

Why Did God Put the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden?

(Ages: 8-13)

(Or: Was God Fair in Not Letting Them Eat from the Tree of Knowledge?)

Lesson Objective:

To help children understand God's authority, fairness, and generosity through a simple classroom analogy and biblical reflection.

Vocabulary Box

Authority – The right to lead or give instructions.

Obedience – Choosing to do what you're told, even when it's hard.

Generous – Giving more than expected or required.

Creator – The one who makes and owns everything.

The Cookie Example — Imagine This:

Your teacher brings in a container of cookies. Before stepping out of the room, she says:

- “Don’t eat any cookies right now. We’ll enjoy them together at the end of class.”

While she’s gone, Jaylen sneaks a cookie.

Was that wrong? Why or why not?

Questions to Think About:

- Who made the cookies?
- Who do the cookies belong to?

If the teacher made the cookies, does she have the right to decide when and how they're shared?

What the Bible Says — God's Garden Rule

Just like the teacher, God is the Creator. He made every tree in the garden and gave Adam and Eve permission to eat from all of them — except one:

- "...but you must not eat the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil..."

(Genesis 2:17 NIV)

God wasn't being mean or unfair. In fact, He was being generous and loving. He gave Adam and Eve:

- The Tree of Life (a tree that would help them live forever)
- Beautiful trees with delicious fruit
- A perfect garden to live in
- Each other — and even His presence

He gave them one rule to test their trust and obedience. He had every right to do this — just like your teacher has the right to set rules for her classroom and her cookies.

Talk About It

- Why do you think God didn't let Adam and Eve eat from the Tree of Knowledge?
- What does this story teach us about obeying God, even when we don't understand everything?

How does this help you see that God is both fair and good?

Activity: God's Generosity in the Garden

Draw Your Own Garden!

1. On a blank sheet of paper, draw a garden filled with lots of trees.
2. Label one tree "Tree of Life" and another "Tree of Knowledge."
3. Color all the trees green and bright. Then, put a small "NO" sign next to the Tree of Knowledge.
4. Count how many trees God said yes to... and how many He said no to.

What does this show you about God's heart?

Use This Lesson:

This worksheet is great for:

- Sunday school or children's church
- Homeschool Bible time
- Devotions with your family
- Kids' small group discussions