

Reader's Theater

The Fall

[Narrator] God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the beautiful Garden of Eden, where He provided everything they needed.

The serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals.
He said to Eve:

[Snake] Did God really say you can't eat fruit from any of these trees?

[Eve] Of course we can. We can eat from all the trees. That is, except for the one in the middle. God said that we aren't to eat that fruit...or even touch it. He says if we do, we'll die.

[Snake] That's not true! You won't die. God told you that because he knows if you eat that fruit, you'll be like him
— knowing good, as well as evil.

[Narrator] Eve looked at the tree and its fruit.

[Eve] Hmm...it really is beautiful. It looks delicious.
And if what the snake says is true...it could make me wise.

[Narrator] Eve took the fruit, hesitated for a moment, then bit into it.
She slowly offered it to Adam.

[Eve] Here, eat some of this delicious fruit.

[Adam] Are you sure? ... It does look good. Well...it hasn't hurt you.
(takes the fruit)

[Narrator] Adam ate. *(pause)* They looked at each other. *(pause)*
For the first time, *(pause)* they realized they were naked.
Shame entered the human heart.

[Adam] We need to cover ourselves. Let's sew some of these fig leaves together and make coverings for ourselves.
(pause)

[Narrator] As evening approached, they heard the sound of
the Lord God walking through the garden.

Suddenly, they were afraid of God,

[Adam] Quick, let's hide among the trees.

(a long silence)

[God] Adam

(pause)

Adam, where are you?

[Narrator] Adam knew he had to answer.

[Adam] Lord, I heard you walking in the garden and I was afraid
because I was naked ... so I hid.

[God] Who told you that you were naked?
Did you eat of the tree from which I told you not to eat?

[Adam] The woman, **you gave her to me**. She gave me the fruit,
... and...yes, I ate it.

[Narrator] Turning to the woman, God said,

[God] Why did you do this?

[Eve] The snake! The snake tricked me into eating it!

[Narrator] God said to the snake:

[God] Because you have done this, you are cursed
more than all the animals. From now on, you will move about
on your belly. There will be hostility between your offspring and
hers. *(long pause)* You will bruise his heel, ...

but ...

HE will crush your head.

[Narrator] Looking back at the woman, God said:

[God] Your pain will be great when you give birth to children.
Childbirth will be painful. Your desires will be contrary to your husband, but he will rule over you.

[Narrator] God said to Adam

[God] I made it very clear that you were not to eat from that tree.
Because you have disobeyed, the ground is cursed.
From now on, it will resist your work. It will grow weeds and thorns. By the sweat of your brow, you will earn your food until the day you return to the dust.

[Narrator] God clothed Adam and Eve with garments made from animal skins. He then sent them out of the garden, where they worked the soil for their food. As they left, they looked back one last time at the home they had lost.

[God] The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil.
They must not be allowed to eat from the Tree of Life and live forever.

[Narrator] God placed mighty angels at the entrance to the garden, guarding the way to the Tree of Life.

Adam and Eve walked into a world forever changed by sin.
One filled with sorrow...pain...hard work...and death. *(pause)*

But God had not forgotten them. *(pause)*

One day, *(pause)*

the promised Deliverer would come.