



# Corruption: Sin Enters the World

# 9

## Key Themes

- God judges sin.
- God's plan of redemption was in place before time.

## Key Passages

- Genesis 2:15–17, 3:1–7, 3:14–24; Hebrews 9:22; 1 Peter 3:18

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify the purpose of the first animal death recorded in Scripture.
- Explain God's provision for salvation from sin through the Savior.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

page 5

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



### Studying God's Word

page 5

Sin and death entered the world through Adam. The first death occurred in the Garden of Eden when God killed an animal to clothe Adam and Eve after they disobeyed Him. This first blood sacrifice pointed to the coming perfect, complete, one-time sacrifice of Jesus Christ.



### Activity 1: Readers Theater Script

page 6

Students will receive scripts to read for today's Bible passages. They will then find and circle the answers on the scripts to questions presented during class.



### Activity 2: God Provides a Savior

page 10

Students will look up the Scriptures listed on the Scripture reference cards. They will decide if the verse refers to an animal sacrifice pointing to Jesus Christ or if it refers to the perfect, final, and complete sacrifice of Jesus.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- Print the Big Questions 2 sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM. These are new questions to be used the rest of the quarter.
- Cut and fold strips and put in a cup. Keep the answer key for your own use.

- Cup with Big Questions 2
- Big Questions 2 Answer Key



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Pad of sticky notes



### READERS THEATER SCRIPT

- Print one Readers Theater Script, parts 1 and 2, from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Readers Theater Scripts, parts 1 and 2
- Pencils



### GOD PROVIDES A SAVIOR

- Print and cut one copy of the Sacrifice Mini-posters from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print and cut one God Provides a Savior Scripture sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM to be used during class.
- Print one God Provides a Savior Scripture Sheet for your use.

- God Provides a Savior Scripture sheets
- Sacrifice Mini-posters
- Poster putty or tape



## 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 for this week's lesson, read Genesis 3; 1 Peter 1:20–21; Romans 5:19, 3:23, 6:23.

God created a perfect universe—one that He Himself called very good (Genesis 1:31). So when and how did sin enter the world? Because the creation was perfect, we know there was no sin. We can then conclude that Satan sinned against God and was cast out of heaven sometime after the seventh day of creation and before he tempted Eve. Satan's temptation of Eve marked the point that changed God's perfect creation to a world filled with death, disease, and decay—all a result of sin.

In the account of the temptation and fall into sin from Genesis 3, Satan, more cunning than any beast of the field, challenged the authority of God and deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:4–5). Adam, who was with her, also ate of the fruit (3:6). This first sin was not just the eating of some fruit; it was disobedience toward a holy God.

As they ate, their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked (3:7). They felt shame for their nakedness and tried to fashion clothing from leaves to cover their shame. These coverings were not adequate to conceal their sin from God. Nor were they able to hide from Him when He came to the garden (3:9). God now had to punish the sin and disobedience of Adam, Eve, and Satan (3:14–19). How quickly and easily they fell into the "blame game." Take note that Eve quickly blamed the serpent (3:13) and Adam, in turn, blamed Eve. Sadly, Adam ultimately cast the responsibility of his sin onto God (3:12).

God's justice requires that He punish any disobedience of His commands, but His mercy allows many to avoid that punishment. The sin that plagues every human entered the world through Adam and was consequently passed to all of his descendants. The doctrine of original sin (demanding God's justice) and redemption (displaying His mercy) is present throughout the Bible and is presented concisely in Romans 5:17–21. It seems unfair that all of us would pay the consequence of one man's sin—but the Bible tells us clearly that our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). And if we honestly examine our hearts, we know this to be true. Praise God for His immeasurable grace through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:7). For it is only by His grace that we can be freed from the wages of our sin—death and eternal punishment (Romans 6:22–23).

Adam and Eve's rebellion did not take God by sur-

prise. God is omniscient—He knows all things. And He did not leave Adam and Eve in despair, but offered them the hope of the promised Savior—the Seed—who would crush the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15) and bear the sins of the world on the Cross. This preordained plan for redemption was in place before the foundation of the world and would perfectly exhibit God's mercy to sinners who, through Jesus Christ, believe in God (1 Peter 1:20–21).

## APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Today many people want to discount the book of Genesis, the account of Adam and Eve, the biblical age of the earth (about 6,000 years old), and the effects of sin on all of mankind. We know that the universe God created during Creation Week was very good (Genesis 1:31). Any very good creation of God's could not include disobedience, death, or suffering and there were none of these in the garden at Creation. The environment was perfect—even the animals lived peacefully with each other. God had commanded the animals to eat only vegetation (Genesis 1:30).

Adam and Eve were to tend and keep the garden. They were free to enjoy every good gift that God had given them (Genesis 1:28–29). God did prohibit them from eating the fruit of one tree—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eating from this tree would bring death (Genesis 2:16–17).

But, they could not resist the lies of the serpent, and they disobeyed God. They immediately recognized their nakedness, sewed leaves together to cover themselves, and hid from God in shame (Genesis 3:7–8). Their leaves were not sufficient to cover their sins. God had a more appropriate covering—tunics from the skins of animals He must have slain Himself (Genesis 3:21). In this act, the first death is recorded in Scripture. This death provided the coverings for the first sin against God. It was a foreshadowing of the sacrificial system revealed to Moses for the atonement of sin and later the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross for the forgiveness of sins. Scripture tells us that, "without the shedding of blood there is no remission" of sin (Hebrews 9:22). The first blood had been shed—it pointed forward to the blood of the coming Savior.

This glorious account of God's intervention in covering the sins of Adam and Eve gives us solid scriptural grounds to refute evolutionary thinking. Since we understand from Scripture that there was no animal death before sin entered the world, any fossilized

remains of dead animals cannot be dated before Adam and Eve. Evolutionary thinking cannot be partnered with a biblical worldview. Anyone who says the rock layers and fossils are billions of years old are accepting death, disease, and suffering before sin when, in fact, they are a consequence of the first sin in the garden (Romans 5:21; 1 Corinthians 15:21–22). Animals could not have been dying millions of years before sin entered the world since, according to God’s Word, they started dying after Adam’s sin about 6,000 years ago. When we determine to maintain our biblical worldview by the plain reading of Scripture we can confidently answer the questions the world presents.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Considering the history of sin entering the world, we realize Adam and Eve succumbed to the deceit of Satan shortly after their creation. Although Scripture does not specifically tell us how long Adam and Eve lived in the perfect creation before sinning, we can determine a definite range from a thorough reading of the text. Very little time passed before the Fall. God commanded Adam and Eve to “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28) and, because of their perfect bodies, conception would have occurred quickly. But we know that Cain was not conceived until after they were sent from the garden (Genesis 4:1).

So, how many days was it? It couldn’t have

happened on the seventh day of creation since God sanctified and blessed that day (Genesis 2:3). Some commentators suggest it could have been as early as the tenth day. Understanding the sinfulness of our own hearts, this timeframe is not hard to imagine. As we consider the scope of history, virtually all of it has occurred in a cursed universe under the influence of sin. It is all we have ever known, but we have the hope of the new creation to come when the earth will be restored to its original “very good” condition (Revelation 21:4).

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



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Merciful God, I come before your throne to ask for understanding. Help me to understand sin and redemption so well that I can communicate them clearly to the students in my class. Thank you for your Word that tells us of the perfection of creation, the ugliness of sin, and the beauty of your salvation. I pray you will soften the hearts of my students and draw them to the truth of your glorious plan of redemption and the forgiveness, hope, and joy it can bring through faith in you alone.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will pick new questions about creation 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.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## 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.

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.



## Studying God's Word

Today we get to start learning a new memory verse. This verse reminds us of the first command God gave Adam to follow in the Garden of Eden.

Take a look up here and let's read the verse together a couple of times. *Refer to the Memory Verse poster and have the class read it together—include the Scripture reference.*

Very good. Now I am going to cover some of the words with sticky notes.

Try to remember the words that are covered and say the verse again! *Have the students read the verse again with some words covered up.*

*Next cover a few more of the words. Call on students individually to say the verse with the words covered. Continue doing this until more words are covered, giving several children an opportunity to recite the verse.*

That was great! This verse reminds us of the one command God gave to Adam and Eve. In this lesson we are going to see how well they obeyed.



# Readers Theater Script

## MATERIALS

- Readers Theater Scripts, parts 1 and 2
- Pencils

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Pass out the Readers Theater Script, parts 1 and 2, to each student. These scripts contain the Bible passages to be read for the lesson. The children will read the scripts—acting out the parts. Then as the lesson progresses and they answer questions about the text, they will circle the answers on their scripts.*

We are going to read our Scripture passage in a completely different way today. I'm going to need some actors and actresses to help out with reading these scripts.

Then, as we examine the passages and ask questions about what we are reading, you will circle the answers on your scripts.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Genesis 3 tells us of the very first sin of disobedience against God. As we read and study these verses, we will see that God cannot tolerate sin. And we are going to see that when God killed an animal to cover Adam and Eve's sin, He was pointing to what Jesus Christ would one day do—die on the Cross so that sin could be forgiven once and for all.



## READ THE WORD

### Genesis 3:1–7

We are going to start with Genesis 3:1–7. It is part 1 on your script. There are four parts to this section—the narrator, the serpent, Adam, and Eve.

The rest of you listen carefully. We'll be asking questions about this when **we are finished**. *Assign students to read the different parts of the passage using the Readers Theater Script, part 1.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

*Refer to the Bible Study poster to remind your students how to dig deeper into God's Word by asking the right questions.*

As we answer the next several questions, we are going to circle the answers on our scripts.

- ? **Who are the three characters in these verses? Not including God.** *A Serpent—Genesis 3:1; the woman—Genesis 3:1; the woman's husband—Genesis 3:6. Have children circle the answers.*
- ? **Where is this taking place?** *In the Garden of Eden—Genesis 3:1. Have children circle the answers.*

This is from the book of Genesis. Genesis is a historical account. It is real history and we know it happened just as it is recorded—the same as all history we read and learn about.

? **What did the serpent ask Eve?** *Did God say you can't eat from every tree in the garden?—Genesis 3:1. Have children circle the word "every" in Genesis 3:1.*

? **Someone look at our memory verse here. What was God's command to Adam and Eve? What did God ACTUALLY say to Adam and Eve?** *Refer to the Memory Verse poster. You can eat of every tree EXCEPT one.*

? **And which tree did God say they could not eat from?** *The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

So, do you see? The serpent was changing God's Word—from ONE tree to EVERY tree.

? **Do you think Eve understood God's command clearly? That she could eat from every tree but one? Look at Genesis 3:2-3.** *Yes, Eve understood God's command, but she also distorted God's command when she said that they would die if they so much as touched the tree.*

? **Eve knew the command and she knew the consequence of what her disobedience would be. What would that disobedience bring? Look at Genesis 3:3.** *Death. You will die if you eat the fruit. Have children circle "lest you die" on their scripts.*

? **And how did the serpent respond? What did the serpent say?** *He told her, "You will not surely die," Genesis 3:4. Have children circle the answer on their scripts.*

Do you see how the serpent also changed the Word of God by lying? He told Eve she would not die; God told her she would. We must be careful to listen only to God's Word. It cannot be changed. His Word is the truth.

? **And what did Eve do? See Genesis 3:6.** *She ate of the tree and gave some to her husband and he ate. Have children circle the answer on their scripts.*

? **Then what happened—right after Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the fruit? Look at your script or Genesis 3:7 again.** *Their eyes were opened. They knew they were naked and quickly sewed leaves together to cover themselves.*

OK. So here are Adam and Eve in the wonderful, perfect garden. They have disobeyed God and they know it. Then God comes looking for Adam. For the very first time, Adam and Eve were afraid of God and they hid from Him. They also tried to cover themselves with fig leaves. This is what sin does. It separates us from God. It makes us feel like we need to hide from God. When we sin against God, we don't want God to see us.

God had to punish Adam and Eve for their sin of disobedience. He cursed the serpent, the man, the woman, and even the ground. This was a sad, sad day for mankind.

? **Can anyone tell me why God must punish all sin? Look at the Attributes of God poster and see if you can tell me.** *Allow kids to discuss this.*

God must punish sin because He is just and holy.

? **What do those attributes mean?** *Have someone read the definitions from the poster.*

JUST  
HOLY

*(Refer to Attributes poster.)*

God hates sin and must punish it because He is holy and just.

Now we'll go on to part 2 of our script to see how God punished Adam and Eve. I'll need four volunteers for this. A narrator and the Lord God will read. And I'll need Adam and Eve—you won't have any lines but you need to react to God's punishment. *Assign four children to play the parts in the Readers Theater Script, part 2.*

## Genesis 3:14–24

- ? **Great! Who is the main speaker in this passage? Look at Genesis 3:14.** *The Lord God. Have children circle the answer on their scripts.*
- ? **God is speaking to three specific characters. Which characters are they? Look at Genesis 3:14, Genesis 3:16, and Genesis 3:17. Find and circle those names on your script.** *The serpent, the woman, and Adam. Have children circle the answers on their scripts.*
- ? **What are the punishments God gave to the serpent? Look again at Genesis 3:14–15.** *He is cursed; he will go on his belly, eat dust, and there will be enmity (or hatred) between serpents and man; man shall bruise his head. Have the children circle "you are cursed" on their scripts.*
- ? **What are the punishments God gave to the woman? Look again at Genesis 3:16.** *In pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband and he will rule over you. Have the children circle "in pain you shall bring forth children" on their scripts.*
- ? **What punishments did God give Adam? Look again at Genesis 3:17.** *Cursed is the ground. In toil, you shall eat of it. To dust you shall return. Have the children circle the words on their scripts.*
- ? **After cursing the sinners for their disobedience, what did God do? The answer is in Genesis 3:21. Circle the words.** *The Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*
- ? **What was the final punishment from God? Look at Genesis 3:23–24?** *He drove the man out of the garden. Have the children circle the words on their scripts.*

### Discover the Truth

God cursed Adam and Eve as a punishment for their disobedience, and He made clothes or tunics for them. God then sent them out of the garden. The sin they committed—the one act of disobedience—separated them from God. God could not allow them to stay with Him.

- ? **Adam and Eve knew they had sinned. Did making fig leaves and trying to hide from God work for them?** *No. God found them and cursed them.*
- ? **But God did do something for them. What did God do? Look in Genesis 3:21 for a hint.** *He made tunics of skin and clothed them.*
- ? **What did God need to do to get those animal skins to clothe them?** *He had to kill at least one animal.*

Do you realize this was the very first death in the world? Before this moment, before the sin of disobedience, there was no death—everything



was very good. But the death of those animals did more than provide clothes. Listen carefully as I read Hebrews 9:22. It explains what God was doing in the garden when he killed the animal. *Read the verse.*

Did you understand that? Without the shedding of blood there is no remission or forgiveness of sin. Bloodshed is required for God to forgive sin! Something had to die after Adam and Eve sinned. It was actually Adam and Eve who deserved to die because of their disobedience, yet God spared them and killed the animal instead. He used the animal skins to cover them and the shame of their sin.

? What are the attributes of God that demand that sin be punished? We mentioned them earlier. *Refer to the Attributes of God poster. Holy, Just.*

That's right. Because He is holy and just He must punish sin, even if it is just one sin—like Adam's—the sin of disobedience when he ate the fruit he was told not to eat.

But God showed grace and mercy. He killed an animal instead, shedding its blood, and then covered Adam and Eve with the skin. *Refer to Gracious and Merciful on the Attributes of God poster.*



GRACIOUS  
MERCIFUL

*(Refer to Attributes poster.)*

## READ THE WORD

? Great. Now can anyone tell me of another time blood was shed for sin? *Allow answers. Answers could include sacrifices of the Old Testament or the death of our Savior, Jesus.*

? Open your Bibles to 1 Peter 3:18. I'd like someone to read that. *Assign a reader after everyone has found it.*

1 Peter 3:18

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

? Who is this verse talking about? *Jesus Christ.*

? And what did Jesus do according to this verse? *Suffered for sins.*

? Who did Jesus Christ die for? Keep looking at this verse. *The just (Jesus) for the unjust.*

? Right. Some versions say the righteous for the unrighteous. We know that the just one or the righteous one is Jesus. But who are the unjust or the unrighteous ones? *Us. Sinners.*

? That's right. We are the unjust. We are the unrighteous. What makes us unjust or unrighteous? *Sin.*

? So 1 Peter 3:18 says that Christ suffered or died for our sin. How did Jesus Christ do this? *He died on the Cross.*



? And why did Jesus Christ die or suffer for sinners? Look in 1 Peter 3:18. The answer is there. *To bring us to God.*

## Discover the Truth

So this verse tells us that Jesus died and shed His blood on the Cross to forgive sin and to bring us to God.

Do you see the connection here? When God killed the animal as a blood sacrifice that would cover Adam's sin, God was giving us a picture of what Jesus Christ would do one day.

From then on, God required animal sacrifices to provide temporary forgiveness of the sins of His people. These sacrifices were meant to foreshadow—or point us to—the perfect and complete sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The blood of animals did not offer permanent forgiveness and so the animal sacrifices had to be made over and over again. But the blood of Jesus was shed once and for all. The blood of Jesus doesn't cover up sin—it washes sin away!



## God Provides a Savior

### MATERIALS

- Sacrifice mini-posters
- God Provides a Savior Scriptures cut into strips
- God Provides a Savior Scripture sheet for you.
- Poster putty or tape

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Place the two Sacrifice mini-posters (animal sacrifice and Jesus's sacrifice) on opposite walls of the classroom.*

*Pass out the God Provides a Savior Scriptures. Have the student(s) read one verse at a time out loud and determine if the verse tells about a temporary animal sacrifice that points to Jesus or if it tells about the final sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Have the children tape or putty the verse under the proper mini-poster.*

After you read the verse I have given you, I want you to figure out if it is a temporary animal sacrifice that points to Jesus or if it is telling us about the perfect, final sacrifice of Jesus Himself. Then go to the board and

place the verse under the proper mini-poster.

*Go through as many verses as time allows. Discuss any verse which may seem confusing to the students.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Do you see? Before Jesus, God demanded bloody animal sacrifices that needed to be made over and over again to cover sin. These were temporary sacrifices that pointed to Jesus Christ who would one day come as the perfect sacrifice.

But then God provided the perfect sacrifice in Jesus Christ. No more animal sacrifices were needed. Jesus died once and for all so that sins could be forgiven. That forgiveness is offered to all who turn away from their sins, receive Him, believe in His name, and trust Him.





# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

? When did sin enter the world? *When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, committing the first sin.*

Our just and holy God must judge and punish sin. First, He killed an animal in order to provide clothes for Adam and Eve. This was the first death in the history of the world. When God shed the blood of the first animal, it was a sign of something to come, another blood sacrifice. This first sacrifice helps us to see how God would later provide for our salvation from sin.

The first animal death was a picture of what God would later provide for salvation from sin. God provided His own Son, Jesus Christ, who would die to take our punishment and then be raised from the dead. His death ended the long history of animal sacrifices and would not just cover up sin but would take it away providing us with complete forgiveness. He gives this forgiveness to all who turn from their sins, trust and believe in Him, and are willing to make Him Lord of their lives.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The Bible says we all sin and fall short of the glory of God. Sin separates us from God just like it separated Adam and Eve from God. But God provided a way for forgiveness of our sins—a way to get back to Him. That is through Jesus Christ.

You will hear people say that they think there are many different ways to get to heaven. Or you will hear that you don't need to believe in Jesus as long as you pray to God. You may even hear people say that they don't have to worry about God, heaven, or hell because they live a good life.

? What would you say to friends who think they're good enough to get to heaven without having a relationship with Jesus? *Allow for answers.*

Tell them about Adam and Eve. It was only one sin that brought punishment on them, and doing one thing wrong is enough to deserve death, according to God's standards. No one is good enough to get to heaven without having his or her sins forgiven. That can only be done one way—through the death of Jesus on the Cross. That is the good news we need to come to know ourselves and then share with others.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the new 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.

- Praise God for His gift of salvation through Jesus Christ whose blood takes away our sin.
- Pray that the Lord will open the hearts of the children to realize the truth of the gospel.