Catechism Story 21 *The First and Second Articles of the Creed*
Memory Verse and Catechism Prayers from Congregation at Prayer

BIBLE STORY: THE FALL AND FIRST PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL
Genesis 3:1-15

Central Thoughts

- We became sinful when Adam and Eve turned away from God's Word by eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- God's Word gives life, turning away from God's Word brings death.
- Adam and Eve did not become like God when they fell into sin, they became like the devil (self-centered, selfish, and without the ability to love God or believe in Him).
- Sinful man does not want to admit that he is a sinner: Adam blamed God and his wife, Eve blamed the devil; and they tried to hide from God.
- Original sin is the corruption of sin that has been passed on to all of us from Adam at the time we were conceived in our mother's womb (Psalm 51:5; Genesis 6:5; 8:21). This is what makes us sinners. Because of original sin we are born with no natural ability to have faith in God or love for Him.
- The Gospel teaches that we have a gracious God who continues to love us, even though we are sinners; and who promises to redeem us from sin, death, and the power of the devil through "the holy precious blood, and the innocent suffering and death" of our Savior Jesus Christ.
- The first promise of the Gospel is God's promise to send His Virgin-born Son—"the Seed of the Woman"—to redeem us from death and the devil's power by "crushing the Serpent's head with His heel" in His suffering and death upon the cross (Genesis 3:15).
- Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, so that He would be without sin and become the innocent sin bearer for us.
- God's promise of the Gospel creates faith in Jesus and gives us the gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Discussion Questions

Why did the Serpent want Adam and Eve to eat of the Tree of Knowledge?
He wanted them to die and to not have life with God.
How did God create life with Him at creation?
By His Word.
What happened when Adam and Eve turned away from God's Word?
They became sinners and died. They lost their life with God.
Why did God come to them in the Garden after they fell into sin?
He loved them and wanted to save them from their sin.
What did Adam and Eve do when God came for them in the Garden?
They hid from Him.
What did Adam and Eve do when God asked them about what they had done?
Adam blamed God and the wife God had given him and Eve blamed the Serpent who tempted them.
Why Did God ask them what they had done?
He wanted them to know their sin and how much they needed a Savior (this is the call to repentance).
Did Adam and Eve confess their sin?
No.
What did God say to the serpent?
He spoke a curse against the serpent who had tempted Adam and Eve to turn away from God's Word.
Who is the serpent?
The devil or Satan.
With what words did God promise salvation from sin, death, and the power of the devil?
Genesis 3:15—"I will put enmity between you (devil) and the woman, and between your seed (devil) and her Seed; He (the Seed of the Woman) shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel."

Who is the Seed of the Woman?

The Virgin-born Son of God.

What does God promise us in this Word?

That He will send His Virgin-born Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to crush the devil's power over us by His suffering and death upon the cross.

What is God creating in our hearts through this promise?

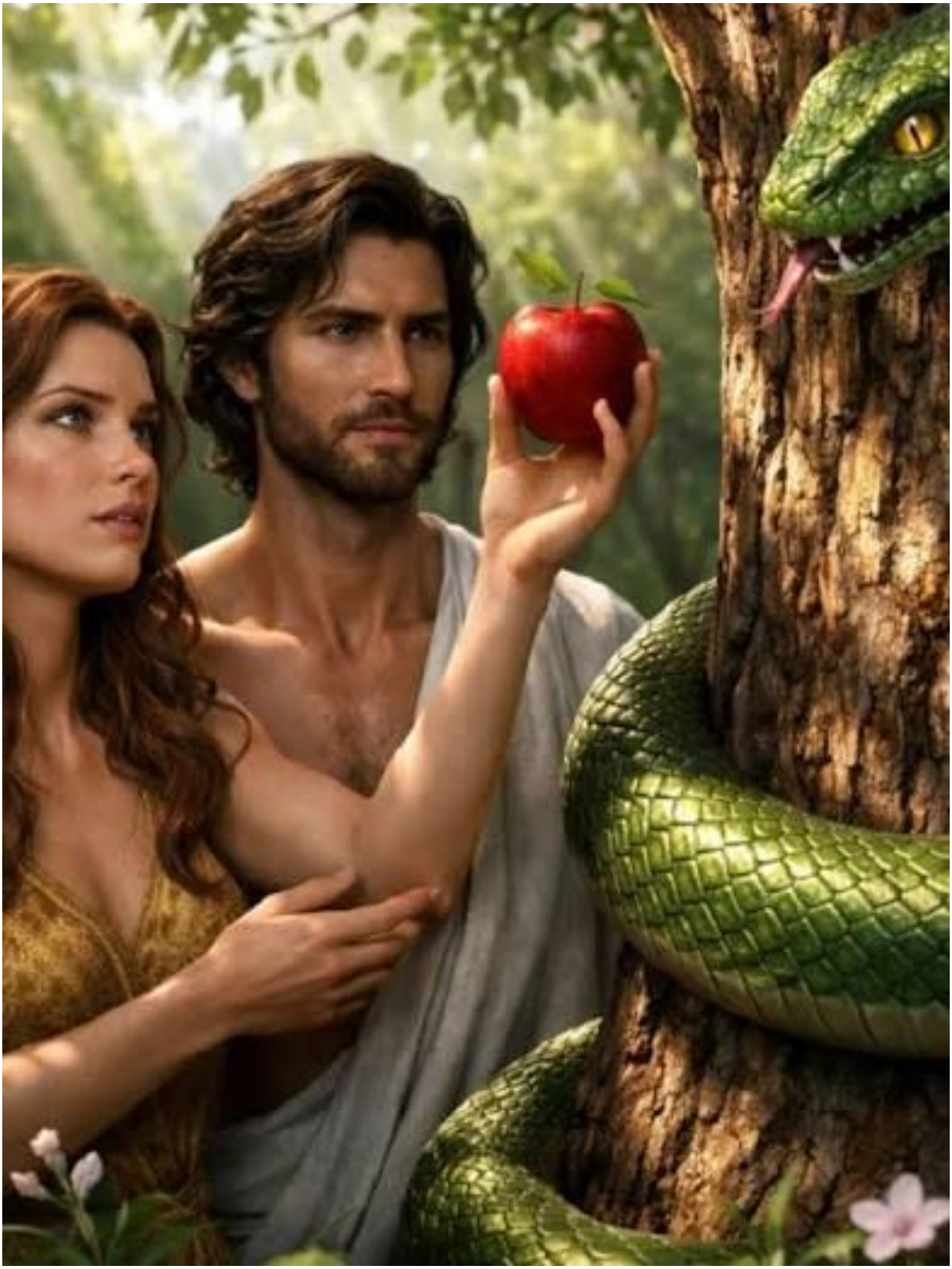
Faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and victory over the devil.

Meditation on the Bible Story

When Adam and Eve turned away from God's Word and ate from the Tree of Knowledge they became sinners and they would die. As sinners they had no love for God and no faith in Him. They became afraid of God and they tried to hide from Him. They blamed God and would not take responsibility for what they had done. This sinful condition was passed on to all of us. But God's love for them never ceased, even though they had become sinners and were deserving of death. God promised to send His Virgin-born Son, the Seed of the Woman, to crush the Serpent's head in the great battle or "enmity" of the cross. In this battle, Jesus' heel would be bruised in His suffering and death, but his suffering would result in the defeat of Satan because He would have born the death that we deserved because of our sin! Genesis 3:15 is the first promise of the Gospel. God took responsibility for our sin and redeemed us from sin, death, and the power of the devil through what Jesus, the Virgin-born Son of Mary, suffered on our behalf. It was important for Jesus to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, so that He would be without sin and could become the perfect sin bearer for us. The Gospel teaches that we have a gracious God who continues to love us, even though we are sinners; and who promises to redeem us from sin, death, and the power of the devil through "the holy precious blood, and the innocent suffering and death" of our Savior Jesus Christ. The promises of the Gospel comfort us and create faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life.

Prayer on the Bible Story

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your love for us sinners in giving us the first promise of the Gospel. When Adam and Eve fell into sin, You promised them the gift of Your Virgin-born Son, the Seed of the Woman, who would crush the devil's power over us through His death upon the cross. Help us to believe that when Jesus' heel was bruised for us in His suffering and death that He won for us the gift of forgiveness and eternal life with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.



The Fall of Man and the First Promise of the Gospel

Genesis 3:1-15