Stars in the Apple Tree - story

A very long time ago, when the world was still new, all of nature was being given special gifts from God.

The sky was given stars that twinkled at night.
The ocean was given sparkly fish and shiny waves.
The flowers were given beautiful colors and sweet smells.
The birds were given songs to sing.

All the trees watched quietly.

They watched the sky sparkle.
They watched the sea shimmer.
They watched the flowers dance in the wind.

And the trees felt a little sad.

One day the trees whispered to God,
“Everyone else has something special. Everyone else shines or sings or sparkles. We just stand here. Do we get a gift too?”

God smiled and said,
“Yes. You will have something very special. But your gift will be hidden.”

Apple Star Moment

Hold up the apple and say:

“On Shabbat, we slow down and look closely. Sometimes when we slow down, we discover something special.”

Ask the question you chose:
“What do you think might be hiding inside the apple?”

Pause. Let a few kids answer.

Then say:

“Let’s look together.”

Very slowly cut the apple across the middle so the star will appear. Hold it up so everyone can see.

Say, softly:

“Look. A star.”

Pause again. Let them react.

God put a tiny star inside every apple.

From the outside, an apple looks plain. Red or green, smooth and round. Nothing fancy.

But when someone cuts the apple open, right through the middle, something amazing appears.

A star.

The trees were very happy.
Their beauty was real, even if it was hidden.
Their gift would be found by people who looked closely and shared it with others.

And that is why, even today, when we cut an apple open, we find a star inside.

Because sometimes the most beautiful things are hidden inside, waiting to be discovered.

“Shabbat helps us remember that beautiful things can be hidden inside.”

“And you have beautiful things inside you too.”

Finish with:

“Let’s say thank you.”

Then together say:

“Thank you, God, for apples and for stars.”

QUESTION:
“Do you think something can be special even if we can’t see it right away?”