



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 3:14–19; John 3:16

Lesson Focus

- God judges sin.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color and add fruit to the trees drawn on the newsprint covering the tables. Have them add the serpent and Adam and Eve to the scene.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—God punished the serpent, Adam, and Eve for the sins in the garden. God is holy and must punish all sin. God showed His love through Jesus and the forgiveness He offers to believers.

Song—Students will praise God by singing the songs “God Created!” and “Sin Entered In.”



Activity 1: God Is . . .

While standing in a circle, the students will pass a bean bag around as they repeat each syllable and the definitions of the words omnipotent and omniscient. They can go faster or slower, louder or softer, to make it more exciting!



Activity 2: God Showed His Love in Jesus

Students will search for hidden hearts among the fruit trees as a reminder that even though we sin, God shows love to us by offering forgiveness and eternal life to everyone who believes in Jesus.



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

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

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Draw some simple tree outlines in various sizes on to newsprint and cover each table in the room before class.

- Newsprint to cover each table
- Optional: Tree and fruit stickers to add to the newsprint
- Crayons



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal
- Bible



GOD IS . . .

- Bring one bean bag or soft, spongy ball

- Beanbag or soft, spongy ball



GOD SHOWED HIS LOVE IN JESUS

- Print one God Showed His Love in Jesus activity sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- God Showed His Love in Jesus activity sheet for each student
- Crayons



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



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 may come to yearn for the day when they will see you face to face in the new heaven. Give them the boldness to walk according to your Word and to share the good news of the gospel with others.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the trees and add fruit to the newsprint covering the tables. Have them add the serpent and Adam and Eve to the scene. Optional: Supply stickers of trees and/or fruit to be used to further decorate the newsprint.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class. Remember, children learn by repetition and review.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds, and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, bean bag or soft ball, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. *Turn to the prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.*

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Adoration is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of adoration—and tell God how much we love Him. He is the Creator of everything. He is the only God. We should praise Him for that.

► Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

► Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, you are great and good. I just want to praise you for . . .
(insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God they love and praise Him.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Before we begin, what is this?** *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*
- ? **What is in this Bible?** *God's holy Word!*
- ? **What does the Bible tell us?** *Everything we need to know!*
- ? **And all God's Words in this Bible are what?** *True!*

Refer to the Lesson 9 Flip Chart page. **Remember last week? God must have been very sad when Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying Him. They ate the fruit from the ONE tree God told them not to eat from. And when they disobeyed God, sin entered the world. Now we all sin. The Bible tells us that because God is holy, He must judge and punish sin. God punished Adam and Eve. Because they did not obey God, life would completely change for them. God's beautiful creation would not be perfect anymore.**

Let's take a look in the Bible at the book of Genesis. First, God cursed the serpent.

- ? **What did the serpent do?** *Refer to Lesson 9 Flip Chart page. The serpent lied to Eve about God.*

Genesis 3:14

That's right. God cursed the serpent for his part in the sin. Listen as I read Genesis 3:14. Open your Bible to Genesis 3:14. Read the passage emphasizing "on your belly" and "eat dust."

- ? **What did God say to the serpent? What would the serpent do from now on?** *Crawl on his belly and eat dust. Refer to Lesson 10 Flip Chart page.*

That's right. And that is what we see snakes doing today, isn't it? They slither on their bellies right in the dirt! That was the serpent's curse.

Genesis 3:16

God then moved on to Eve. He had to punish her for her sin. Listen to Eve's punishment. Read Genesis 3:16: "In pain you shall bring forth children."

God was telling Eve that when she had babies it would hurt. God was also saying that the perfect love between Adam and Eve would not be the

► As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

same any more. Now they would both want to lead the family—and that was supposed to be Adam’s job!

? What happens when two people both want to be the boss or the leader?
They argue, fight.

They have a hard time getting along, don’t they? It’s more difficult to love each other the way God wants us to when we all want to be the leader. So now it would be harder for Adam and Eve to love each other the way God wanted them to.

Well, let’s look and see what God said to Adam. *Read Genesis 3:17–18.* Oh, no! God cursed the ground and made thorns and thistles grow. *Point out Adam on the Flip Chart.* The Bible says that Adam was working already, but now his work would be hard and difficult. God said it would be painful work. Adam would have to work very hard to provide food for his family.

But God didn’t create it that way. God didn’t intend for the work to be so hard. This was part of the punishment for sin.

Now let’s read the next part. *Read Genesis 3:19 emphasizing “return to the ground.”* God told Adam that he would one day return to the ground. God meant that one day Adam would die. *Point out gravestone on Flip Chart.* The perfect life they had in the garden was gone. And because of their sin, and our sin, we all have to live with the same problems.

Wow! How awful! It seems hopeless. We are going to have pain, hard work, sickness, and death because of sin. But there is some REALLY good news! Even though we are all sinners. Even though we have to live in this world that is cursed because of our sin—God showed that He does love us.

? Do any of you know how God showed He still loved us a lot? Who was born on Christmas day and died on the Cross? *Refer back to the Lesson 9 Flip Chart page. Jesus!*

That’s right. Let me read one more verse to you. This one is from the Gospel of John. It is John 3:16. *Read John 3:16.*

? God loved the world. Who did He send? *Jesus.*

? Who is Jesus? *God’s one and only Son.*

Yes! God sent Jesus, His only Son, to die on a Cross for us so that whoever would believe in Him would have everlasting life. We know that life on earth will end. We know that because of sin, everything must die. But God promises us eternal life, life with Him forever! He makes that promise to everyone who trusts in Jesus, believes in Him, and obeys His Word. That is exciting news! That is the gospel—the good news about Jesus.

Genesis 3:17–18

Genesis 3:19

John 3:16

SONG

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song page during this part of the lesson.

Turn to the Flip Chart song page. **God created everything. When He created, it was all very good. But Adam and Eve sinned and the world and the people were cursed by God. Let's sing about how wonderful God's creation was before sin entered in!** Sing "God Created!" Clap and march in place.

That was great! Now, let's sing about sin entering into the world, and the wonderful news about Jesus! Sing "Sin Entered In."

Lyrics to the songs can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



God Is . . .

You know, God is amazing. We are going to learn two BIG words today. These words tell us about God!

The first word is "Omnipotent." We've heard this word before; you may remember. It means that God is ALL-powerful. NOTHING has more power than God. And we saw God's power when we learned that He SPOKE and the WHOLE universe appeared.

? Can you repeat that word for me? *Omnipotent.*
Have them repeat it several times.

The second word is like it. It is "omniscient."
Can you say that word for me? *Repeat the word several times.*

This word means God knows everything. He is ALL-knowing!

We are going to play a game. This game will help you remember these two big words about God and what they mean!

MATERIALS

□ Beanbag or soft, spongy ball

INSTRUCTIONS

Put children in a circle. Children will pass the bean bag around as they repeat the two words and their meanings. As the bean bag is passed around, children will repeat the following, om-ni-po-tent ALL- POWERFUL! om-ni-scient, ALL- KNOWING! Repeat as time allows.

Use variations like slower, faster, louder, softer, jumping or marching in place, etc. while repeating the words and the definitions.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Bible tells us all about our great God! And two things we learn about God is that He is omnipotent—all-powerful, and omniscient—all-knowing. Nothing and no one has more power or knows more than God. That is an important lesson to learn.

Now let's quietly go back to the tables.



God Showed His Love in Jesus

MATERIALS

- God Showed His Love in Jesus activity sheet for each student
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out the activity sheets and crayons for each student. Students will find and circle the hidden hearts on the activity sheet then color the picture.

There are five hearts hidden on your coloring sheet. These hearts are there to remind us that even though everyone in the world sins and we ALL deserve God's punishment, He loved the world so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on

the Cross. Whoever believes in Him will have eternal life!

Your job is to find all five hearts and put a circle around each one. Then you may color the rest of the picture!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

It was a sad day when Adam and Eve sinned because that is when death, sickness, pain, and suffering entered the world. God had to punish Adam and Eve. God has to punish ALL sin—even ours. But we can thank God for Jesus! He took our punishment on the Cross when He died there. Whoever calls on Him and believes and trusts Him like the Bible says will have eternal life.



Memory Verse/Snack

Genesis 2: 16–17 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.

After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to the Flip Chart. When Adam and Eve sinned, God punished them. And He punished the serpent who tempted them. He told the serpent that now he would crawl on his belly and eat dirt! He told Eve that now she would have pain when she had babies. He told Adam that his work was going to be really hard now. And now, because of sin everything and everyone must die.

Ever since Adam sinned, we all sin! God hates sin because He is holy! We all sin and deserve God's punishment! But God loved the world and sent His son, Jesus, that whoever would believe in Him would have eternal life with God forever!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

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

Some people blame God for all the pain, suffering, death, and bad things that happen. They don't think God is really that loving because He lets these bad things happen. Remember that the suffering we see is not God's fault. When God created the universe He said it was "very good." It is because of Adam and Eve's sin, and now our sin, that bad things happen.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His Word.
- Ask forgiveness for our sins.
- Thank God for Jesus and the forgiveness and eternal life He offers if we believe in Him.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

GOD CREATED!

(To the tune of "This Old Man")

Hold up 1 finger for Creation Day 1.

God made day, God made night,
(This old man, he played one,)

God made everything in sight.
(He played knick-knack on my thumb.)

So let's stand up, turn around,
(With a knick-knack paddywhack,)

Thank God for His grace.
(Give a dog a bone.)

With a big, happy smile on our face!
(This old man came rolling home.)

Hold up 2 fingers for Creation Day 2.

He made the air, the blue sky too.

He knew exactly what to do.

So let's stand up, turn around,

Thank God for His grace,

With a big, happy smile on our face!

Hold up 3 fingers for Creation Day 3.

He made the plants and the land,
From the hardest rock to the softest sand.

So let's stand up, turn around,

Thank God for His grace.

With a big, happy smile on our face.

Hold up 4 fingers for Creation Day 4.

He made the stars, the moon, the sun.

Exploring the sky is so much fun.

So let's stand up, turn around,

Thank God for His grace.

With a big, happy smile on our face.

Hold up 5 fingers for Creation Day 5.

He made the fish, the birds that fly;

We see them daily in the sky.

So let's stand up, turn around,

Thank God for His grace.

With a big, happy smile on our face.

Hold up 6 fingers for Creation Day 6.

All the animals that roam the land,

He even created woman and man.

So let's stand up, turn around,

Thank God for His grace.

With a big, happy smile on our face.

SIN ENTERED IN

(To the Tune of "This Old Man")

God created Adam and Eve.

(This old man, he played one,)

They walked with God in the Garden light.

(He played knick-knack on my thumb.)

He said, "Don't eat this fruit;

(With a knick-knack paddywhack,)

Don't take a single bite."

(Give a dog a bone.)

"Obey me," He said, "and do what's right."

(This old man came rolling home.)

The serpent came and told a lie,

"Taste this fruit; give it a try!"

So they ate the fruit and sin entered in.

We disobey God and we all sin.

God must punish our sin; it's true,

But He offers a plan for me and you!

He'll forgive the sins of everyone,

Who believes on Jesus, His own Son.

