meet for the lonely gardener. To-day's Lesson embraces three scenes:

1. *The First Scene*, vs. 1-7. Note that Adam and Eve, the father and the mother of us all, had scarcely got settled in their beautiful home in this new world when suggestions of evil came to them. Question out the particulars of this scene,—the subtlety of the serpent, the yielding simplicity of the woman, the complicity of the man, the feeling of shame and guilt which came over them. Make very clear to the scholars that the story of the serpent talking with Eve, whether looked upon as an outward historical event or as a parable of what took place in the kingdom of the soul, is something which we all know a good deal about. We have all heard the evil voice, and know something of the spiritual conflict through which the first pair passed. In what sense are we less favorably conditioned for engaging in this conflict than our first parents? The sin in our natures makes us prone to

yield to the evil influences of life. In what sense are we better qualified to meet the tempter? We are not ignorant of his devices. Our own experience and that of others should lead us to discredit his false sayings and plausible insinuations.

2. *The Second Scene*, vs. 8-12. By questioning, bring out what took place that evening in the garden,—the guilty pair hiding among the trees when they heard the voice of the Lord God: how God called Adam out of his hiding-place and questioned him about what had happened; how Adam cast the blame of it all upon Eve, and Eve cast the blame upon the serpent.

Impress upon the class that there is something here as modern as to-day, as personal as anything in our own lives, that yielding to the evil suggestions of our own hearts, or to the evil promptings of the evil one always brings shame and fear, and that it is a mean piece of business to try to escape punishment by casting the blame upon somebody else.

Call attention to the promise of a way out of sin which God made that day, v. 15. It is possible for guilty humans to find their way back to God through Christ, 1 Cor. 15:22.

3. *The Third Scene*, vs. 22-24. Note that, although there was hope for the guilty pair there was no escape from a certain measure of punishment. Lead the class to see that sin is such an awful thing that even when forgiven it leaves scars and wounds and painful memories.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

What command had God given to the first man and woman? Were they happy as long as they faithfully obeyed that command? How did they come to break it at last? Ask one of the scholars to tell the story. Call for a definition of "temptation," and use the first part of the Lesson passage as an illustration of temptation. How did the tempter begin his evil work? He tries to hint to the woman that perhaps God did not really give such a command, and that she was free to eat of any tree, including the forbidden one. But the woman knew quite well what God had said.