



Corruption: Sin Enters the World

9

Key Themes

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

Key Passages

- Genesis 2:16–17, 3:1–7, 3:14–24; Revelation 12:9; 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 Jesus.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Write on the board, "How did death come into God's perfect creation?"
Have students use bookmarks to mark Genesis 3 and 1 Peter 3 in their Bibles.



Studying God's Word

page 4

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

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



Activity 1: Readers Theater Script

page 5

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

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



Activity 2: God Provides a Savior

page 9

Students will decide if different verses refer to an animal sacrifice pointing to Jesus Christ or the perfect, final, and complete sacrifice of Jesus.

- Print and cut apart the God Provides a Savior Scripture reference cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

To prepare for this week's lesson, read Genesis 3; 1 Peter 1:20–21; Romans 3:23, 5:19, 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 (Genesis 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 (Genesis 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 (Genesis 3:9). God now had to punish the sin and disobedience of Adam, Eve, and Satan (Genesis 3:14–19). How quickly and easily they fell into the "blame game." Take note that Eve quickly blamed the serpent (Genesis 3:13) and Adam, in turn, blamed Eve. Sadly, Adam ultimately cast the responsibility of his sin onto God (Genesis 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 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 surprise. 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 Scrip-

ture 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 until the Fall? 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 the themes of 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.

➤ **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.





Review

Today we are going to be moving on to the second of the Seven C's of History—Corruption. Over the past weeks we have been looking closely at the events and doctrines of the creation. We have seen that God created everything in the universe about 6,000 years ago. That included the special creation of man and woman in the image of God.

What are some of the topics we have covered that have helped you understand

these various issues more fully? *Discuss various answers.*

God created a perfect universe and placed Adam and Eve in a perfect garden where they enjoyed communion with God. These next four lessons will look at how that perfection was marred and how the world we live in today is a corrupt version that will someday be restored—and we can all look forward to that glorious day.



➤ Write on the board, “How did death come into God’s perfect creation?”

➤ Have students use bookmarks to mark Genesis 3 and 1 Peter 3 in their Bibles.



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 students 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 Script, Parts 1 and 2, for each student and one for yourself
- 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. This script uses the NKJV.

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. Choose students to read for each character. Encourage animated

reading in order to help everyone visualize the scene. You may want to read the part of the narrator yourself.

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. 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

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

Genesis 3:1–7

The rest of you listen and read along carefully. We'll be asking questions about this when we are finished. Have students read the passage using Readers Theater Script, Part 1.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

As we answer the next several questions, we are going to circle the answers on our scripts. Use the answer key to help them circle the correct words and phrases.

- ? Who are the characters in these verses? A serpent—Genesis 3:1; the woman—Genesis 3:1; the woman's husband—Genesis 3:6. Have students circle the answers.
- ? Where is this taking place? In the Garden of Eden—Genesis 3:1.
- ? This is from the book of Genesis. Who remembers what type of literature this book is? Historical.

Right. And because it is a historical account, we know it happened just as it is recorded—the same as all history we read and learn about.

Genesis 2:16-17

- ? **How is the serpent described?** *More cunning than the rest of God's creatures.*
- ? **What did the serpent ask Eve?** *Did God say you can't eat from every tree in the garden?—Genesis 3:1. Have students circle the answer.*
- ? **Someone look at our memory verse here. Tell me, 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 is changing God's Word—from ONE tree to EVERY tree. Mark the word "every" on your script in Genesis 3:1.

- ? **How does the woman's response compare to God's command?** *She corrects the serpent's mistake, but adds that they cannot touch the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*
- ? **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 or touch the fruit. Have students circle the answer on their scripts.*
- ? **And how did the serpent respond? What did the serpent say?** *You will not surely die—Genesis 3:4. Have students circle the answer on their scripts.*

Do you see how the serpent once again changed the Word of God by lying? We must be careful to listen only to God's Word. It cannot be changed. His Word is the truth.

- ? **How did the woman respond—by listening to God or the serpent?** *She believed the serpent and ate the fruit.*
- ? **And what did Eve do? See Genesis 3:6-7.** *She ate of the tree and gave some to her husband and he ate. Have students circle the answer on their scripts.*
- ? **Then what happened—immediately after Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the fruit? Look at your script or Genesis 3:6-7 again.** *Their eyes were opened. They knew they were naked and quickly sewed leaves together to cover themselves. Have students circle the answer on their scripts.*

Revelation 12:9

- ? **Many people mock the biblical account of the Fall for a talking snake, but there is more to the story. What extra information about who was behind the serpent's words do we find in Revelation 12:9?** *Satan was behind the words—he is often referred to as a serpent.*
- ? **How did Adam respond to God's question about his obedience?** *He shifted the blame to Eve and to God for giving her to him.*
- ? **How did Eve respond to God's question to her?** *She shifted the blame to the serpent.*

OK. So Adam and Eve were in the wonderful, perfect garden. They had disobeyed God and they knew it. Then God came looking for Adam. 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 clearly.

God had to punish Adam and Eve for their sin of disobedience. He punished the serpent, the man, the woman, and even the ground. This was a tragic 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.*

God hates sin because He is holy and just. OK. Now we'll go on to our next script and see how God punished Adam and Eve. I'll need four volunteers for this. A narrator and someone for 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 students for the Readers Theater Script, Part 2.*

? Great! Who is the main speaker in this passage? Look at Genesis 3:14. *The Lord God. Have students circle the answers on their scripts.*

? God is speaking to three specific characters. Which characters are they? Look at Genesis 3:14, 3:16, and 3:17. Find and circle those names on your script. *The serpent, the woman, and Adam.*

? What are the punishments God gave to the serpent? Circle them on your scripts. *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.*

? What are the punishments God gave to the woman? *In pain you shall bring forth children, husband shall rule over the woman. Have students circle the answers on their scripts.*

? What punishments did God give Adam? *Cursed is the ground. In toil, you shall eat of it. You shall return to dust. Have students circle the words on their scripts.*

? After punishing the sinners for their disobedience, what did God do? It is in the last section of our script—Genesis 3:21. Circle the words. *The Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

? What other punishment did God give Adam? Look at Genesis 3:24? *He drove the man out of the garden. Have students circle the words on their scripts.*

Discover the Truth

God punished Adam and Eve 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.

? Did making fig leaves and trying to hide from God work for them? *No. God found them.*

JUST
HOLY

Genesis 3:14–24

Hebrews 9:22

GRACIOUS
MERCIFUL

- ? 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 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 tells a bit more what God was doing. *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 an 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 Attributes of God poster. Holy, just.*

That's right. Because He is holy and just, He must punish sin, even just one sin, like the sin of Adam and Eve—the sin of disobedience.

But God showed them 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.*



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.*

1 Peter 3:18

Open your Bibles to 1 Peter 3:18. I'd like someone to read that. *Assign a reader.*

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? *The just (Jesus) for the unjust.*
- ? Right. Some Bibles 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? What does that mean? *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

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

From then on, God required animal sacrifices to provide temporary forgiveness of the people's sins. These sacrifices were meant to point us—to the final sacrifice of Jesus. The blood of animals did not offer permanent forgiveness. But the blood of Jesus was shed once and for all. The blood of Jesus doesn't cover up sin—it washes it away!



God Provides a Savior

MATERIALS

- God Provides a Savior Scripture reference cards, cut apart

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass the Scripture reference cards out to the class—one or more per student depending on the size of your class. Some cards reference the temporary animal sacrifices of the Old Testament and others reference the perfect, complete sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Be sure students with multiple cards have cards with the same theme.

Students will look the passages up individually, and determine if their verse represents a temporary animal sacrifice that points to Jesus or the final sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Have them mark their Bibles with the Scripture cards then find the other students who have similar verses. Have the students join into two groups—temporary animal sacrifice or perfect sacrifice of Jesus.

I am going to pass these cards out. I want you to look the Scriptures up, read them, and figure out if your passage is talking about a temporary animal sacrifice or the perfect, final sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Then find the other students in the class who have Scriptures like yours—either animal sacrifice or Jesus's sacrifice. Look up your verses and quickly get into your groups. *After the students are in their teams, have them read the verses they had and briefly discuss them.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Ever since the very first animal God killed in the Garden of Eden to cover Adam and Eve's sin, God had to demand bloody animal sacrifices that needed to be made over and over again. These temporary sacrifices always pointed to Jesus Christ who would one day come as the perfect sacrifice.

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





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.*

And God 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 death was a picture of what God would later provide for salvation from sin. God provided His own Son, Jesus Christ, who would die and be raised from the dead not only to cover sins but also to take them away! His death on the Cross finally ended the long history of animal sacrifices. The forgiveness He offers is complete and it is offered to all who repent of their sins—turn away from their old sinful lives—and trust in Jesus alone.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve. Since then, every human being ever born is born into sin. 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 that you don't need to believe in Jesus as long as you pray to God; or 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? *Various answers.*

You may want to tell them about Adam and Eve. Remind your friends that 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 blood that Jesus shed for us. That is the good news we need to come to know ourselves and then share with everyone.



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 students to realize the truth of the gospel.

