

FAMILY FAITH

Chapter 3: The Fall

Even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God, we can choose to live virtuously.

Chapter Summary

When God created the world, He created everything good. Lucifer became evil by choosing to reject God (see CCC 391–92). He and other angels who joined Lucifer were cast out of Heaven. Lucifer became known as Satan, and he tempted Adam and Eve to reject God also. Adam and Eve made a choice to disobey God's command. This choice to disobey God is called Original Sin. Through Original Sin, Adam and Eve lost their friendship with God. We lose our freedom and our happiness when we, too, choose to turn away from God through sin. But we gain true freedom by obeying and loving God. One way we can avoid sin is by avoiding temptations to do evil. God gives us guardian angels and one another to fight against sin and temptation.

More for Parents

Part of raising children of virtuous character is helping them distinguish between the choices that lead them away from God and those that lead them to God. Parents can lead their children, but they cannot make decisions for their children. The goal is for children to make virtuous decisions on their own. Thus, parents should take time to explain why their children should or should not do something. By explaining the reason behind an action (and not simply giving an ultimatum), you are forming your children, in both mind and soul, to make good decisions on their own.

Virtue in the Family

God created the human person good. But because of Original Sin, we are fallen. When we freely choose to sin, we reject the beauty and goodness with which we were created. God respects our free choice and invites us to repent and return to Him. He offers us the grace we need to choose virtue over sin.

Using Our Freedom

- Activity:
 - Spend an extra five minutes this week explaining to your children why you tell them not to do something wrong or why you encourage them to do something right.
 - For example, talk to your children about the effects of yelling at their siblings. Or show them that by telling the truth, they are becoming trustworthy.
 - End this short discussion with a Hail Mary, and ask Mary to help your children become persons of virtuous character.
- Train your children in making choices that build up their character. Let them choose what prayer to pray together as a family, which clothes to donate to the poor, or what day the family will go to eucharistic adoration.
- Tell your children about a time when a choice was presented to you to either sin or follow God. Give them an example of how this choice affected your life.

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **character**
- **Fall**
- **free will**
- **Original Sin**
- **sin**
- **temptation**

Find digital flash cards to help your children review on the parent portal.



For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.