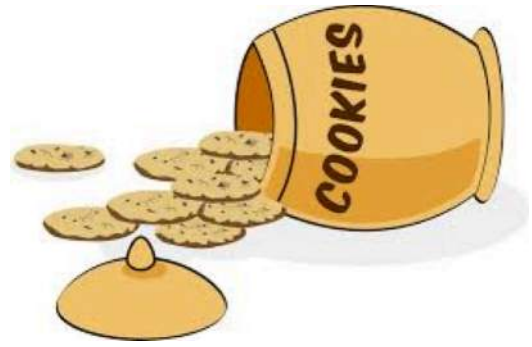


A LIVING FAITH Lesson on ACCOUNTABILITY

Theme: Temptation and Accountability in the Garden of Eden

Object: A cookie jar

Scripture: **Genesis 3:8-13 (RSV or KJV)**



Paree Looy! Do you have a cookie jar at your house? When I was a child, we always had a cookie jar. Sometimes I would come in from school to find my mother baking cookies. After they were cool, she would fill the cookie jar and say to me, "Don't eat any of these cookies before dinner or you will spoil your appetite. Oh my, that was quite a temptation to know that the jar was full of cookies, but I wasn't allowed to eat them.

That reminds me of game we used to play in school. "Who Stole the Cookies from the Cookie Jar?" We sat in a circle and said a rhyme that went something like this:

Accuser: Who stole the cookies from the cookie jar? (*pick a friend's name*) **Johnny** stole the cookies from the cookie jar.

Johnny: Who, me?

Accuser: Yes, you!

Johnny: Not me!

Accuser: Then who?

Johnny: (*pick another friend's name*) (**Mary**) stole the cookies from the cookie jar.

We repeated the rhyme again and again with everyone in the circle accusing someone else of stealing the cookies from the cookie jar.

You know, that must be the oldest game in the world -- it started in the Garden of Eden. God made Adam and Eve and gave them a beautiful garden in which to live. He told them they could eat from any of the trees except for one tree in the middle of the garden.

One day Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God as he walked in the garden. When they heard Him, they ran and hid. God called to Adam, "Where are you?"

Adam answered, "I heard you coming and I ran and hid because I was naked."

"Who told you that you were naked?" the Lord asked. "Have you eaten from the tree that I told you not to eat from?"

"It was that woman you gave me" Adam cried. "She gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it."

Then God said to the woman, "What have you done?"

"It was the serpent! He deceived me and I ate," Eve protested.

Does that sound familiar? How many times have you heard someone that was caught doing something they shouldn't do not take **accountability** for themselves and instead say, "It wasn't my fault -- he made me do it!"

When we do something wrong, we can't run and hide or blame someone else. We must be **accountable** for our choices and actions. God is loving and forgiving. If we confess what we have done wrong, God will forgive us.

Heavenly Father, there have been times that we have disobeyed you. We confess our sins and ask forgiveness in Jesus Christ's name. Amen