

# Old Testament Story: Leaving the Garden

Spring • Year A



God said, "You may do as you like, love as you like and live as you like. But I give you one warning: Do not eat fruit from the Tree of Knowledge—or you will die."

"No!" hissed a snake. "You will not die. You will become even more like God. You will become gods yourselves."

The man and the woman took the fruit and ate it. And in that terrible moment they changed. "It's your fault!" they yelled at one another.

Suddenly they heard God coming near. And for the first time ever, they were afraid, so they hid from God.

God was sad. God called out, "Man! Woman! Where are you?"

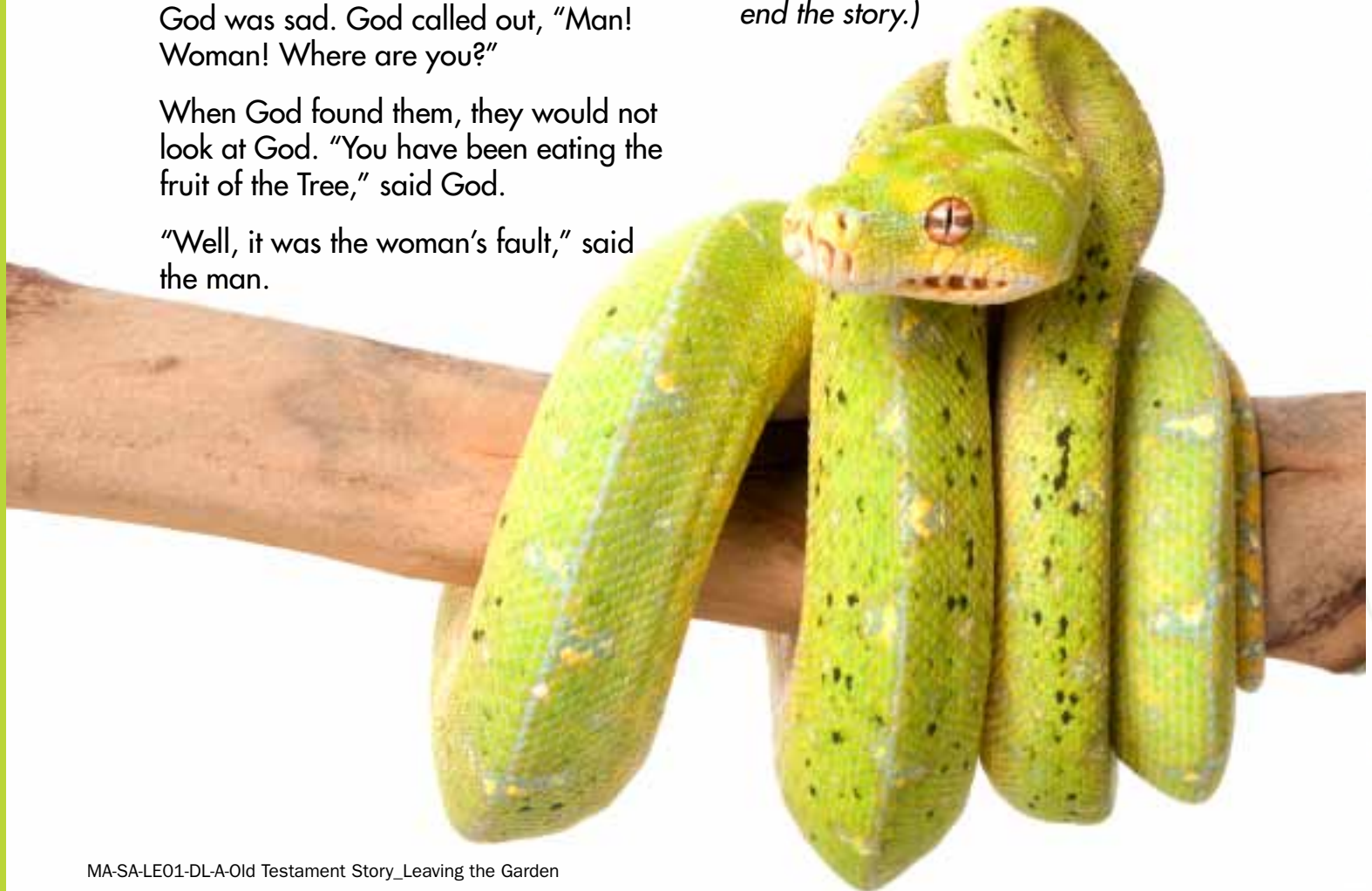
When God found them, they would not look at God. "You have been eating the fruit of the Tree," said God.

"Well, it was the woman's fault," said the man.

"Actually, it was the snake's fault," said the woman.

"Life will be hard now," said God. "Thorns and weeds will grow everywhere. Now you are angry with each other, even afraid of each other. And a sad day will come when you will die."

God took the man and woman away from the garden. But God did not let the story end there. God promised, "I will bring you close to me and to one another again. I will send someone who will bring peace to all people." And that someone is... *(Listeners may call out their own responses to this sentence or you may whisper Jesus as you end the story.)*



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