



10

Effects of the Fall

Key Themes

- God subjected the universe to a Curse.
- God's plan of redemption was in place before time.

Key Passages

- Genesis 1:29–31, 3:14–19, 3:24; Romans 8:22; Isaiah 65:25; Revelation 21:1, 21:4, 22:3

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe the extent of the effects of the Fall.
- Identify the effects of the Fall that will be reversed in the Consummation.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students get answers to Big Questions 2 as they pull questions from the cup and determine the answers from the Bible.



Studying God's Word

page 5

Students will study the effects of the Curse and compare Creation, Corruption, and Consummation.



Activity 1: Effects of the Fall

page 9

Students will describe the effects of the Fall by completing a worksheet.



Activity 2: Consummation Explored

page 9

Students will identify the effects of the Fall that will be reversed in the Consummation.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- If you haven't already done so, print the Big Questions 2 sheet and answer key from the Resource DVD-ROM, Lesson 9.
- Cut and fold strips and put in a cup.

- Cup with Big Questions 2
- Big Questions 2 answer key



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share Section
- Go Before the Throne
- Write the memory verse on a piece of cardstock or an index card. Prepare several cards if your class is large.
- Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Memory verse written on cardstock or index card(s)
- Lesson Board Work outline



EFFECTS OF THE FALL

- Print one Effects of the Fall worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answers key for your own use.

- Effects of the Fall worksheet for each student
- Effects of the Fall answer key
- Pencils



CONSUMMATION EXPLORED

- Print one copy each of the Consummation Words and Statements from the Resource DVD-ROM. Cut apart and put the statements on the board or wall in your classroom for use during the lesson. Hand out the words to the students at the beginning of the activity. Keep the answer key for your own use.

- Consummation Statements to put on the board before class begins
- Consummation Words for the students
- Consummation Words and Statements answer key
- Wall putty



Memory Verse

Genesis 2:15–17 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

► **Pace your lesson!** You can use the provided clocks to indicate the time each section should be completed to keep the lesson on schedule. While teaching, you can compare your anticipated times with the actual time and shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare your heart and mind for this week's lesson, read Genesis 1:26–30, 3:14–19; Romans 8:18–25.

What was life like before the Fall of man? Can we even imagine it? Probably not. However, there are some clues in Scripture that help us understand a bit of life in a perfect world.

First of all, there was no death. Death came as a result of Adam's sin (Romans 5:12), and is called an enemy that God will one day destroy (1 Corinthians 15:25–26). Secondly, the earth that God created was "very good" (Genesis 1:31; Deuteronomy 32:4). There were no hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, or other destructive events. God upheld His creation perfectly. Thirdly, man and the animals were vegetarian (Genesis 1:29–30). There were no animals eating other animals, and Adam and Eve did not eat meat. In fact, permission to eat meat did not come until after the Genesis Flood (Genesis 9:1–3). And finally, Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with their Creator. He spoke with them and they experienced unbroken fellowship with God.

The day that Adam and Eve disobeyed their Creator has been called the saddest day in the history of the universe. God had given them a perfect creation—no death, disease, or suffering. They had been given dominion over the animals, and were told to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:28). However, Eve was tempted by the serpent (Satan), and ate the fruit that God had forbidden them to eat. Adam joined her in her rebellion, and the world has never been the same.

As a result of their rebellion, God punished the serpent (Genesis 3:14), the woman (Genesis 3:16), and the man (Genesis 3:17). The serpent was cursed more than all the beasts; he would crawl on his belly, and eat dust. And, in a spiritual sense, one day Satan's head would be crushed by the seed of the woman—Jesus (Genesis 3:15)! The woman was subjected to increased pain in childbirth, and the desire to rule over her husband (Genesis 3:16). The ground was cursed on account of the man; it would now bring forth thorns and thistles, and with difficulty man would eat of its fruit (Genesis 3:17–18). Man would now die: "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

The Fall and the subsequent Curse brought disaster to the very good creation. We are now experiencing

the futility, the groans, and the pains of a universe subject to darkness because of sin (Romans 8:19–20).

We are all affected by the Fall. Not only by the Curse God placed on the universe, but also by sin. Because every human is a descendant of Adam and Eve, we are born with the same sin nature found in Adam (Romans 3:23). Consequently, we are all bound by the Curse and must endure the distress, pain, suffering, disease, and natural disasters that accompany it. But that is not the end of the story. For we know that Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, has overcome death (1 Corinthians 15:54–55). And all who repent of their sins and turn to Jesus Christ alone for forgiveness will be redeemed to enjoy eternity in the perfectly restored universe—a universe that promises the end of death, sorrow, crying, and pain (Revelation 21:4). We eagerly await this with hope and expectation of finally seeing our Savior face to face (Job 19:26–27).

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The account of the Fall often presents controversy. One of the issues discussed involves animals. If everything was perfectly peaceful in the Garden, as Genesis 1 and 2 indicate, then why are so many animals designed with features and structures that seem suited for attacking, tearing, killing, and eating. Scripture tells us that animals were originally vegetarian (Genesis 1:29–30). So, how did they acquire their ability to kill? Where did these defense/attack structures come from?

Creationists have suggested several answers that make sense and fit within the biblical text:

- Originally, these features had a good purpose, but as the environment changed, the purpose for these features had to change as well.
- God added new features to creatures at the Curse so they would be able to withstand the onslaught of violence provoked by sin.
- Although not necessary in a perfect world, God designed the original creatures with the features they would need to live in the fallen world God knew was coming.
- God placed designs for these features in the genes of the original creatures, but they did not become active until after the Curse.

While we do not know exactly how the animals acquired these defense/attack structures, this we do know: according to God's Word, our final authority,

animals will once again get along with each other and with man (Isaiah 11:6–7).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of the Bible can be divided into three great periods: the pre-Fall world, the post-Fall world, and the Consummation.

The pre-Fall world: God’s original creation was perfect—no sin, no disease, no death, perfect relationships with one another and the Creator. Because of our present sin-cursed world, riddled with decay and death, it is hard to even imagine the pre-Fall world!

The post-Fall world: The Fall of man and subsequent Curse of Genesis 3 affected the entire creation. This is why the Apostle Paul describes our present world as “groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now” (Romans 8:22). The creation is broken; it is in “bondage to corruption” (Romans 8:21). Sin, disease, carnivory, natural disasters, and death are the course of this present world—“red in tooth and claw” as Tennyson wrote. The sin in the Garden of Eden affected the whole cosmos.

The Consummation: At the Consummation, when Christ shall return as Judge and King, the Curse will

be removed. God will sum up all things in Christ, putting all enemies under His feet, and death itself will be destroyed. The new heaven and new earth will be a return to Eden-like agricultural fruitfulness (Ezekiel 47:12; Revelation 22:1–3), perfect harmony in human relationships (1 Corinthians 13:8–12), in animal life (Isaiah 11:6–8), and in everything under the rule of the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus. Earth will receive her King, and all will be restored. What a glorious hope we have!

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Eternal God, thank you for your Word and the promise of a new heaven and a new earth. Help my students to fully grasp the meaning of sin and redemption as we study what your Word says. Be pleased, dear Lord, to soften their hearts so that they may come to yearn for the day when they will see you face to face in the new heaven. Give them the boldness to walk according to your Word and to share the good news of the gospel with others.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will pick questions from the cup or container and read them aloud.
- They will look up the Scripture on the question slip to determine the correct answer. Refer to the Big Questions 2 answer key for answers.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme posters from previous weeks, quickly review the lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Children learn by repetition. These posters will reference the lesson title with an illustration to review the key elements of the lesson.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you review the Lesson Theme posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds, and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.

Let's take time to go over our memory verse. Genesis 2:15–17. Let's start by saying the verse together as a class. *Read the verse.*

Good. Now we're going to read our memory verse off of this card. The verse is written on it. I want you to read just two words and then pass the card to the next person who will read just two words and pass it on to the next person. Use the index card that you have prepared with the memory verse printed on it. Repeat this activity several times before moving on. You can challenge them to read quickly and time them—but they must be careful to read the correct words when their turn comes. For a large class, use two or three index cards, breaking the class up into smaller groups.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Last week we talked about how sin entered the world through Adam and Eve. They disobeyed God, were separated from Him, and felt they had to hide from Him. We mentioned that God proclaimed curses because of that sin. We are going to discuss those curses—and what they mean to us still today.

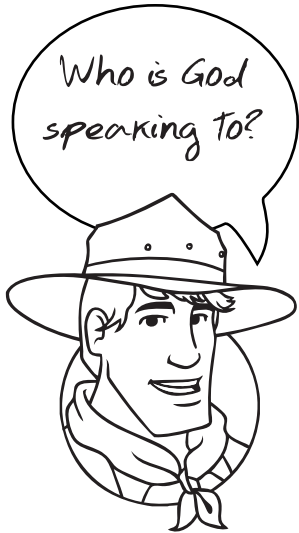
Let's read Genesis 1:29–31 together. Have a volunteer read while you write on the board. Start by making a T-chart. Write "food" at the top. Write "people" under food to the left and "animals" under food to the right.

- Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM for easier planning.

Genesis 1:29–31

EXAMINE THE WORD

Great. I'm going to ask some questions now. Let's see what we can learn from what we just read.



Observe the Text

- ? This is an easy question. Who is speaking in this verse? Look at Genesis 1:29. *God.*
 - ? Who is God speaking to? If you need a hint look back in Genesis 1:27–28. You can find the answer there. *Adam and Eve.*
 - ? Read verse 29 again. What is God saying to Adam and Eve in this verse? Look especially at the very end of the verse. *God is telling Adam and Eve that they will eat herbs, seeds, and fruit. Write "herbs, seeds, fruit" on the board under "people."*
- That's right. God says that is what their food should be.
- ? Now look in verse 30. Who is God addressing here? *Every beast of the earth, birds, creeping things—animals.*
 - ? Great. And what is God telling the animals? *That they are to eat green herbs. Write "every green herb" on the board under "animals."*
 - ? OK. Now look at Genesis 1:31. What did God think of His creation? *It was very good.*
 - ? And, when did all of this happen? Look in verse 31. *The sixth day of creation.*
 - ? Great! When did God create the universe? When did this all happen? Look at the Seven C's Timeline here. *About 6,000 years ago.*

Right! God told Adam, Eve, and even the animals what they should eat after He created them. And then He ended the Creation Week by telling us that He thought everything He had made was very good.

Discover the Truth

Take a look at what I've written on the board. God instructed the animals and the people to eat plants, herbs, seeds, and fruit. I think we'd call that "vegetarian" today. *Write "vegetarian" on the board and circle it.*

- ? Does anyone know what that means exactly? *Allow for answers.*

Vegetarian simply means they didn't eat meat. They only ate things that grew from the ground.

So, originally, all animals and people were vegetarians! God gave them plants and fruit to eat. Remember that this was God's perfect creation. God said Himself it was very good. And part of that very good creation included no killing.

Animals wouldn't kill and eat each other. Adam and Eve wouldn't kill animals for food. Animals lived peacefully with each other and with Adam and Eve. They all gathered their food from the ground instead of having to hunt or raise animals to eat. And they lived together with no fear of each other. *Write the words "no killing" on the board under the word "vegetarian."*



READ THE WORD

Well, it is clear things have changed a lot since God created the perfect universe about 6,000 years ago. We know that Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God when they ate the fruit God told them not to eat. And God punished that disobedience by bringing curses on His perfect creation.

- ? What did God do to cover Adam and Eve after they sinned? We talked about that last week. *He killed one or more animals and clothed Adam and Eve with the animal skins.*

That's right. And that was the very first death in the history of the universe!

Let's read Genesis 3:14–19 together and see if we can find out what happened. *Have several volunteers read the passage.*

Genesis 3:14–19

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who did God curse first? Someone look at verse 14 and tell me what that says. *God cursed the serpent.*

- ? Do you know who was speaking through the serpent? *Satan.*

- ? Right. Satan hates God now and hated Him then. He disguised himself as a serpent in the garden. He wanted Adam and Eve to disobey God and follow him instead. What was the serpent's curse? Look in Genesis 3:14–15. *He would go on his belly, eat dust, and there would be enmity between him and the woman.*

- ? What does enmity mean? Does anyone know? *Allow for answers.*

Enmity means hatred. The serpent—Satan—would always hate anyone who would follow Jesus. In fact, verse 15 says that the hatred or enmity would be between the seed of the serpent—followers of Satan, and the seed of the woman—Jesus Christ and people who believe in Him.

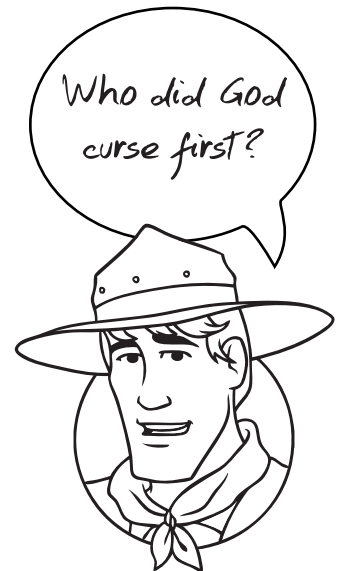
- ? Who was the next to be sentenced? See Genesis 1:16. *The woman.*

- ? Right. And what was her punishment? *Allow for answers from the text. Then explain.*

God said the woman would have pain and sorrows when she had babies. Verse 16 also says that the woman will desire her husband and the husband will rule over the woman.

That means that God made the husband to be the leader of the family. But because of the sin, there is often trouble between the husband and wife. This is not the way God planned it.

- ? What is next? Look at verses 17–19. There are actually two punishments listed here. Can someone tell me what they are? *Allow for answers.*



Enmity: hatred

First, Adam is sentenced to work by the sweat of his brow, and then it tells us that the ground is cursed. You see, now Adam would have to work hard to provide food for his family because the ground was full of thorns and thistles, which would make growing food much harder work.

? There is another punishment for Adam. Can you tell me what it was? It is at the end of verse 19. *The man will return to dust.*

Yes. That means that the man will now die. Because of sin and the Curse, all living things will die. God created all things to live forever. Remember, everything was very good. But now every living thing will one day die.

Genesis 3:24

? Will someone read Genesis 3:24 for me? *Have someone read.*

? This is the last effect of the Fall on Adam and Eve. What is it? *God drove them out of the garden. They are now separated from God.*

That's right. Now they are separated from God because of their sin. Their beautiful life with God in the perfect garden is now gone because they would not obey God.

Romans 8:22

There is one more effect of the Curse. We read about it in Romans 8:22. I'm going to read that verse to you. *Read the verse.*

? Can any of you think of what this verse might mean? *Allow for answers.*

Let me explain. This verse tells us that the entire creation is groaning. The entire universe is also under the Curse of that very first sin. We see this very clearly in the weather—natural disasters like hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, and tornadoes. Before sin entered the world disasters like these did not exist. But they began after sin, after the Curse, after Adam and Eve's separation from God. That is why we need a new heavens and new earth.

Discover the Truth

So the effect of the sin of disobedience caused many changes to God's very good creation. God told Adam they could eat of every tree but one. And that is the one Eve was tempted to eat from (and Adam followed suit).

Because God is holy and just, He must punish all sin—the sin of Adam and Eve—and all of our sins. As we can see from Genesis 3, the consequences of all sin—of any sin—are very serious. *Refer to the Attributes of God poster.*

? But God is also merciful. Who can tell me how God showed His mercy to us—even though we, too, are sinners? *Refer to Attributes of God poster. Allow for answers.*

God shows us His mercy in Jesus Christ. When Jesus died on the Cross, He took the punishment for sins. Salvation and forgiveness is freely given to all who receive Jesus, repent of their sin, and place their trust in Him.



HOLY
JUST

Refer to Attributes poster

MERCIFUL

Refer to Attributes poster



Effects of the Fall

MATERIALS

- Effects of the Fall worksheet for each student
- Effects of the Fall answer key
- Pencils

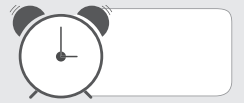
INSTRUCTIONS

This worksheet will review the Genesis 3 passages just taught. Have the children draw a line from column 1 to the proper effect of the Fall in column 2. Instruct students to read the verses listed to find answers. You can allow the children to work independently, divide them into teams or complete this all together. When they are finished, review the work they have completed.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

When Adam and Eve sinned, an event we know as the Fall of man, it brought many consequences to the entire earth. But you must keep in mind—it was the disobedience of Adam and Eve—not God—that caused these things to occur. The pain and suffering we see in the world are not God’s fault. We are all sinners, and we all deserve God’s punishment.

But remember, too, that God has provided us a way to be saved—through Jesus Christ alone and His sacrifice and death, for all who will repent of their sins, trust Him, and believe in Him.



Consummation Explored

MATERIALS

- Consummation Statements—put on the board before class begins
- Consummation Words—pass out to students
- Consummation Words and Statements answer key

INSTRUCTIONS

Before teaching the next section, distribute the Consummation Words with the words animals, curse, throne, new heaven, new earth, tears, death, sorrow, crying, and pain to students. If you haven’t already done so, place the Consummation Statements on the board. As you explore the consummation Scriptures, ask the students

to place their word mini-posters with the matching statement you have put on the board.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Because of the Curse and sin, the whole creation groans. But one day, Jesus will return and create a new heaven and a new earth for those who repent of their sins, turn to Him, trust Him, and believe in Him. Everything will once again be very good. We are going to see how the Bible confirms this in several different verses.



READ THE WORD

We've seen that because of God's holiness, He hates sin and must punish sin. One of the effects of the very first sin in the Garden of Eden was that everything would one day die. This is not the way God created it—He created it very good.

But since that very first sin of Adam and Eve—everyone ever born also sins. The sin in the world is what brings pain and suffering to us. God did not create the world to be full of death, sickness, divorce, hardship, war, evil, natural disasters, and hatred. But that is what we see because of sin—because of disobedience to God's commands. It seems so hopeless sometimes.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

But, there is hope! I'd like to read a few more verses—these are filled with the hope and promise of a wonderful future with Jesus Christ.

Consummation:
Jesus will return
and make all
things very good
again

- ? First of all, I'm calling the four verses we are going to read next our **Consummation verses**. Who knows what I mean by consummation? *Allow for answers. Refer to Consummation on the Seven C's Timeline.*

Consummation refers to the time when Jesus Christ will return and make all of God's creation very good again—like He originally created it, or perhaps even better! The verses we are going to read tell us about that glorious promise—when there will be no more death or sin!

Isaiah 65:25

Turn to Isaiah 65:25. Someone read it. *Assign a student to read it.*

- ? **What is this verse talking about?** *Animals. The animals will once again get along with each other.*

That's right. Now whoever has the word **animals** can put it up on the board with the right statement. *Allow student with the word "animals" to put it on the Isaiah 65:25 statement. Have the student read the statement when finished.*

Revelation 22:3

Now. Someone read Revelation 22:3. *Assign a student to read it.*

- ? **What does this verse tell us?** *There will be no more Curse. God and the Lamb will be on the throne. Allow students with the words "curse" and "throne" to put the words on the Revelation 22:3 statement. Have them read the statement when finished.*

- ? **Who is "the lamb" who will be on the throne with God?** *Jesus.*

- ? **What are we promised in this verse?** *There shall be no more Curse!*

Revelation 21:1

Isn't that exciting? No more Curse. The Curse of sin will at last be lifted. Now turn to Revelation 21:1? *Have a student read it.*

? **What does this verse promise?** *A new heaven and a new earth! Have students with the words "new heaven" and "new earth" put the words on the Revelation 21:1 statement. Have them read the statement when finished.*

And still in Revelation. Someone read Revelation 21:4? *Have a student read it.*

? **What does this verse promise?** *God will wipe away every tear, no more death, no sorrow, no crying, no pain. Have students with the words "tears," "death," "sorrow," "crying," and "pain" put their words on the Revelation 21:4 statement. Have them read the statement when finished.*

This new heaven and new earth is freely offered to all who are a part of God's family. If we are part of His family, we will live in this wonderful place forever with our Creator! We must know and understand that every sin—every lie, every unkind thought, every time we disobey—angers God and deserves His eternal punishment. But if we repent (are sorry for and turn away from our sins) and trust in Jesus and His work on the Cross—we can become children of God! And we will one day enjoy the new heaven and the new earth.

Discover the Truth

Death has been around almost as long as humans have. It seems as if it is always going to be this way. There is so much pain and suffering in the world—but that is not God's fault. He did not create the universe this way. He created it perfect and said it was very good. Then Adam and Eve sinned—and since then all men and women, and girls and boys, sin against God. It is the way we are. Our hearts turn away from God.

But God, in His great mercy, has promised not to leave His creation in its sinful state. He has promised to do away with the corruption—or sin—that Adam brought into the world. God offers us salvation through His Son. And He has promised to one day remove the Curse He placed on His creation!



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

The world has changed from what God originally intended, hasn't it? Death was never intended to be a part of this world. Sin changed everything! Sin brought God's Curse on the entire universe. It affects everything now—plants, animals, the weather, men, women, boys, and girls. We can't blame the suffering we see in the world today on God. He did not create the universe to be this way; He created a perfect place. But Adam and Eve sinned. And since then all people have that same desire—to sin and disobey.

But there is hope for all who turn to Jesus Christ to be saved. God had a plan in place before mankind was created. He planned that there will be a time when Jesus will return and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. Everyone who belongs to His family will then live in a place with no sin, or death, or crying, or sorrows. And best of all, we will live with our Creator God forever!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

There are many people who want to blame God for all the pain, suffering, death, and natural disasters around the world. They may tell you that God really can't be such a loving God. If He were, why would He allow all the terrible things in the world to keep happening? When you hear that, remember that the suffering we see is not God's fault. When He created the universe He said it was very good.

There was no killing in the Garden of Eden. Even the animals were vegetarians—and did not kill each other for food. It was the sin of Adam and Eve that brought judgment on the perfect universe. It is because of sin in the world that we see so many terrible things.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 2:15–17 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”



GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Ask God for forgiveness for our sins that must bring God's judgment on us.
- Thank God for the hope that we have in Christ that one day things will be very good again—at the Consummation.
- Ask God to help us share the good news of His love and to help others understand Creation, Corruption, and the future Consummation better.