



Corruption: Sin Enters the World

9

Key Themes

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

Key Passages

- Genesis 3:1–7, 3:21; 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 will review the books of the Old Testament. (There are many songs online that could make this easier and more fun for your students.)



Activity 1: Memory Verse Review

page 5

Students will practice saying the new memory verse as you cover more and more words on the Memory Verse poster.



Studying God's Word

page 6

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 2: Temporary Sacrifice Relay

page 11

Students will see the difference between sins being covered by animal sacrifices and washed away by Christ's perfect sacrifice.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

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

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



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW

- No special preparation needed.

- Memory Verse poster
- Sticky notes



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one Sin and Sacrifice worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use. Students will fill these out as you study the lesson.
- Print one copy of the Adam, Eve, and Serpent pictures.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Adam, Eve, and Serpent pictures
- Sticky notes
- Sin and Sacrifice worksheet for each student
- Sin and Sacrifice answer key
- Pencils and crayons



TEMPORARY SACRIFICE RELAY

- No special preparation needed.

- Clean T-shirt for each team
- Dirty T-shirt for each team



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 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 scrip-

tural 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 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 the original 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 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.



Memory Verse Review

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse poster
- Sticky notes

INSTRUCTIONS

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.*

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.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

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.





Studying God's Word

➤ As you teach this three-part lesson, students will fill out the worksheet. When you are finished, they may color it if time allows.

Genesis 3:1-7

➤ As you teach through this lesson, write the words the children are to fill in on the board to make it easier and quicker for them to complete their worksheets.



READ THE WORD

Pass out the Sin and Sacrifice worksheets to the students. As we study today, you will be filling in the blanks on these worksheets. Do not write on them until I tell you to. We are going to see what the Bible says about the very first sin, the very first sacrifice, and the final sacrifice.

Today we are going to start with Genesis 3:1-7. I have three sheets; each has a picture of one of the characters in the account I am going to read. There is a picture of the serpent, a picture of Eve, and a picture of Adam. We don't know exactly what they looked like, but we will use these to represent them. Ask three children to come to the front and each hold a picture.

I am going to need some help today! When you hear your character mentioned, hold up your paper. Take it down when they have finished talking. Now listen carefully while I read these verses. Read the passage, and have the children up front hold up the proper picture when the serpent, Eve, and Adam are mentioned. The children may need some prompting to get this right.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

Good job! Thank you! Take pictures and have children sit down.

- ? There are really four people mentioned in these verses. Who can name all of them? Show the pictures again and refer children to Genesis 3:1-6. The serpent—Genesis 3:1; the woman—Genesis 3:1; the woman's husband—Genesis 3:6; and God—Genesis 3:1, 3:5.
- ? Where is this taking place? In the Garden of Eden—Genesis 3:1.
- ? What did the serpent want Eve to do? Allow for answers.

The serpent wanted Eve to disobey God and eat the fruit on the very tree—the only tree—God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from.

- ? What did God tell Adam and Eve would happen if they disobeyed Him? Does anyone remember? Read Genesis 2:17 for the accurate account of what God said to Eve. If they eat it, they will die.

But listen again to Genesis 3:4-5. Reread those verses.

The serpent told Eve that God lied to them. That they would not die if they ate the fruit but would be like God!

- ? What did Eve do? Reread Genesis 3:6. She believed the serpent and ate the fruit.
- ? Eve believed the serpent over God! Not a good idea. What did God say would happen if they ate of that fruit? Reread Genesis 3:3. God said they would die!

That's right! The serpent changed the Word of God and lied to Eve. He told Eve she would not die. God told her she would. God's Word is what we should listen to. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit. This was the very first sin. And the result of that sin was death.

- ? Look at the First Sin section on the worksheet. What word should you put into that first blank line? *Have the children write "First" for number 1.*
- ? Who sinned in these verses? Who committed this very first sin against God? *Adam and Eve. Have the children write "Adam" and "Eve" for number 2.*

Discover the Truth

Adam and Eve were in the wonderful, perfect garden. But they disobeyed God and they knew it. When God came for Adam, he and Eve both became afraid. They tried to hide from God. And they covered themselves with leaves from the garden. 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 Him to see us clearly.

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

- ? Why did God have to punish them? *Allow for discussion.*

God does what He says He will do. He said they would be punished, and He had to punish them. But there is more to it than that. You see, God is holy and just. Look at the Attributes of God poster. Find those attributes—holy and just—and read what those attributes tell us about God. *Have students read the definitions.*

Because He is holy and just, God must punish ALL sin—even ours. Every sin committed against God must be punished because God hates all sin.

Eve listened to the serpent instead of God. She and Adam did the one thing God had told them not to do. They disobeyed God. They knew it was wrong and tried to cover themselves and hide from God. Adam tried to blame Eve, and Eve tried to blame the serpent. But they had sinned, and God must punish sin, because He is holy and just.



HOLY
JUST

(Refer to Attributes poster)

READ THE WORD

God had to punish Adam, Eve, and the serpent because of their sin against Him. He cursed the serpent and said from now on the serpent would crawl on his belly and eat dust. The woman—Eve—would now have a lot of pain when she had babies. And Adam would have to work hard for his food. God sent Adam and Eve out of the wonderful garden and they were separated from Him.

But before God sent them out, God did something else. Listen carefully as I read this one verse to you. Turn to Genesis 3:21 in your Bibles.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? What did God make for Adam and Eve to wear? Reread the verse. *He made tunics or coverings of skin.*
- ? Do you know what that means? Tunics or coverings of skin? *Allow for answers.*
 God made clothes for Adam and Eve from the skin of animals. *Look at the First Sacrifice section on the worksheet.*
- ? Do you remember what Adam and Eve made to cover themselves when they sinned? They covered themselves with something and then tried to hide from God. *Reread Genesis 3:7 if necessary. Fig leaves.*
- ? Adam and Eve knew they had sinned. Did sewing fig leaves and trying to hide from God work for them? *No. God found them.*

That's right. God found them. But before God sent them out, He made clothes for them.

- ? How did God make those clothes? Where did they come from? *An animal or animals.*
- ? What did God need to do to get the animal skin to make the clothes? *He had to kill an animal!*

Yes, God had to take an animal that He had created and kill it to cover the sin of Adam and Eve. This was the first sacrifice. It was also the very first animal death. Fill in the first line on the First Sacrifice section. What should you put on that line? *First. Have children write "First" for number 3 on the worksheet.*

Do you realize this was the very first death in the world? Before this moment, before Adam and Eve sinned, there had been no death in the world. No animals had ever died! God killed those first animals to cover Adam and Eve because of their sin. Then He sent them out of the garden. They were separated from God. This was a very sad day.

- ? What word goes on that second blank of the First Sacrifice worksheet? Who covered Adam and Eve with clothes. *God. Have the children write "God" for number 4.*

But the death of the animal was for more than just making clothes for Adam and Eve. Let's see if we can figure out why God had to kill those animals. Turn in your Bibles to Hebrews 9:22. It tells a bit more what God was doing. *Read the verse.*

Let me explain. 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 before He sent them out of the garden.

Discover the Truth

Do you see? God told Adam and Eve that they would surely die if they disobeyed Him and ate the fruit. But God was merciful. He showed kindness to them. *Refer to Attributes of God poster.*

Something had to die because Adam and Eve sinned. Ever since that first sin in the garden, God has demanded that only blood could cover sin and bring forgiveness to sinners. The people in the Old Testament made animal sacrifices to God every day to cover sins. *Refer to the Seven C's Timeline.*



MERCIFUL

(Refer to Attributes poster.)

READ THE WORD

? Wow! I think we are getting it! 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. Listen carefully! This will help us fill in the Final Sacrifice worksheet. *Read the verse.*

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? Look at 1 Peter 3:18. *Or reread the verse. 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? *We are the unjust. We are sinners.*
- ? That's right. We are the unjust. We are the unrighteous. What makes us unjust or unrighteous? *Sin.*
- ? Yes. The Bible says that we are all sinners. This verse is about us! Fill in the first line on your Final Sacrifice section of the worksheet. What should the words be? Who is the just? *Jesus.* Who are the unjust? *Us.* *Have children write the words "Jesus" and "us" for number 5.*
- ? So 1 Peter 3:18 also says that Christ suffered or died for our sin. How did Jesus Christ die for our sins? The picture on the worksheet will give you a clue. *He died on the Cross. Have the children write "Jesus" on number 6.*

? And why did Jesus Christ die or suffer for sinners? Look in 1 Peter 3:18. The answer is there. If they can't get the answer, reread the verse so they hear the text answer the question. To bring us to God. Have children write "God" for number 7.

So this verse tells us that Jesus died and shed His blood on the Cross to forgive sin and to bring us to God. Jesus was the final sacrifice. No more sacrifices had to be made once He died on the Cross. Can you put the word "Final" on the last line of the Final Sacrifice section? Have children write "Final" for number 8.

Discover the Truth

Can you see a connection here? When Adam and Eve sinned, they brought sin into the world. Refer to First Sin section.

When God killed the animal as a blood sacrifice that would cover Adam and Eve's sin, God was giving us a picture of what Jesus Christ would do one day. Refer to the First Sacrifice section.

After that, God always required animal sacrifices to cover up the sin of people. These sacrifices had to be made over and over again—every day. But they were meant to point to Jesus—the perfect, complete, and final sacrifice. 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 sin away! The sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross was the final sacrifice. No other sacrifice will ever be needed again. Refer to Final Sacrifice section on the worksheet.





Temporary Sacrifice Relay

MATERIALS

- One dirty T-shirt per team
- One clean T-shirt per team

INSTRUCTIONS

Have students form two or more teams depending on size of class. The relay will work like this:

Divide class into two teams.

Put clean T-shirts across the room.

Each team will start with one dirty T-shirt.

First team member will:

1. *Put on the dirty T-shirt and run across the room.*
2. *Put the clean T-shirt over the dirty T-shirt.*
3. *Return to the team.*
4. *Take both T-shirts off.*
5. *Run the clean T-shirt back across the room.*
6. *Second team member will start again by putting the dirty T-shirt on.*

? Why do you think we ran this relay? Does anyone know? *Allow for answers.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Let me explain. The dirty T-shirts represent sin. Everyone sins. When Adam and Eve sinned, God killed the first animal to cover their sins (the clean T-shirt). This was the first, temporary sacrifice. After that,

sacrifices had to be made over and over to cover the sins of the people. These repeated sacrifices were the white T-shirts.

The people sinned, sacrifices were made to cover the sin, people sinned again, and another sacrifice had to be made. The temporary blood sacrifices were made over and over and over again.

? This went on for a very long time. Finally God did something to end the temporary sacrifices. What did He do? *Allow discussion.*

He sent Jesus Christ. Remember our Final Sacrifice worksheet? Jesus died on the Cross, once and for all; He was the final sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins to everyone who would believe in Him, receive Him, and trust Him for forgiveness.

Do you see? The animal sacrifices that needed to be made over and over again would cover sin. These pointed to Jesus Christ who would one day come as the perfect, final sacrifice and wash away all our sin. No more temporary 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.*

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 pointed to something to come—another blood sacrifice.

This first death was a picture of what God would one day do to wash away our sin. God sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, who died and rose from the dead, not to cover sins, but 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—turn away from their sinful lives—believe in Jesus, and receive Him in faith.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The Bible says we have all sinned. 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—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 everyone will get to heaven because God is loving.

? What would you say to friends who think that it doesn't matter what you believe because everyone will go to heaven? *Allow discussion.*

Tell them about Adam and Eve. Just one sin brought punishment on them, and doing one thing wrong is enough to deserve death. God hates all sin. No one is good enough to get to heaven but must have their 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 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.