

# Short All Age Worship Service

(ShortAAW003)

## The Big Story of God 3: Sin enters the world

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## THE BIG STORY OF GOD 3: SIN ENTERS THE WORLD

### Service Aim:

To teach how sin entered the world and its consequences upon us all.

This service can be used on its own or as part of a series of services covering major biblical themes from Genesis to Revelation.

### Biblical Reference(s):

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-19, 24, Deuteronomy 32:10, Psalm 17:8, Romans 3:23, John 1:12-13, 3:16

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### Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	Matthew 18:20 and prayer
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Link:	Life is full of choices. Every choice leads to something happening.
Puppets:	“The ripple effect”
Link:	Some choices lead to very big things happening
Bible Reading:	Genesis 3 dramatized
Song:	<u>Song about our sin</u> (See Appendix 1)
Talk:	Sharing the Gospel simply with a couple of apples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God loves us</li> <li>• We rejected God</li> <li>• We are separated from God</li> <li>• Jesus came to rescue us</li> <li>• Our response</li> </ul>
Response:	Inviting people to choose to turn back to God using small “seeds”
Lord’s Prayer	
Summary:	Life is full of choices. Some of them have big consequences. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and so they ended up separated from Him.</li> <li>• We too have chosen to sin but if we choose to trust Jesus our sins can be forgiven and we can know God as Father</li> </ul>
Final song:	<u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	Numbers 6:24-26

## Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

**Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.**

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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## Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that during the service you will be unpacking how sin entered the world and what happened as a result. If you are using this service as part of the series: "The Big Story of God", explain that too.

## Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship"<sup>1</sup> that the congregation can say together,
- or the following verse and prayer:

Jesus said, *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them"*  
(Matthew 18:20)

As you promise to be with us Lord Jesus,  
**We welcome you here today.**

**Help us Lord to worship you,  
To listen to your Word,  
And to pray in faith,  
That we might grow in our love for you and for one another.  
Amen.**

## Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

## Link:

Life is full of choices isn't it?

- Every choice we make will lead to something happening.

Some choices we make will lead to good things happening,

- whilst other choices we make lead to bad things happening.
- James, our puppet is learning that lesson today.

## Puppets:

The puppet script is called "The ripple effect" (see Appendix 2). This script works with a boy puppet "James"<sup>2</sup> and an older man puppet "Grandad." The aim of the puppet script is to show people the ripple effect of their actions on other people's lives.

<sup>1</sup> Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603

<sup>2</sup> You can purchase both a boy and a Grandad puppet from [www.onewayuk.com](http://www.onewayuk.com)

**Link:**

We don't always realise do we that something we choose to do can have a very big effect on either other people's lives or on our own life.

The Bible shows us this principle in the story of Adam and Eve.

- In the book of Genesis we read that God created Adam and Eve,
- the first man and woman,
- and placed them in a beautiful garden, which they were given to look after.

God told them that they were free to eat from any tree in the garden.

- There was only one rule however.
- God told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Let's see what Adam and Eve chose to do when God's enemy, the devil came on the scene.

**Bible Reading:**

The Bible reading is Genesis 3. This could be read from a children's Bible<sup>3</sup> or dramatized (see Appendix 3)

**Song:**

Song about our sin as per Appendix 1

**Talk:**

This talk needs the props of two large perfect and shiny apples, two apple pips, sharp knife and chopping board. Note that when you cut the apple in half, make sure that you cut across the apple rather than top to bottom. If you cut across the apple, the core makes the shape of a star.

If possible, PowerPoint the main headings so it is easy to follow the progression of the talk.

**1) God loves us**

So starting at the beginning of the story.....

- God made the beautiful world we live in,
- He made this delicious apple, (*show apple*)
- He made the first people, who the Bible call Adam and Eve, (which is Hebrew for man and woman),
- and he made you and me.

The Bible tells us that God loves what He has made.

- He loves each one of us with a love that is greater than anything else in this world.....
- we are the "*apple of his eye*," (*hold apple in the palm of your hand and look intently at it*)
- which means that we are very special and precious to him.

When God made us, His desire was that we would enjoy a loving relationship with Him and loving relationships with each other.....

- We read that in the beginning God had that close relationship with Adam and Eve,
- but then things went wrong, as we saw in our drama.

<sup>3</sup> The Beginner's Bible – Timeless Children's Stories (available from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk))  
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## 2) We rejected God

Things went wrong when Adam and Eve chose to make a very bad decision.

- They chose to disobey God and listen to Satan.

God had told them not to touch the fruit on only one tree, *(hold up apple high as if it is on a tree)*

- but when Adam and Eve saw that the fruit on the tree looked good *(look up at apple)*
- they chose to disobey God and take it *(with your other hand, "pick" the apple from the "tree")*
- and eat it. *(take a bite out of the side of the apple)*

As soon as they had eaten the fruit they realised that they had made a very bad decision.

- They felt ashamed of what they had done and
- they hid from God because their sin made them dirty *(Look at apple and point out bite mark and then hold apple in your hand as far away from your body as possible)*

## 3) Separated from God

Because of their bad decision to disobey God, Adam and Eve's relationship with God was completely broken. *(Cut apple in half across the middle using sharp knife on chopping board. Do this quite dramatically!)*

- No longer could they enjoy walking closely with Him because God is holy and perfect and cannot even look at sin.
- They were sent out of the garden;
- they were separated from him. *(Hold two halves of apple apart)*

Now you might think: how sad for Adam and Eve, but what has that got to do with us?

- The Bible tells us that like Adam and Eve, we have all chosen to sin,
- we have all chosen to rebel against God in one way or another,
- and so we, like them, are separated from Him too,
- but the good news is that God didn't give up on us.

God loves us so much that He wanted to put the relationship between Him and us right,

- even though it is our fault that it was broken.

## 4) Jesus came to rescue us.

God's rescue plan involved sending His Son Jesus into the world.

- He put a sign in the sky to show people that Jesus was coming.
- The sign was a special star.
- Did any of you know that there is a star inside every apple? *(Show one side of the apple where the core is in the shape of a star)*

Jesus didn't enter the world as the mighty powerful King He is,

- but he entered as a baby,
- born in Bethlehem.

Unlike us, Jesus lived a totally sinless life,

- loving and obeying his heavenly Father perfectly.
- Jesus made no bad choices!

When he was 33 years old, Jesus was crucified on a cross accused of crimes that he hadn't committed.

- Three days later he rose again from the dead and is now reigning as King in heaven.

The Bible teaches us that when Jesus died and rose again,

- He did it to pay for all the wrong things, the sins that we have done.

### 5) Our response

We are now faced with the biggest choice of our lives.

- If we choose to take our tiny seed of faith (*Pick up a seed from the centre of the apple and show it*)
- and put our trust in Jesus, then we will be given a brand new life. (*show second perfect apple*)

Our sins will be forgiven,

- we will be welcomed into God's arms to know Him as our loving Heavenly Father,
- and we will live in relationship with Him for ever....as the apple of his eye.

Not only that but we are given a special gift.

- The Spirit of Jesus comes to live inside us, helping us to choose to be obedient,
- and changing us so that we start to want to please God rather than ourselves.

However if we choose to not place our seed of faith in Jesus, (*throw away the seed*)

- we can carry on living life our own way,
- disobeying and rejecting God....but we will always be separated from Him.

This choice faces every single man, woman, boy and girl.

- So with such a wonderful offer of love available to you, choose wisely.

### Response:

You will need a couple of bowls of seeds. Black sesame seeds (that look like apple pips) could work well.

Explain that you are going to give people an opportunity to accept God's invitation of relationship by praying a simple prayer together. Pass around the seeds so that everyone receives one. Invite people to hold their small "seed of faith" in their hands and pray as much or as little of the following prayer as they want to:

**Lord Jesus,**

**With the small seed of faith that you have given me,**

**I choose to believe that you died on the cross and rose again so that I can be forgiven and receive your gift of life.**

**I am sorry for all of the ways that I have chosen to disobey you.**

**Please forgive me.**

**I now choose to turn away from living life my way to follow you.**

**Please come and be my Saviour and my Lord and fill me with your Holy Spirit.**

**For the glory of your name. Amen.**

Follow this prayer by inviting the Holy Spirit to come and fill each person who has turned to Jesus in their hearts.

### **Lord's Prayer:**

Conclude the time of prayer by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

### **Summary:**

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

- Life is full of choices. Some of them have big consequences.
- Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and so they ended up separated from Him.
- We too have chosen to sin but if we choose to trust Jesus our sins can be forgiven and we can know God as Father

### **Final Song:**

Final song as per Appendix 1

### **Blessing:**

Pray a simple prayer to end the service, something like the blessing prayer from Numbers 6:24-26 ie:

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
 The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
 The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**[Notices:** If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

## Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of songs to draw people into worship. Ideas include:

- Amazing grace (John Newton)
- Be still for the presence of the Lord (David J Evans © 1986 Thankyou Music)
- Far and near hear the call (Graham Kendrick © 1995 Make Way Music)
- Immortal, invisible (Walter Chalmers Smith)
- Praise is rising (Brenton Brown, Paul Baloche © 2005, 2006 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)

ii) Song about our sin. Ideas include:

- Dear Lord and Father of mankind (Frederick Charles Maker, John Greenleaf Whittier)
- God of grace I turn my face (Chris Bowater © 1990 Sovereign Lifestyle Music)
- He was pierced (Maggi Dawn © 1987 Thankyou Music)
- I want more of you (Chris Jackson © 2009 POWERPACK Admin by Learning Curve Music)
- We are not what we should be (Joel Sczebel © 2011 Sovereign Grace Worship)

iii) Final song. Ideas include:

- Before the throne of God above (Charitie Lees Bancroft, Vikki Cook © 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship)
- Everyone needs compassion (Ben Fielding, Reuben Morgan © 2006 Hillsong Music Publishing)
- For God so loved the world (John Hardwick © 1994 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- God so loved that He gave His Son (Ben Cantelon © 2010 Thankyou Music)
- I hear the Saviour say (Elvina M. Hall Arr. Aaron Keyes © 2003 Thankyou Music)
- Who O Lord could save themselves? (Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman © 2008 SHOUT! Music Publishing)

## Appendix 2 – Puppet Script: “The Ripple Effect”

### Characters:



The script is a dialogue between a young boy puppet called “James” who wants to follow Jesus but keeps getting things wrong, and his wise old “Grandad” puppet who helps to sort him out. Each puppet is operated by one person from behind a screen and so it is essential that the voices are heard; radio-microphones are ideal. Puppets and puppet screens can be purchased from many sources including <http://www.onewayuk.com/>

*Enter James and Grandad*

- Grandad: Hey James, you missed a wonderful evening down at church last night.
- James: Don't rub it in Grandad – I really wanted to come to the Talents evening.
- Grandad: You know we raised three hundred and fifty pounds for Christian Aid and had lots of fun doing it.....you should have seen Miss Shaw dancing on the tables!
- James: I'd loved to have seen her.....oh Grandad it's all my fault why we didn't come last night.
- Grandad: Come on James; tell your old Grandad about it.....your mother certainly seems very grumpy today.
- James: She is.....well it started like this. Mum gave me a bag of biscuits to eat because I was starving.
- Grandad: That was kind of her
- James: The problem began when my little sister Jessica asked me for a biscuit because she was starving too
- Grandad: And naturally you shared your biscuits with her.....(*James shakes head*) oh I see, you didn't share your biscuits
- James: I told her to go away Grandad and find something else to eat.
- Grandad: And let me guess.....she found something totally unsuitable?
- James: Yes.....she ate the dog's dinner.
- Grandad: Oh no.....and I can imagine what happened next
- James: She was sick all over mum's new cream lounge carpet
- Grandad: No wonder your mother is grumpy
- James: It gets worse Grandad
- Grandad: Go on....

- James: Mum couldn't find the carpet cleaner under the stairs so we went to help her look in the garage and before we realised what was happening, the front door shut behind us.
- Grandad: Oh dear
- James: And the next door neighbours who have a spare key have gone away for the weekend
- Grandad: Your poor mother.....how did you get back into the house again?
- James: We had to walk all the way into town to the locksmiths and wait there for what seemed like hours before he was willing to come back home with us and let us into the house again.
- Grandad: And then I suppose your mother had the lounge carpet to clean.....?
- James: And she had to find fifty pounds in cash to pay the locksmith.....that was the money we were going to bring along for the Christian Aid talent evening. Oh Grandad, I feel so bad.....all those things happened because I chose to be selfish.
- Grandad: Well let's look at it another way James....you have learnt a very important lesson. You have learnt that your actions have an effect on the lives of others around you.
- James: I can see that now Grandad.....
- Grandad: Well done James.....how about we think of something nice to do to help your mother after all the trauma of yesterday?
- James: I've done that already Grandad
- Grandad: Go on then James.....what have you done?
- James: I have cut up her bank cards and thrown them away!
- Grandad: What?
- James: I heard mum telling dad the other night that she wished she didn't have to have a bank account, as she had had another horrible letter from the bank. I thought I would help mum so I have got rid of her bank cards.
- Grandad: Oh James!!

*Exit James and Grandad*

### Appendix 3 – Dramatized Bible Reading

#### Genesis 3:1-19, 24 (from the Message Version)

**Cast:** Narrator, Man, Woman, Serpent, God  
**Props:** Some sort of “tree”, apple  
**Dramatization:** For many drama teams, there are too many words for people to learn, so give people scripts to read from.

.....  
*(Enter Narrator who stands at the front to one side)*

Narrator: The serpent was clever, more clever than any wild animal GOD had made. He spoke to the Woman:

*(Enter serpent and woman)*

Serpent: Do I understand that God told you not to eat from any tree in the garden?

Woman: Not at all. We can eat from the trees in the garden. It's only about the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, “Don't eat from it; don't even touch it or you'll die.”

Serpent: You won't die. God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you'll see what's really going on. You'll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil.

Narrator: When the Woman saw that the tree looked like good eating *(Woman looks up at the tree)* and realized what she would get out of it—she'd know everything!—she took and ate the fruit *(Woman reaches out, picks up an apple and takes a bite out of it)* and then gave some to her husband, *(Enter man and woman offers him the apple. He takes it)* and he ate. *(Man takes a bite out of the apple)*

Immediately the two of them did “see what's really going on”—saw themselves naked! *(Man and woman act ashamed)* They sewed fig leaves together as makeshift clothes for themselves.

When they heard the sound of GOD strolling in the garden in the evening breeze, the Man and his Wife hid in the trees of the garden, hid from GOD. *(Exit man and woman. Enter God)*

God: Where are you?

Man: *(Man appears looking frightened)* I heard you in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked. And I hid.

God: Who told you you were naked? Did you eat from that tree I told you not to eat from?

Man: The Woman you gave me as a companion, she gave me fruit from the tree, and, yes, I ate it. *(Enter woman)*

GOD: *(Turns to woman and says)* What is this that you've done?"

Woman: The serpent seduced me and I ate.

GOD: *(Turns to serpent and says)*

Because you've done this, you're cursed, cursed beyond all cattle and wild animals; cursed to slink on your belly and eat dirt all your life. *(Serpent collapses to the floor and starts to slither)*

I'm declaring war between you and the Woman, between your offspring and hers. He'll wound your head, you'll wound his heel."

*(Turns to woman and says)*

I'll multiply your pains in childbirth; you'll give birth to your babies in pain. You'll want to please your husband, but he'll lord it over you.

*(Turns to man and says)*

Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from, "Don't eat from this tree," the very ground is cursed because of you; getting food from the ground will be as painful as having babies is for your wife; you'll be working in pain all your life long. The ground will sprout thorns and weeds, you'll get your food the hard way, planting and tilling and harvesting, sweating in the fields from dawn to dusk, until you return to that ground yourself, dead and buried; you started out as dirt, you'll end up dirt.

Narrator: God then threw the man and woman out of the garden *(God looking very sad gestures towards man and woman and they exit)* and stationed angel-cherubim and a revolving sword of fire east of it, guarding the path to the Tree-of-Life.

*(Exit God and Narrator)*