

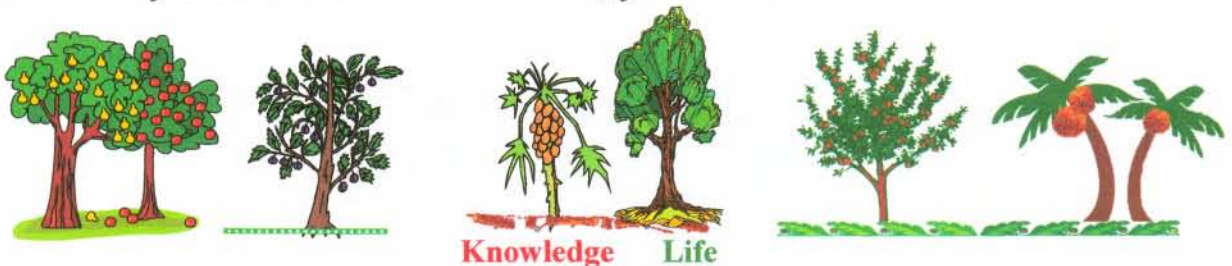
In our last lesson we learned that God created all the marvelous things that are necessary for people to live on earth. He created the air we breathe, the fruit and vegetables we eat. God gave us the sun to help things grow and the animals that help us work and make us smile.

Do you remember the name of the first man and woman? Do you remember the name of the special garden God made for Adam and Eve to live in? Do you remember your memory verse? It starts "We Love him...." Good work if you remembered!!!



In this lesson we are going to learn about some special trees in the Garden in Eden and about a commandment that God gave Adam and Eve. Do you know what a commandment is? It's a rule or law. If your father says "You must NOT cross the street unless the signal says "GO." Or, if your mother says "You MUST eat breakfast before you go to school!" then that's a commandment. Why do you think mom or dad give you commandments like this? It's because they love you and don't want to see you hurt or unhealthy, isn't it?

God gave Adam and Eve many, many kinds of fruit trees and berry plants and vegetables to eat. But God had one tree in the garden that he didn't want Adam and Eve to ever eat of. It would be very bad for them and would eventually cause them to die. God said "You can eat of any tree in the garden, but you MAY NOT EAT of the Tree that called The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. If you eat the fruit from this tree, you will die."



Does this seem like a very hard commandment? Just stay away from one tree. There were dozens of other trees with beautiful fruit on them. Think of all the fruit trees, there are like apples, oranges, coconuts, plums, pears and peaches. Can you think of any more fruit trees? God hoped that the man and woman would love him enough to obey him. He thought surely they would believe him when he said this Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was bad for them. There was another special tree in the garden. It was called the Tree of Life.

If you do what your mother or father ask you, it makes them very happy, doesn't it? Well, it made God very happy when Adam and Eve obeyed his command, too. However, Eve kept thinking about the tree of Knowledge. The angels were wise and God was very, very wise, maybe they didn't want her or Adam to eat this fruit because then they would be as smart as the angels and be like God. The more she thought about it, the more she wanted to eat some of that fruit. Maybe she talked about it to Adam and he wondered about it also.

One day as Eve was standing near the Tree of Knowledge, she saw something moving in the leaves. What do you think it was? It was a snake! Now snakes don't usually talk, but God allowed this serpent to have speech. Maybe Eve was grumbling to herself about not being able to eat of the tree of Knowledge, for the snake spoke up and said, "Did God really say you mustn't eat of any tree in the garden?" Eve replied, "Oh we can eat fruit from all the other trees, but we can't eat fruit from the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. If we eat of it we will die!" "You won't die, the snake said. God knows that if you eat fruit from this tree you will become like God and know all about good and evil." Eve thought, well...I would really like to be as wise as God, and the snake isn't dead ... why not?



Then Eve did a very bad thing! She believed what an animal said, instead of believing the Creator of the Universe. How about you? If God said it would rain tomorrow and a cow or rabbit or snake said "no it won't rain" ... which would you believe? Eve believed the snake because she wanted to believe it. She took some fruit and gave it to Adam, "Look Adam, it's good to taste, it will make us wise as God and it didn't make me die!" Adam knew better, he knew they should obey God, but his beautiful wife had eaten the fruit, so Adam did too.

If some friends tell you to do something bad, because it will be lots of fun, and you know it's not right, would you go ahead and do the bad thing anyway, so you could be like your friends? This is something to think about because sometimes friends want you to do something because they are doing it (maybe taking an apple from the grocery store when no one is looking, or maybe throwing rocks at an old ladies cat to see how it yowls). You will need to think about what is right and wrong and who to follow, whether to follow God's commandments, or do what someone else tells you, even if it's against God's commandments. Making the right choice is an important thing to do!

Now Adam and Eve really did know the difference between being good and bad. They knew they had done very wrong to disobey God and they were ashamed and wanted to hide from God. Up until now Adam and Eve had never worn clothes and they had not even thought about being naked. But now they didn't want God to see them. Maybe if they were covered up, God wouldn't know where they were and he wouldn't see their nakedness, so they tried to make clothes out of big fig leaves.

What would be the problem with leaf clothes?



How long would they last? Would the leaves stay green or dry up? What would happen to leaf clothes if you sat down, or crawled or rolled over?



That evening Adam and Eve heard a sound in the garden and they quickly ran and hid in the trees. God called "Adam, Eve, where are you?" Adam was silent for a few minutes then he said in a shaking voice, "I heard you coming and I was afraid. I didn't want you to see me because I was naked." God said "Who said you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree I warned you about? Did you eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?"

Well, Adam did what a lot of us do when we've done wrong...we blame someone else! Adam said "The woman you put here with me, she ate the fruit and gave me some to eat." Eve also wanted to blame something besides herself, she quickly spoke up, "The serpent, he tricked me, and I ate the fruit." God must have been very unhappy. He told the man that because he was full of the poison of this good and evil tree, he could not eat the fruit from the tree of life and he must leave this beautiful garden. He would have lots of troubles now because weeds and thorns and dry ground and storms and heat and bugs would all give him troubles when he tried to grow food to eat. God told the woman that she would have children but they would give her pain and worries and unhappiness at times. She would not be wise as God but would be under the orders of her husband all her life. God told the serpent that it would crawl on it's belly all it's days. Then God told Adam and Eve they must leave the garden in Eden and never come back.

God didn't give up on men and women, though. God gave them a place to come to pray to God and ask forgiveness. God told Adam and Eve about making sacrifices and how that would be their way to come to God and worship.

God made a beautiful earth with everything on it that was good for men and women and children. He wanted people who love him and obey him, so they could rule over the earth and care for the animals and the plants. Since Adam and Eve had disobeyed him, God now needed another way for men to have a chance to live on his beautiful earth forever. God had a plan and he made a promise to Adam and Eve that someday a man would come who would do away with sins and death. This man would be God's son, Jesus.

If we love God and keep his commandments God promises that someday we will have everlasting life. God tells us this in his special book, the Bible.



We will have a chance to take care of the earth and the animals. Everything will be beautiful again. There will be no more weeds or thorns to hurt us, the animals won't kill each other and men won't go to war anymore. There won't be any more sadness and no one will die. Wouldn't that be a wonderful thing? Just think of being able to pet a lion or ride on the back of a bear. Think of being able to run all day long and never get tired, never fall down or get hurt ever again.

Your memory verse today tells us how we can show our love for God:

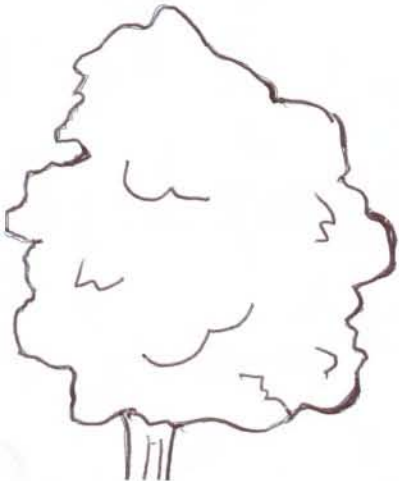
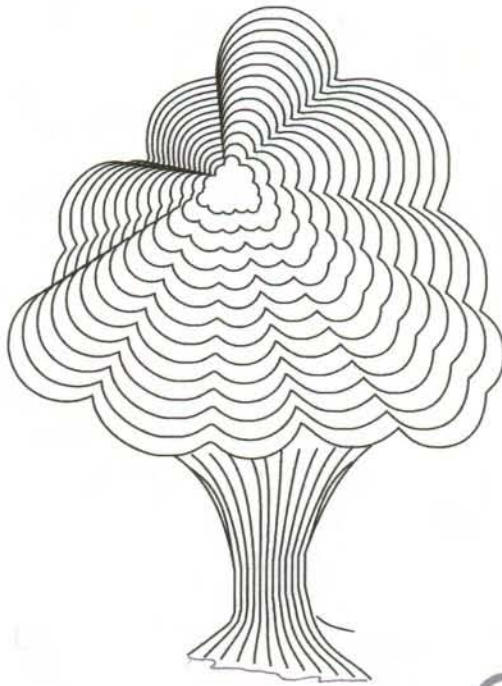
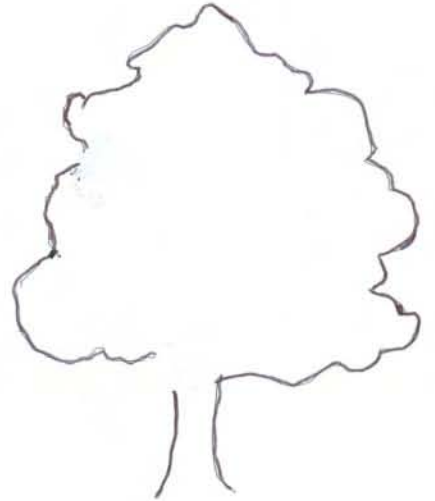
"IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS" John 14:15

Say this over several times and when you've learned it, have mom or dad put a check mark in this box.

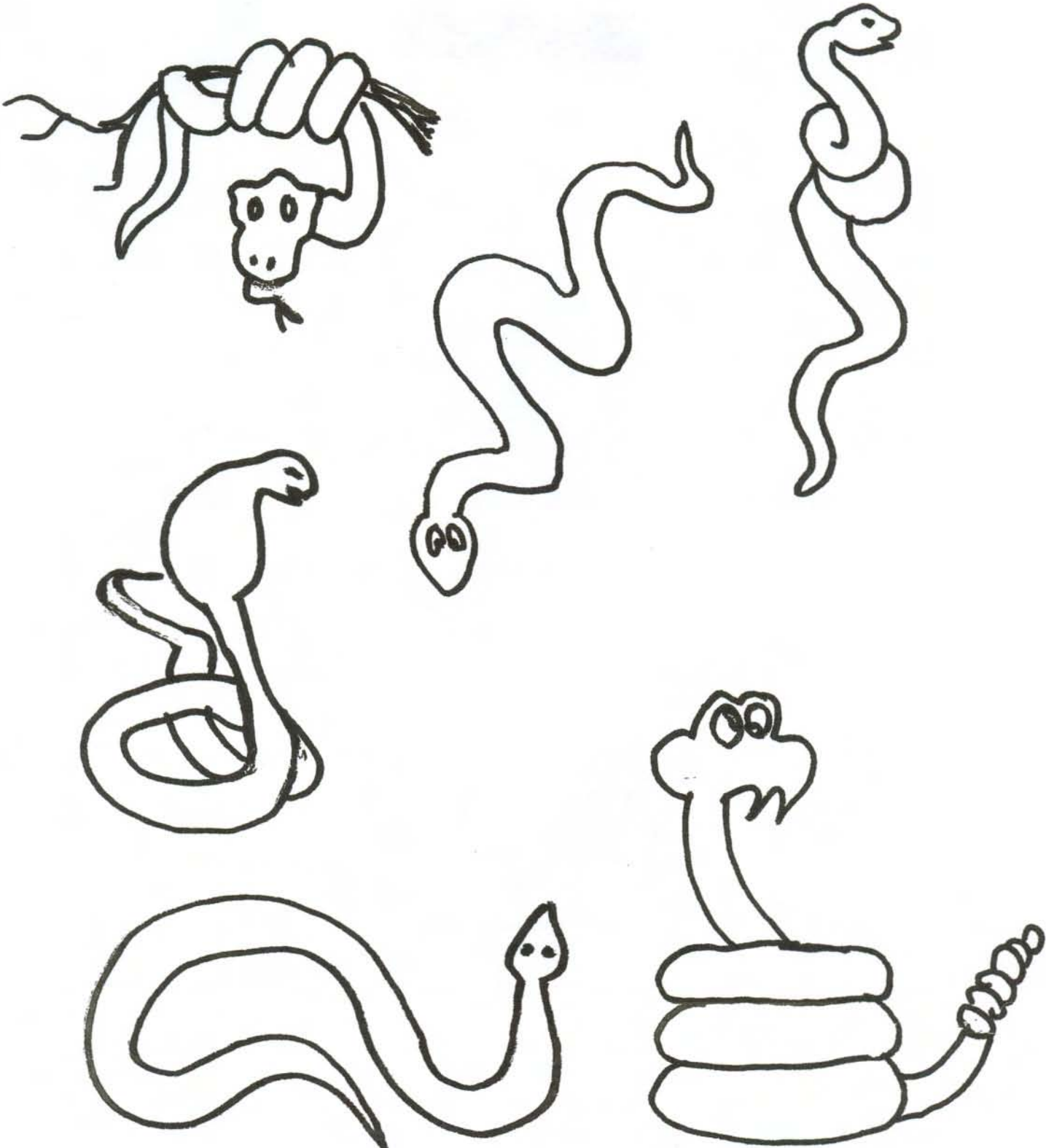


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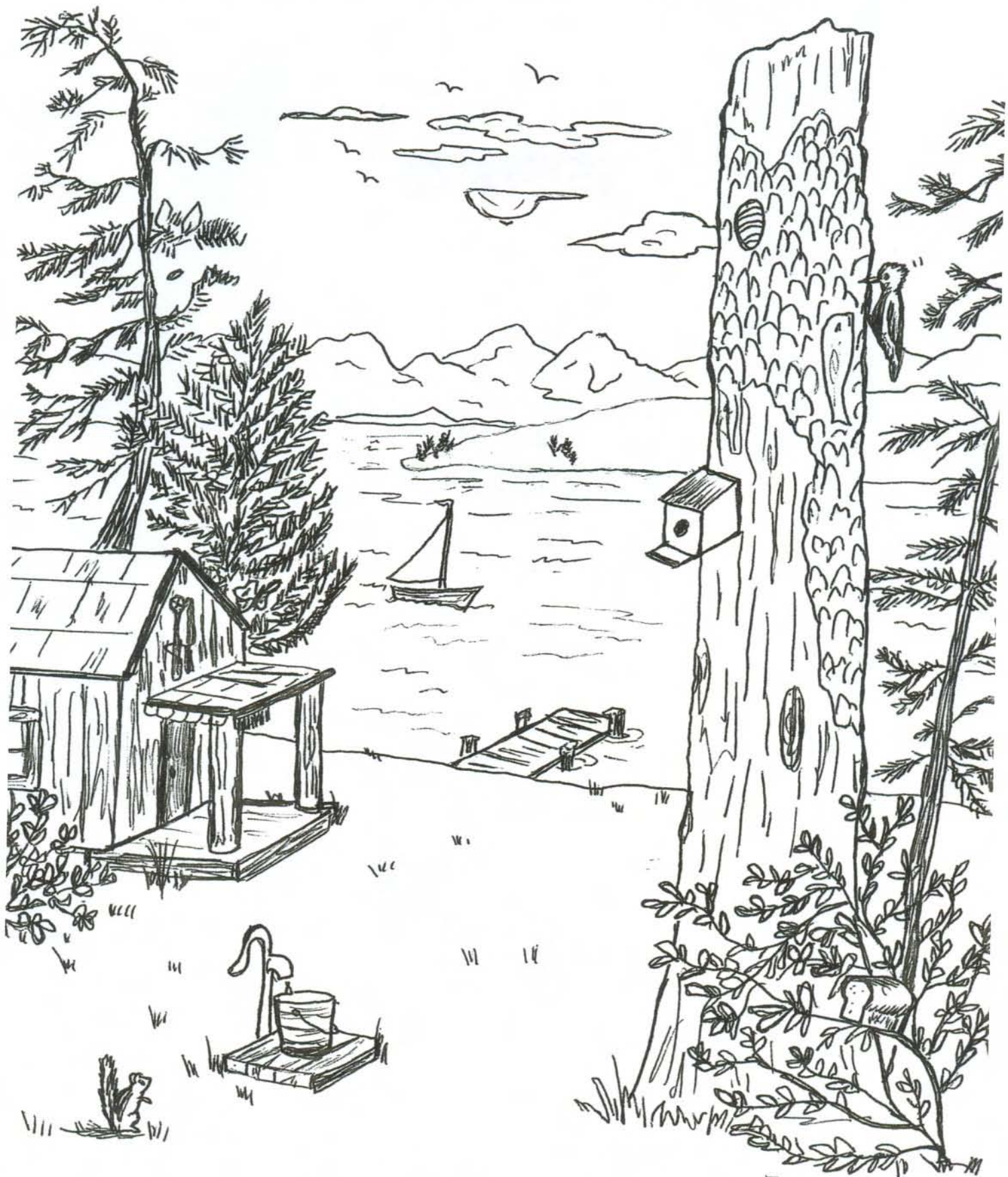
Draw some different fruit on each of the trees below. On the tree in the center draw a fruit that is very unusual. This we'll call the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil that Adam and Eve ate from. Color the trees and fruit to make a pretty picture.



Every creature God made is a little different for another creature. Snakes have all kinds of different designs. Some are striped or spotted, some have bright colors or squares or diamonds on the. Give the snakes below some different colors and designs.



FIND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS: a loaf of bread, a wheelbarrow, a whale, a butterfly, a baseball cap, a sheep's head, an Easter egg, a toothbrush, a donkey's head



"I will make a covenant with them, a covenant of peace, and will cause evil beasts to cease out of the