

NARRATOR:

The First Lesson: The promise of a redeemer was present from the beginning

The story of Christmas is part of the bigger story of our redemption.

God created us out of love.

He gave us free will and mankind turned against Him.

Yet he loved us so much that Jesus Christ came into this world,
and Jesus died for our sins so that we might have eternal life with him.

In this passage from the Book of Genesis,

we see the root of the Fall,

the start of humanity's struggle.

The serpent tempts,

Adam and Eve grasp at independence,

and the harmony of Eden is shattered.

Yet, God still speaks hope.

The end of this reading points forward to a child who will defeat evil.

Even way back in Eden,

God promised that sin and death will not have the last word.

Kathy Frost:

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Now the snake was

the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made.

He asked the woman,

“Did God really say,

‘You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden?’”

The woman answered the snake:

“We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;

it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden

that God said,

‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.’”

But the snake said to the woman:

“You certainly will not die!

God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened

and you will be like gods, who know good and evil.”
The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes,
and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom.
So she took some of its fruit and ate it;
and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.
Then the eyes of both of them were opened,
and they knew that they were naked;
so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.
When they heard the sound of the LORD God
walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day,
the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God
among the trees of the garden.
The LORD God then called to the man and asked him:
“Where are you?”
He answered,
“I heard you in the garden;
but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.”
Then God asked:
“Who told you that you were naked?
Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?”
The man replied,
“The woman whom you put here with me—
she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.”
The LORD God then asked the woman:
“What is this you have done?”
The woman answered,
“The snake tricked me, so I ate it.”
Then the LORD God said to the snake:
“Because you have done this, cursed are you
among all the animals, tame or wild;
On your belly you shall crawl,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
They will strike at your head,
While you strike at their heel.”

“The word of the Lord.”

