

KidZone

Guide 2



A Paradise For Pigs

A few years ago Vietnamese potbellied pigs became the craze as exotic pets.

Unfortunately, the pigs didn't live up to their "perfect pet" reputation.

The pigs could balloon to one hundred and ten pounds and often became aggressive. Suddenly scores of people began asking, "What do I do with an unwanted pig?"

Then some people discovered a solution. They could give their pig to Dale Riffle.

Dale had been one of the first to jump on the potbellied-pig bandwagon. He owned an animal named Rufus. But like so many of these pigs, Rufus had soon become a nuisance, refusing to use his litter box and developing a craving for carpet, wallpaper, and drywall.

But Dale loved Rufus too much to get rid of him. So he sold his suburban home and bought a five-acre farm in West Virginia to accommodate Rufus. Before long dozens of people had unloaded their pet pigs on the farm, and Dale found himself living in hog heaven.

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, Rufus has been joined by 180 other pigs that snooze on beds of pine shavings, soak in plastic swimming pools, and listen to piped-in classical music.

Dale told a reporter, "I think we're all put on earth for some reason, and I guess pigs are my lot in life."

It's hard to imagine how anybody could be so in love

with pigs. But even more amazing is how God could be so in love with us!

As we learned in Lesson 1, in the beginning God created a perfect world. There was no pain, death, or sin. It sure isn't like that today! Let's face it: we don't follow God's original plan for our world or our lives. Some lie, cheat, steal, and say mean things to people. We do lots of other things we are not supposed to do. We have rebelled.

How did this rebellion against God get started? Let's figure out what happened.



1. Turn to Genesis at the beginning of your Bible and answer the following questions:
 - a. At creation, where did God make a garden? (Genesis 2:8):
E n
 - b. Whom did He put in the garden? (Genesis 2:8):
m
 - c. What was the name of the first man? (Genesis 2:19):
A m
 - d. What was the name of the first woman? (Genesis 3:20):
E

God loved Adam and Eve. They were His friends, and He was their Friend. He talked to His friends face to face. To give Adam and Eve a chance to show their love by obeying Him, God placed a tree in the garden. This was not an ordinary tree. It had special meaning. It was called “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:17). Picture Adam and Eve walking through the garden. Suddenly they come upon this special tree. It is loaded with delicious looking fruit. As they admire the tree, God comes along and tells them about it.



2. Read Genesis 2:17 to find out what God told them.

What were they not supposed to do?

a.

What would happen if they ate the fruit?

b.

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve went ahead and ate the fruit anyway. That's called sin—disobeying God. Because of their wrong choice, death and all the other bad effects of sin got started in our world.

But sin really began even before the Garden of Eden. The problem started in outer space.

A real “Star Wars”

Climb into a time machine. Strap yourself into the seat, put on your headphones, and prepare for travel. Reach down and push the button marked “GO.” You're off and racing through space at 186,000 miles per second!

Suddenly, your time machine stops. You're looking at heaven thousands of years ago, long before God created Adam and Eve. In heaven, where God and the angels live, everything is perfect.

All the angels were happy except Lucifer, the head angel. He wanted to be as powerful as God, so he rebelled. Rebellion against God is called sin. Because he sinned, Lucifer (now called Satan or the Devil) was thrown out of heaven (see Isaiah 14:12).

God has never forced anyone to love Him or obey Him. He still doesn't. It is your choice. The angels in heaven had a choice too.

Read more of the details in Revelation 12:7-9. “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon [another name for Satan]; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail [win], nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

Wow! What a war that must have been! Now, return to “real time” to get the rest of the story. Push the “RETURN” button, and off you go!

Satan: The big liar

In the Garden of Eden, Satan, appearing as a snake, talked Adam and Eve into eating the fruit.

3. Read Genesis 3:4, 5 and check the lies that the serpent (Satan) used to get Eve to disobey God.

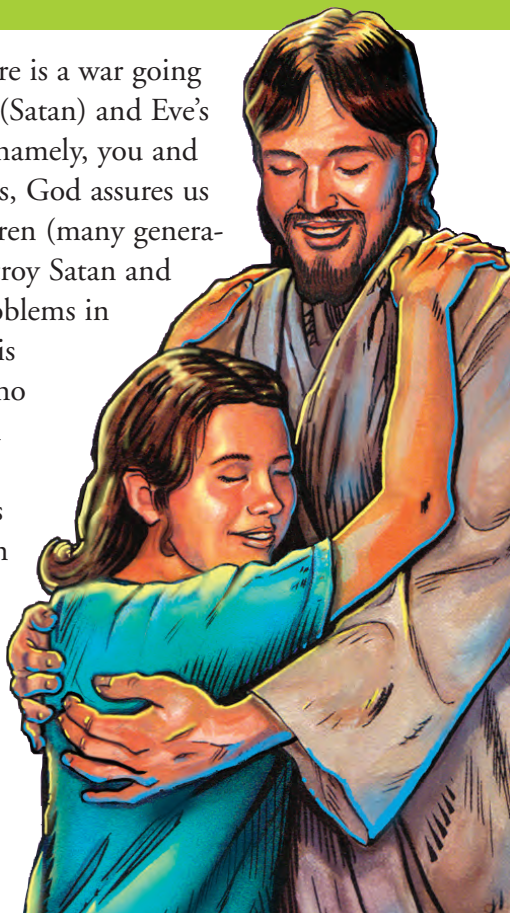
- You will not die.
- The fruit tastes really good.
- You will be like God.

Satan tries to trick us, too, into following him and not God. He tries to make sin look fun. But falling for Satan’s tricks always brings bad results—pain and death.

Fortunately, God gave Adam and Eve a promise full of hope. Look at what God said to the snake in Genesis 3:15: “And I will put enmity [hatred] between you and the woman, and between your seed [children] and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

In other words, there is a war going on between the snake (Satan) and Eve's children (all people—namely, you and me!) Fortunately for us, God assures us that one of Eve's children (many generations later) would destroy Satan and end all the sin and problems in this world. This verse is talking about Jesus, who would come to live on earth as a man. He would die on the cross for our sins and put an end to evil.

Jesus came to this earth because He wants you and me to live with Him forever in a perfect place where no one will ever die.



4. According to Romans 6:23, Jesus made a way for us to escape the bad results of sin. What is the gift God gives us?

Jesus died to rescue the very people who have sinned and rebelled against Him. To do so makes about as much sense as Dale Riffle building an air-conditioned palace for misbehaving pigs! Yet the Bible assures us that God loves us so much, in spite of our rebellion, that He sent His Son to save us. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only

begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

While the good news of Jesus Christ may seem farfetched to some, it is true. That’s what we’re discovering together in these Bible guides. So keep studying, and we’ll explore news that’s so good you’ll feel better than a pampered pig in Dale’s pig palace!

Talking to God



Write your name in the blank
if you want to pray this prayer:

*Dear God, thank You for explaining
to me why bad things happen in this world. Thank You that
You plan on making life better for us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.
Your friend, _____.*

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