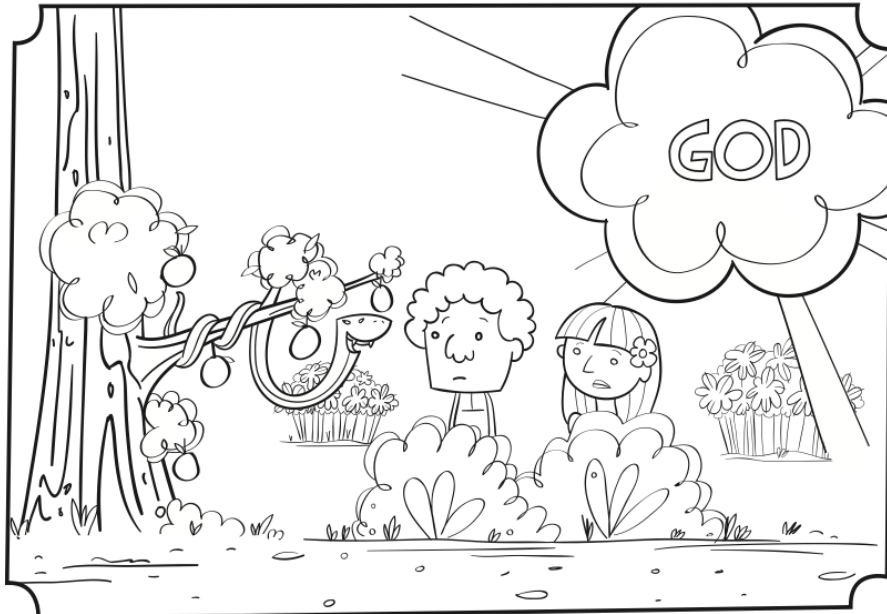


Let us Pray:

Father, help us to follow your teaching and do what your Word tells us to do. We know that we will sometimes fail, so we ask you to forgive us and set us on the right path. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



"God gave Adam and Eve a choice and they chose to not listen to God. Sin entered the world when they were tempted by the Serpent and ate the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil." - **Genesis 3**

May God's blessing surround you each day.

As we trust in and walk in his way;

May His presence within,

Guard and keep us from sin;

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

21/06/2020

Fathers Day



No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

Good morning and welcome to this 13th unprecedented church service.

I've chosen the hymn this morning 'It is well with my soul.'

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

It is well
With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,

THE SERPENT IN THE GARDEN

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Today is FATHERS DAY. We are so lucky that we all share the greatest Father there ever was GOD the FATHER. Dads give us rules to follow to ensure we are safe just like God who has given us rules since the beginning of time.

Last week we were left in the Garden of Eden with its two trees in the center, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Following this God saw that Adam was alone and created him a partner from his rib. Adam must have explained the rule of not eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because as the serpent (snake) asked she knew the rule, however she chose not to follow the rule.

How often do we struggle to follow the rules? Imagine that in front of you are two bowls out on the table. One bowl is filled with beautiful fruit and the other bowl is filled with chocolate and sweets. After setting the bowls on the table, your told, "You can eat anything from the fruit bowl. Those things are good for you and will help you to build a strong, healthy body. however, you must not eat anything from the sweet bowl. Sweets are not good for you and will surely make you fat and give you cavities in your teeth.

I'm sure that you probably know that the surest way to get someone to do something is to tell them they can't do it. It has been that way since the beginning of time.

In the beginning, after God had created everything, He placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to take care of it. He said to them, "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 surely die."

The serpent was very clever, more clever than any of the animals that God had made. He slithered up to Eve one day and said to her, "I understand that God told you that you could eat from any tree in the garden. Is that true?"

"No, not all of the trees," Eve replied. "We can eat from all of the trees except the one in the middle of the garden. God told us that if we ate from that tree, we would die."

The serpent said to Eve, "You won't die! God knows that the very moment you eat from that tree you will be just like God. You will know everything — even what is good and what is evil."

You know what Eve did, don't you? That's right! She ate some of the fruit from the tree that God had told them not to touch. She thought it was good, so she gave some to Adam and he ate it too. At that very moment, their eyes were opened and they realized that they were naked and they were ashamed.

You know the rest of the story. God banished them from the garden and they suffered for their disobedience for the rest of their lives.

We face temptation every day, but we must remember God wants what is best for us and the rules are for our and others protection. He will help us to resist that temptation. It says in Corinthians "He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

So as we think of our fathers today help us to remember that as they help us to avoid temptations they are following the guidance first shown by God the Father.