

October: When Things Fall Apart

Props needed: The October bag should include:

Genesis 3 story - green felt, two trees, the serpent, green felt leaves, jagged rock from the gold bag, peg dolls - (2 small and 2 large) from the blue bag.

Genesis 6-9 story - brown felt, blue felt, Ark backdrop, animals, round rocks, and peg dolls.

Genesis 11 - the backdrop for the city of Babel, blocks for the tower, and multiple peg dolls.

To begin:

- Have a Bible open to the story you are telling
- Have a family member light the battery-operated candle and explain that this light represents God's presence as you tell His story
- Pass the first two blocks around the table so that each person can look at them and place them in the center of the table

Story script (you may use this script or tell the story in your own words):

Spread out the green felt underlay

"I wonder if you have noticed any of God's special gifts of creation recently. I want to tell you a little more of the story about the beginning and the special gifts from God."

Present Adam and Eve and place them close together saying, "God put His own image in the man and woman."

"In the middle of creation, there was a wonderful garden. It was God's garden. Everything was close, and they were with God and each other." **Put the trees behind Adam and Eve.**

God made many beautiful trees to look at, and they were good for food. In the middle of the garden was the Tree of Life and also the Tree of knowing the difference between good and evil. God told Adam, "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 from it you will certainly die."

Take out the serpent

"Now, the serpent was more clever than any other creature the Lord God made. He did not follow God, the King of creation. So he suggested that Eve taste the fruit from the tree of knowing the difference between good and evil."

"And she did."

"Eve ate first then Adam did too and immediately things began to fall apart." ***Pull them apart and put the snake between them.*** "Adam and Eve saw the differences between each other, between them and God, and between good and evil. They knew God told them not to eat the fruit but chose to do it anyway. They sinned and were ashamed so they covered themselves up."

October: When Things Fall Apart

Cover Adam and Eve with green felt leaves when you say, "Adam and Eve hid."

"God called for them and found them." ***Uncover Adam and Eve.*** "He asked them what they did and they blamed each other. They could not live in the garden with God anymore because of their sin so God sent them outside the Garden." ***Take Adam and Eve out of the Garden. Place your hand between Adam and Eve and the garden.*** "God placed an angel with a flaming sword at the edge of the Garden so they could not return." ***Pause, for a moment, and look at the story to let it rest inside of you.***

For the next part of the story, make a space to put down the brown underlay.

"Adam and Eve left the garden and began to search for a place to live. So they walked and walked, and as they did, ***place your hand over Adam and Eve,*** "God's presence went with them."

Bring out two sons. Put the jagged rock in your left hand "Two sons were born to Adam and Eve, who were very different from each other. One son chose to please God and the other did not. Cain, who worked the soil, became very jealous and angry with his brother, Abel, who cared for animals. One day Cain killed his brother." ***Take Abel away and forcefully place a jagged rock in place.***

"God was not pleased but He loved both sons. He promised to protect Cain from harm, and He did." ***Place hand over Cain.*** "Even so, Cain left home and walked away from God's presence." ***Walk Cain away.***

"Then things got worse..."

"More people were born, grew up, and had children, and sin seemed to be everywhere. Sin separated people from God and each other."

Put away Adam and Eve's story and keep out the brown underlay.

"Finally, God was sorry He had created people on the earth and His heart was deeply troubled.

"Only one man named Noah found favor in God's eyes." ***Present Noah and his wife.***

"God had a plan."

"God told Noah to build an ark." ***Set up the Ark backdrop behind the brown felt.*** "He said to take some of every kind of animal inside so that his family and all of the animals would be safe from what was about to happen." ***Place the animals on the underlay.***

"Noah did everything God told him to do." ***Move animals inside the door of the Ark.***

October: When Things Fall Apart

“When they were all safe inside...” **Pause. Put Noah inside, and close the door..** “God closed the door...” **Use a hand motion to close the door.** “...and it began to rain, and rain, and rain for 40 days. **Place the blue felt over the brown felt.** And the rain washed away all that was wrong in the world. But God’s presence was with them in the Ark.” **Place both hands over the Ark.**

“When the water went away and the earth was dry, Noah, his family, and the animals left the Ark...” **Roll the blue felt up then take the animals out of the Ark.** “Then Noah built an altar and worshiped God.” **Pile up rocks.**

“God made a promise to begin again with Noah and his family. He sent a rainbow as a sign of His covenant with Noah. A covenant is a promise. God said, ‘I will never wash the whole earth with a flood, again.’” **Using your hand, create a rainbow over Noah.** “He told them to fill the earth and multiply. And they did.”

“But it got even worse....” **Pause for a moment. Put away Noah’s story except the brown felt.**

“Noah’s family grew to be many people.” **Bring out more people.** “It wasn’t long before sin separated them from God again.”

“Many of them traveled to a city called Babel...” **Place the city backdrop.** “...and instead of filling the earth, they stayed in one place. They thought they could be like God.”

Put blocks on top of each other to create a tower.

“So they built a tall tower and tried to reach heaven without God’s help. God saw what they were doing and mixed up their words so they couldn’t understand each other. Then they heard they were different from each other. They were confused! They stopped building the tower together and...” **Move some people.** “...separated from each other...” **Move some more people.** “...and separated from God.” **Move some more people.** I wonder what will happen next.

Share the following wonder statements. (*Move back through the stories as you wonder*).

- “I wonder how Adam and Eve felt as they left the garden.”
- “I wonder how you would feel if you were in this story.”
- “I wonder why Cain walked away from God’s presence.”
- “I wonder what he could have done differently.”
- “I wonder what people thought about Noah building a great big boat on dry land.”
- “I wonder what Noah told them. 2 Peter 2:5 says Noah was a preacher of righteousness. I wonder what that might mean in this story.”
- “I wonder what it sounded like when people started talking in different languages.”

October: When Things Fall Apart

- “I wonder how they found other people who spoke the same language.”
- “I wonder if God's presence went with them when they left Babel.”
- “I wonder if it keeps getting worse.”