



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 will review the books of the Old Testament. (There are many songs online that could make this easier and more fun for your students.)



Studying God's Word

page 5

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



Activity 1: Cursed!

page 9

Students will draw on a coloring sheet things that are seen today as a result of the Fall and God's Curse.



Activity 2: Seven C's Song and Review

page 11

Students will sing the Seven C's of History song.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- If you haven't already done this, print onto card-stock and cut out sets of the Books of the Old Testament cards from the Resource DVD-ROM, Lesson 1. Make one set for every 4–5 students.

- Books of the Old Testament cards, one set for every 4–5 students



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print the Lesson Board Work outline from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print one Consummation Verses worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Board Work outline
- Consummation Verses worksheet for each student



CURSED!

- Print one Cursed! coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Cursed! coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons



SEVEN C'S SONG AND REVIEW

- Print one Seven C's of History song sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Seven C's of History song sheet for each student



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 she 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, and 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), and 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 will one day 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 work together in groups of 4–5 to put the Books of the Old Testament cards in order. They can use the Books of the Bible poster and their own Bibles.
- They will read (or sing) aloud all the names of the books of the Old Testament.



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

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 cursed them because of that sin. We are going to discuss those curses—and what they mean to us today.

Open your Bibles to Genesis 1:29–31. Listen carefully while I read it and I'll ask some questions when I'm finished.

Genesis 1:29–31

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who is speaking in this verse? Look at Genesis 1:29. *God.*
- ? Who is God speaking to? He is in the Garden of Eden and giving instructions to someone. Who would that be? Who would be in the garden with God? *Adam and Eve.*

Great. God is talking to Adam and Eve in the garden. And these verses are about food! Make a T-chart on the board. Write "Food" at the top. Write "people" under food to the left and "animals" under food to the right.

- ? What is God saying to Adam and Eve in this verse? *Reread Genesis 1:29. God is telling Adam and Eve that they will eat herbs, seeds, and fruit. Write "herbs, seeds, fruit" on the board under "people."*
- ? OK. Listen again to Genesis 1:30. Who is God talking about here? *Every beast of the earth, birds, creeping things—animals.*

► As you ask questions of the text, reread the verses so the children can answer the questions from the Scripture.

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

- ? That’s right. And what is God saying that the animals will eat? *They are to eat green herbs. Write “every green herb” under “animals” on the board.*
- ? Now, listen again to Genesis 1:31. What did God think of all of His creation? *It was very good.*
- ? And what day of creation is this? *Day Six.*
- ? Great! When did God create the universe? When did this all happen? How many years ago? Look at the Seven C’s Timeline here. *Refer to the Seven C’s Timeline. 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

OK. 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—not even animals.

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 and kill for food. They all lived together with no fear of each other.

There was no killing. *Write the words “NO KILLING” under the word “VEGETARIAN.”*

READ THE WORD

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.

- ? Do you remember what God made to cover Adam and Eve after they sinned? We talked about that last week. *Refer to last week’s Lesson Theme poster. 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!

Turn to Genesis 3:14–19. We’re going to hear more about God’s Curse because of sin. *Read the passage.*

Vegetarian:
a person who
does not eat
meat, but eats
vegetables,
fruits, grains,
and nuts

Genesis 3:14–19

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? God gave three punishments in these verses. Let's list who God punished on the board. Listen and tell me. *Read the beginning of Genesis 3:14, 3:16–17.*

? God cursed the serpent, the woman (Eve), and Adam because of their sin and disobedience. Write "God punished:" on the board and underneath it write, "Serpent," "Eve," "Adam." In a second column to the right of the first one on the board, write "How?" across from "God punished."

? Do you know who the serpent was? *Satan.* Write "—Satan" on the board next to "Serpent."

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. So God cursed the serpent. He told the serpent that from now on he would crawl on his belly and eat dust. *Across from "Serpent—Satan," write "Crawl on his belly."*

? Have any of you ever seen a snake? *Allow answers.*

There was another part to this Curse on Satan (the serpent). God said that Satan would always hate anyone who would follow, obey, and love Jesus! *Underneath "Crawl on his belly," write "Would hate anyone who loves Jesus."*

Satan is an enemy of Jesus and anyone who believes in and follows Him.
Satan is our enemy!

? Who was the next to be punished? *Refer to the board work. Eve.*

? Right. Does anyone remember what God's punishment for Eve was? *Reread Genesis 3:16. Allow for answers.*

God said the woman would have pain when she had babies. *Across from "Eve" on the board, write "Pain when having babies."*

Verse 16 also says that the woman will desire to control her husband and the husband will want to rule over his wife.

God made the husband to be the leader of the family. Adam was made first and Eve was his helper. But because of the Curse and sin, instead of being a helper, the wife wants to be the leader. This is not the way God planned it.

? Who is the last to be punished? *Refer to the board work. Adam.*

? Look in Genesis 3:17–19 again. Let me read it. Can you tell me what Adam's punishment was? *Allow for answers.*

Adam's punishment included a curse on the ground that would make it hard to provide food for his family. Now Adam had to work hard to provide food for his family because the ground was full of thorns and thistles. The thorns and thistles, or weeds, would make growing food much harder work. *Across from "Adam" on the board, write "Ground—thorns, thistles, weeds" and "Hard work."*

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

Genesis 3:24

And God said that Adam would one day return to dust. Adam would die. The wages of sin is death. And now, because of sin, all living things would begin to die. When God first created, everything was very good—it was not going to die. But now, because of sin, every living thing will one day die. *Write "Death" on the board across from "Adam."*

? Now turn in you Bibles to Genesis 3:24. Another terrible thing happened to Adam and Eve because of their sin. Can you think what it was? *Allow discussion. Read Genesis 3:24.*

? What did God do in this verse? *Allow discussion.*

God drove the man and the woman, Adam and Eve, out of the garden. They no longer had the same friendship with God. Their sin had separated them from God. Their beautiful life with God in the perfect garden was gone because of their sin. *On the board underneath the word "Death," write "Kicked out of the garden—away from God."*

Romans 8:22

There is one more effect of the Curse. We read about it in Romans 8:22. Listen while I read it. *Read the verse.*

? The whole earth now groans. What does that mean? *Allow for answers. Write "Earth groans" on the board at the bottom of the first column.*

This means that God also cursed the earth and the entire universe. It is under the Curse because of our sin. But what does this mean? It means that we now see natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and tornadoes. Animals kill each other. Weeds grow in our garden. *Write "Earthquakes, tornadoes" on the board across from "Earth groans."*

Discover the Truth

Because of sin, many bad things happened to God's very good creation. God told Adam and Eve they could eat of every tree but one, and they disobeyed.

Because God is holy and just, He must punish all sin. Adam and Eve's sin started it. And we are all sinners. The consequences of all sin—of any sin—are very serious.

Refer to your board work as you recap this. The serpent (Satan) was cursed and would now crawl on his belly; he would be the enemy of Jesus and His followers; the woman would now have pain and sorrows when having babies; the ground was cursed and would produce thorns, thistles, and weeds; Adam would need to work hard to provide food; Adam and all living things would now die; Adam and Eve were kicked out of the garden—away from God; the earth was cursed—it now "groans" with earthquakes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters.

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

HOLY
JUST

(Refer to Attributes poster.)

God shows us His mercy in Jesus Christ. When Jesus died on the Cross, He took the punishment for sins. Forgiveness is freely given to all who receive Jesus, repent of their sin, and place their trust in Him. For those people, God will provide a new, wonderful place where there will be no more Curse. We're going to talk about that in a few minutes!

MERCIFUL
(Refer to Attributes poster)



Cursed!

MATERIALS

- Cursed! coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

This sheet shows Adam after God cursed the world because of sin. Have children color the picture. Discuss with them some of the things that came as a result of the Curse: thorns, man working hard for his food, animals eating other animals, tornados, etc.

Today we learned about the Fall and what happened to God's very good world. Color the picture, and circle the things that were not in the garden God originally created. Look at the board for a clue.

As children color and circle the cursed items, discuss that pain, suffering, and death are not things God had in his "very good" garden. They came about because of sin and the Curse.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God's punishment for the sin of Adam and Eve brought many consequences to the entire earth. But you must keep in mind that it was the disobedience of Adam and Eve—not God—that caused these things. The pain and suffering we see in the world is not God's fault. We are all sinners, and we all deserve God's punishment.

But remember that because of God's mercy He has provided us a way to be saved from the punishment we deserve—through Jesus Christ alone and His sacrifice and death on the Cross for the forgiveness of the sins of everyone who would believe and trust in Him.



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, war, evil, natural disasters, and hatred. But that is what we see because of sin—because of disobedience to what God said. It is all very sad.

But, there is hope! Look here on our Seven C's Timeline. At the very end. What is the last C? *Consummation.*

Consummation is the time when Jesus Christ will return and make all of God's creation very good again—like He originally created it, and perhaps even better! Consummation is the word we use to describe the hope and promise of the wonderful future God has promised because of Jesus Christ.

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

EXAMINE THE WORD

The verses we are going to read tell us about that glorious promise—when there will be no more death or sin! They tell us about a new heaven and a new earth where everything will once again be very good! I have some worksheets here. They have the verses on them. I want you to mark on them as we answer some questions! *Hand out Consummation Verses worksheets.*

Observe the Text

Isaiah 65:25

Look at your sheets. The first verse is Isaiah 65:25. Follow along while I read it. *Read verse.*

? What is this verse telling us? *Allow for answers.*

This verse says that the wolf, the lamb, the lion, and the ox will not hurt or destroy each other in the new heaven and earth. On your worksheets circle the words "wolf," "lamb," "lion," "ox," and "shall not hurt nor destroy." *Assist children to circle the words.*

Revelation 22:3

? The next verse is Revelation 22:3. Listen while I read it. What does this verse say? *Allow for discussion.*

It says there will be no more Curse! Circle that word on your worksheets.

? All the bad things that came from the Curse will be gone! What are some of the things we learned came from the Curse? *Refer to the board work. Death, thorns, weeds, tornadoes, separation from God, etc.*

It also says the throne of God will be there—in this new, wonderful place. Can you imagine that? Circle "throne of God" on your worksheets. We will be together again with God the way Adam and Eve were when they were in the garden.

Revelation 21:1

Now let's read Revelation 21:1. *Read verse.*

? What does that verse promise? *A new heaven and a new earth!* Circle those words on your paper.

Revelation 21:4

And last let's read Revelation 21:4. *Read verse.*

? What does this verse promise? *Allow for answers. God will wipe away every tear, no more death, no sorrow, no crying, no pain.*

Circle the words, "wipe away every tear;" "no more death;" "nor sorrow;" "nor crying;" "no more pain."

Won't that be great? No more getting hurt or sick. No more broken bones. God promises this to all who believe in Him and trust Jesus as their Savior.

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 messed up state. He has promised to do away with the corruption that Adam brought into the world through sin. God offers us salvation through His Son. And He has promised one day to remove the Curse He placed on His creation!



Seven C's Song and Review

MATERIALS

- Seven C's of History Song sheet for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

Write the Seven C's of History on the board (or use the Seven C's of History Timeline): Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, Consummation. Have the children stand and recite them together.

We have been talking about Creation, Corruption, and Consummation in the last several weeks. These are three of the Seven C's of History. Today I want to teach this song that describes each of the C's. Let's sing from the song sheet to the tune of "This Old Man." Sing along with me!

Sing the Seven C's of History song to the tune of "This Old Man" from the song sheets. You can also teach

them hand signals to do while saying them: Creation (make circle with hands), Corruption (point thumbs down), Catastrophe (bring hands up like rising water), Confusion (make circles with hands around brain), Christ (point to each palm to represent nails), Cross (make cross with arms), Consummation (make crown on head).

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Bible is a history book. The Seven C's cover all of history. We talked about Creation, when God made the heavens and the earth. Then Corruption, when Adam & Eve sinned and God cursed the world. Today we talked about our last C, Consummation—when Jesus will return and create a new heaven and a new earth that will no longer be cursed because of sin.





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

The world has changed from what God originally made, hasn't it? God didn't want people and animals to die. Sin changed everything! Sin brought God's Curse on the entire universe. Pain, death, and suffering are now a part of all of the universe. The Curse affects everything—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, everyone sins and disobeys.

But there is hope for all who turn to Jesus Christ to be saved. 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 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 bad things that happen. They may tell you that God really can't be 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, and thank Him that Jesus paid the price for us.
- Thank God 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.