

SEEDS

Bible Curriculum for Children

BOOK ONE



Planting God's Word
in Minds and Hearts



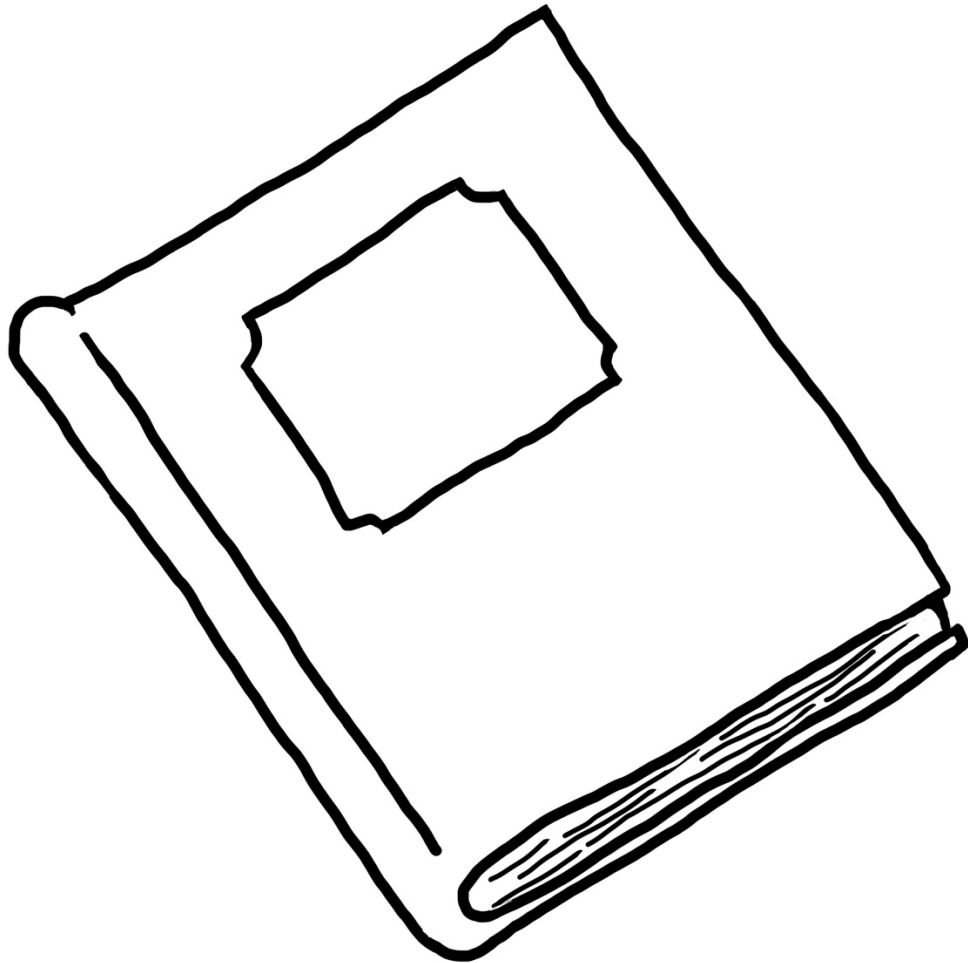
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Seeds Bible Curriculum for Children

Book One



Planting God's Word in Minds and Hearts

Dear Children’s Ministry Worker,

This curriculum was prepared with the hope of helping churches to be better able to teach God’s Word to children in areas of the world where children’s ministry curriculum is not easily available. This curriculum is made to be adapted for other languages or Bible versions.

Our goal is not to make money from this project, so permission is freely granted for this curriculum to be copied, printed, translated, and shared. We ask that you do not sell for profit any part of these materials or use them in anything else that will be sold for profit. We also ask you do not claim the credit for any part of the materials.

While we believe that Children’s Ministry should be treated as a very important part of church ministry, we realize that many churches are not able to set aside a large budget for children’s ministry, so we have tried to avoid requiring large amounts of extra supplies. These lessons assume that your children’s ministry has a few basic supplies available: crayons, paper, and something large to write on (such as a chalkboard, whiteboard, or poster paper). Those items will not be included on materials lists for the lessons. Other items will be listed and may be marked as “optional” if they are not required to be able to teach the lesson.

Pictures have been included with each lesson. These can be colored in and used as visual aids as you teach. They are also made to be used as coloring pages. You may also wish to keep them and use them to review previous lessons.

We hope that these materials will be a blessing to you as you teach God’s Word to children. Please adapt them to work best for your ministry.

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LESSONS

Lesson 1: In the Beginning God

Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 44:6-8, 46:9-10

Purpose: To teach the children a basic understanding of God. The ideas in this lesson will be seen again throughout the Bible.

Bible Memory: Choose a verse from the Memory Verse List. Introduce the verse. You may choose to practice it using one of the activity ideas.

Materials:

- objects or pictures of things that have beginnings and endings, like plants, people, animals, artwork, etc.

Teacher Planning:

- **Study** Genesis 1:1 and Isaiah 44:6-8, 46:9-10. Think about what the children might find hard to understand.
- **Find** the materials you will need.
- **Pray** for wisdom as you plan and teach.
- If the children do not understand who God is, teach so that they can think about the hard ideas. This is important for younger children. Ask them questions about their lives and the things around them and teach them how God is different from everyone and everything.

Important truths:

- God is the only God.
- God has no birth and no death.
- God is spirit.
- God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and He is everywhere.

Teaching Ideas:

- Because there is no story in this lesson, you will need to ask the children many questions while you teach. You want them to think and talk about what God is like. If the children are older, you can have longer discussion, but if they are younger, you will want to have more objects and examples to help them think about the lesson. Engagement and imagination are important.
- What do non-Christians believe or worship where you live? Do they believe there is no God? Do they worship idols or false gods? Or do they believe wrong things about God? Think about what the children hear about God at home or outside church. This will help you know what to focus on as you teach your lesson. You can ask the

children what they have heard and discuss what is true and what is wrong. Older children will be able to do this more easily than younger children.

- If the children already have a strong understanding of God, you can use this lesson to help them think about how to tell someone who doesn't know about God what God is like.

Lesson:

Begin by reading **Genesis 1:1**. This is the first sentence in the Bible, so it must be very important. Who is the first sentence in the Bible about? God. Who is God? Who is the person who made everything? What is He like?

You may ask the children what they have heard or what they know. They may give right or wrong answers. Or they might not know at all.

Teach the truths about God one at a time. Read **Isaiah 44:6-8, 46:9-10** to the children as you teach.

It can be hard to understand that God was never born and will never die. Some small children do not understand death yet. Help them understand by using objects like plants or toys.

Example: Ask, where did this plant come from?

Answers: Seeds, the ground, a farmer.

Ask, what will happen to this?

Answers: Get eaten, die, turn into dust.

You can use many examples, using anything from houses or cars to people or animals. All things begin and end, are made and die. When the children understand this, tell them that God is not like this. God did not begin and will never end. He was not made. He will not die.

God is forever.

God being the only god can be hard or easy for children to understand. Some children have never heard of other gods. Some children may have heard that there is no God. Some may know about many other gods. This is a good time to talk about what the children have heard and what non-Christians believe. **God is the one true God, and all others are false gods.**

To explain how God is spirit, you can talk about how people need things to live. Ask the children what they like to eat when they get hungry. You can talk about houses, clothes, water, and many other things people need. Does God need them? No. **God is a spirit.** He does not need anything.

To teach how God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and how he is everywhere, help the children think about ways we are not powerful, do not know things, and cannot go places. Ask the children to come up with crazy things that are impossible to do. God can do them! Ask the children to think of things that they do not know. God knows them! Ask the children where they want to go. God is there! **God is powerful, wise, and in all places.**

Lesson Extension Ideas for older children:

- Take some time to focus on some other attributes of God (Holy, Merciful, Faithful, Unchanging, Loving, Gracious, Sovereign, Just, Righteous, Independent...) and what they mean.
- Help the children make a list of ways that God is not like humans. Discuss some things that God can do which we are not able to do.

Activity Ideas:

- Let the children draw pictures of things that they cannot do, but that God could do.
- If you have the resources available, help the children plant seeds. As you plant them, remind the children that plants have a beginning and will eventually die, but that God never had a beginning and will never die. You may also want to introduce the idea of God's power to create and make things grow.
- Split the children into two groups. Have the groups work together to think of things that we know about God (Examples: God never dies, God is powerful, God is a Spirit...). Then, talk through their lists together. Take the opportunity to review what they have learned, while correcting any false ideas that they have.
- Teach these rhymes to reinforce some truths about God.

God was not born and will not die,
He created Earth and sky.
He knows all, He's wise and true.
There is nothing He can't do.
He's more powerful than all,
Yet He hears me when I call.
(may be sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

There is only one true God,
One true God, one true God.
There is only one true God,
And He loves me.
(may be sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Review Questions:

- When will God die?** (God will not die.)
When was God born? (God was not born.)
How many gods are there? (There is only one God.)
Where is God? (God is everywhere.)
What does God know? (God knows all things.)
What can God do? (God can do anything.)
Does God have a body? (No. God is a spirit.)

Lesson 2: God Who Speaks

Psalm 139:1-4, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Purpose: To teach a basic understanding of the Bible.

Bible Memory: Review any previous verses. When most of the children seem to know the verse, choose another verse from the Memory Verse List. You may choose to practice verses using one of the activity ideas.

Materials:

- a Bible (if possible, have several Bibles or one for each child)

Teacher Planning:

- **Study** Psalms 139:1-4 and 13-14, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Hebrews 4:12, and 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Think about how God's Word has been given to us and why it is important to learn from the Bible.
- **Find** the materials you will need.
- **Pray** for wisdom as you plan and teach.
- The One True God is not like other false gods of other religions. God wants to have a personal relationship with people. He is not a god far away. He reveals himself in the Bible: who He is and what He is like. He wants people to know Him. He loves us. He wants us to know what He says, to talk to Him, and to trust Him. This is a wonderful thing! Try to help the children understand this as you teach.

Important truths:

- God knows you, and He wants you to know Him.
- God spoke to people in the past in different ways, but today He speaks to us in the Bible through His words.
- The Bible is God's Word.
- Many different men wrote parts of the Bible, but they were all told what to write by God.
- Make sure that you teach that God is the one who told the men what to write. The men did not write their own words. God's Spirit told them what to say.

Teaching Ideas:

- Are the children familiar with the Bible? Show the children that there are different books in the Bible. If you have many copies of the Bible, or if the children have some, you may pass some out for them to look at. There are different kinds of books in the Bible: history, songs, wise sayings, letters, prophecy... All of it is true, and all of it tells us about God. Many years ago, someone divided God's words into chapters and verses so that it is easier to find parts of the Bible. Explain how this works. Use a Bible to show the children the divisions.

- If you know the story of how the Bible has been translated into your language, you can tell this to the children. Many people all over the world work hard to translate the Bible into different languages. Why? Because it is so important for all people to know God! You may take this as an opportunity to talk with the children about different ways they can read, listen to, or hear the Word of God where they live. Do the children study God's Word on their own?
- This lesson may be difficult for younger children. It may be better to introduce this idea by discussing how we know people. We know people by talking to them. We know people by watching them. We know people by listening to what they say. Ask the children to describe someone they know. Do they know someone who can cook good food? How do they know the person can cook good food? Is it by watching? Is it by eating the food? Have the children do an activity by asking each other questions, or by asking the teacher. Do they know the person better now? Tell the children something that you can do. Ask: 'Can teacher do this?' When they say, 'yes!', ask them how they know. It is because you told them or because they have seen you do it. After these kinds of activities, explain how we can know God. It is by studying His words. In the Bible we see what God does. We hear what He says about Himself. We learn how to talk to God and how to have a relationship with Him.

Review Questions from the last lesson:

When will God die? (God will not die.)

When was God born? (God was not born.)

How many gods are there? (There is only one God.)

Where is God? (God is everywhere.)

What does God know? (God knows all things.)

What can God do? (God can do anything.)

Does God have a body? (No. God is a spirit.)

Lesson:

Begin by reading **Ps. 139:1-4, 13-14**. Explain to the children that God created them and knows them. God made each part of you before you were ever born, and He knows everything about you! God made you, and He loves you. God wants you to know Him too. He has given us ways to learn about Him.

But how can we know God? God is not like us. He is a spirit. We cannot see Him. Does God speak? Yes. God speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. In the Bible, God tells us about Himself. He tells us what He has done and what He will do. He tells us what He is like. He tells us how to talk to Him and how to have a relationship with Him.

How did God give us the Bible? Did a man just find it one day on the ground? (No!) Read **2 Peter 1:20-21**. God used people to write the Bible, but God told them what He wanted

them to write. Many different men wrote different parts of the Bible. Did the men make up the words of God? No. Read the verse again. The men wrote what God told them to write. The Bible has many different parts. It is made up of many different books. Much of the Bible tells us about history. It tells us how God revealed Himself to people in the past. Other parts tell us what God will do in the future. This is prophecy. There are other books that have songs or wise sayings. Some books are letters that were written to churches around 2,000 years ago. All that is written in the Bible really happened. It is true. God does not lie. God's Word is powerful. Read **Hebrews 4:12** and **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. We will be studying the Bible in this class. Why? Because we want to know God. We want to know what He says to us. We want to know why He wants us to know Him.

Lesson Extension Ideas for older children:

- Discuss what people from other religions around you believe and compare them to help the children understand how the One True God is different.
- If most of the older children have already trusted Christ as their Savior, you may want to take some time to discuss having devotions or a personal time with God each day.

Activity Ideas:

- If there are enough Bibles in your class, take some time to let the children look through them.
 - Older Children: Look at the Table of Contents. Help them find different sections of the Bible. Practice finding verses (such as the memory verse or verses from the lesson) in the Bible. Once the children start to become familiar with their Bibles, you may want to have a sword drill (see who can find specific verses the fastest).
 - Younger Children: Let them look at some of the pages. If there are maps in the back, show them to the children. If you have children's Bibles with pictures, you may want to let them look at those. Teach them to hold their Bibles carefully and to treat them with respect.
- Review or teach these rhymes to reinforce some truths about God.

God was not born and will not die,
He created Earth and sky.
He knows all, He's wise and true.
There is nothing He can't do.
He's more powerful than all,
Yet He hears me when I call.
(may be sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

There is only one true God,
One true God, one true God.
There is only one true God,
And He loves me.

(may be sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Review Questions:

How powerful is God? (He can do anything!)

How can we know God? (By studying the Bible.)

Who wrote the Bible? (Men who were told by God what to write.)

Why do we study the Bible? (To know God.)

Does God have a beginning? (No. God has always been.)

Is what happens in the Bible true? (Yes! God's Word is true.)

Lesson 3: Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Purpose: To teach that God made all things.

Bible Memory: Review any previous verses. When most of the children seem to know the verse, choose another verse from the Memory Verse List. You may choose to practice verses using one of the activity ideas.

Materials:

- Objects or pictures for each day of creation (For example: a light, a cup of water, a plant, a bird, a fish, a picture of an animal, etc.)

Teacher Planning:

- **Study** Genesis 1:1-2:3. Think about how you will teach the events to the children. Make sure you have studied it well enough to tell it expressively and accurately.
- **Find** the materials you will need.
- **Pray** for wisdom as you plan and teach.

Important truths:

- God is the Creator.
- God is good.
- In the beginning, everything God made was good.
- God made the world with His word in six literal days, and on the seventh day He rested.

Teaching Ideas:

- You may want to ask older children to read some of the key verses.
- As you teach each day of Creation, choose children to come to the front and draw some of the things that God created that day. You may use a whiteboard, chalkboard, or large paper.
- Each day of the Creation account has parts that are repeated: “God saw that it was good,” “and it was so,” “there was evening and there was morning,” etc. You may want to have the children say some of these phrases with you as you teach each day. This is a good way to help the children pay attention and be involved with the lesson. If you have time, you can read through the account again, so that the children can join in more easily the second time. This repetition will also help them remember what happens.
- If the children are young, you can think of motions to go with each thing God makes. For example: when you teach about how God made the sea, the children can make wave-like motions with their hands. You can also have pictures or examples to show them.

- So that the Creation account does not seem far away to them, connect what God has made to the children's experiences. Have they looked at the stars? Have they played in the ocean? Do they have a pet? A garden? Maybe they like to eat fish. God made all the things that the children see or enjoy. He was the Creator in the beginning, and He is still the Creator today. A possible activity could be drawing something that God has made that the children especially enjoy.

Review Questions from the Last Lesson:

How powerful is God? (He can do anything!)

How can we know God? (By studying the Bible)

Who wrote the Bible? (Men who were told by God what to write.)

Why do we study the Bible? (To know God.)

Does God have a beginning? (No. God has always been.)

Are the stories in the Bible true? (Yes!)

Lesson

Today, we are going to look in first book of the Bible – Genesis. (If the children have their own Bible, have them open them to Genesis.) Genesis means “beginnings.” Genesis is a book of many beginnings. The first thing that Genesis tells us about is the beginning of our world. In the Bible, we have a true account from the Creator about how He made all things!

Read **Genesis 1:1**.

Help the children understand God's power. If we want to make something, we have to use materials. A painter needs paint, something to paint with, and something to paint on. A cook needs spices, vegetables, and meat, and also pots, pans, and a fire! Ask the children about things that they have made. How did they make them? Did it take a long time? What did they need? Compare this to God's power. God did not need anything to make the world. He did not need to learn how to do it. All He had to do was speak, and it came to be, from the biggest mountains to the tiniest living thing. Even now scientists have a hard time understanding the amazing way that God made the universe.

Teach the account of **Genesis 1:1-2:3**, while reading some of the key verses with the children.

(You may use the following points to help you teach the lesson.)

- Day One: God created light, Day and Night (Genesis 1:3-5).
- Day Two: God created the atmosphere/sky (Genesis 1:6-8).
- Day Three: God created land and seas (Genesis 1:9-10). God saw that it was good. God created plants (Genesis 1:11-13). God saw that it was good.
- Day Four: God created stars, sun, moon, and planets (Genesis 1:14-19). God saw that it was good.
- Day Five: God created sea creatures and birds. (Genesis 1:20-23). God saw that everything He created was good.

- Day Six: God created land animals (Genesis 1:24-25). God saw that His creation was good.
God created people (Genesis 1:26-27, 31). People were created in God's image. Everything God made was very good.
- Day Seven: God rested (Genesis 2:2-3).

Is there anything that God did not make? No. God made all things. We might think that we made some things: for example, a house. Did God make that house? People built the house. But who made the materials? And who made the people? God did. He is the Creator behind all things.

What was true about all the things that God made? God saw that they were good. In the beginning, everything was good. There was no disease in the plants. No birds, fish, animals, or people died. There were no terrible storms that destroyed the land. No one ever had to be afraid. Discuss with the children how that is different from today. Why was everything good in the beginning? Because God is good. God is perfect. God did not make anything evil or wrong. God never would, because he is good. He does not lie. He is never unjust. The things He made were beautiful and perfect.

What happened after God made the world? What did He do on the seventh day? God rested. Is this because God was tired after doing all that creating? No. God does not get tired. God was finished with his work of creation.

We should thank God for all the wonderful things that He made. Spend some time letting the children express their thankfulness for different things that God made.

Lesson Extension Options for older children:

- Explain that there are many people who do not believe in God who try to think of ways the world was made. Some may try to explain how the world exists without God. Even some people who believe in God are tricked into thinking that the world was made in some other way. Many think the world was made very slowly, by chance. (Allow the children to share some wrong ideas they might have heard about how the world came to exist.) But we know that God is all-powerful. He did not need millions of years to make something. He did not need to find parts to put together. He did not need to make a seed first and then wait for a tree to grow. All God needed to do was speak, and the tree appeared. All the great, far-away stars were made on the same day by God just speaking. He is powerful and mighty! If there is time, you may want to discuss how to respond to others who do not believe that God created the world.
- God is the Eternal Creator. He was there in the beginning, and He gave us a record (the Bible) of how all things came to exist. We are His creation. As our Creator, God deserves to have authority in our lives. Discuss times when we might go about our daily lives without thinking about God. In what ways can we be aware of God's authority in our lives? How should we treat God? How should we respond to Him?

Activity Ideas

- Use the pictures or objects that you used to represent the days of creation during lesson time. Mix them up and let the children put them back in the correct order. Then, use them to review the lesson.
- Allow the children to draw pictures of things that they are thankful for. Let them show their pictures and tell the class about them. Remind the children that God made those things. Then, take time to pray and thank Him for what He has made.
- Print copies of the visuals/color sheets that are included with this lesson. Allow the children to color them. You may print the same one or different ones for each child. You may also print all of them for each child and help them to make a book of the days of creation.
- Print or copy a picture of the Earth for each child. Let the children color it and write out the memory verse either on the picture or on the back. For younger children, you may write the verse for them. Review the verse as they color the picture.
- Use the review questions to play a review game. You may put the children in teams or let them respond individually.

Review Questions:

What is the first book in the Bible? (Genesis)

What does Genesis mean? (Beginnings)

How did all things come to exist? (God created everything.)

What materials did God need to make the world? (Nothing. God is so powerful that He did not need anything!)

How did God create things? (By speaking)

How are people different from everything else that God made? (God made people in His own image.)

What was everything like when God made it? (Everything God made was good.)

Lesson 4: Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:26-2:25

Purpose: To teach an understanding of how God made people in His image, with distinct genders and a role as stewards of God's creation.

Bible Memory: Review any previous verses. When most of the children seem to know the verse, choose another verse from the Memory Verse List. You may choose to practice verses using one of the activity ideas.

Materials:

- a picture of a familiar person, or a statue or toy representing a person or animal.
- Clay or Play-Doh (optional)

Teacher Planning:

- **Study** Genesis 1:26-2:25. Think about how you will teach about the creation of man and woman. Some of the events are not in order, so you may want to arrange the verses to make it easier to tell the whole story.
- **Find** the materials you will need.
- **Pray** for wisdom as you plan and teach.
- Teaching about how people are made in the image of God can be difficult for children to understand. Think about the age of your students. For younger children, it may be better to talk about how God made people different from animals and made each person to be in His image. We can think, speak, and communicate in many different ways. We can make things and be creative. People are able to have a relationship with God. Every person is special to God in a way that is different from anything else that God made. Because of this, we ought to treat one another with kindness, because each person is special to God. It does not matter how old they are, what country they come from, what they look like, or if they are sick or well. All people are made in the image of God. For older children, you can discuss the topic of God's image in more detail. Use objects like photos, statues, action figures, or flags to explain that something can be made as a reflection or representation of something else. A flag represents a country. People who hate a country burn that country's flag. Why? Because to burn the flag is to disrespect what the flag represents. If you have a picture of someone you love, you do not want to draw on it. If someone drew nasty things on the picture, you might be angry. Why? Because they would be disrespecting your loved one. In a similar way, people are created in the image of God. We are not God, but we were made like Him in some ways. To hurt or mistreat a person who has God's image is to dishonor God himself. Every person who has ever been born has been made in God's image and is loved by God.

Important truths:

- God made people in His own image.
- God gave people authority to rule over His creation.
- God made people male and female and designed marriage.
- People were good and sinless in the beginning.
- God gave one rule for Adam and Eve to obey.

Teaching Ideas:

- You may want to introduce this lesson by reminding the children of all of the things that God created. Lead the children in discussing the kinds of plants and animals as you point out the variety in the things that God has made. (Have you ever been to a garden or jungle? What kinds of things did you see there? Have you been to a zoo? What kinds of animals have you seen? Do you have pets?)

Review Questions:

Who made everything? (God did.)

How did God make the world? (By speaking)

How many days did it take? (Six days)

What did God do on the seventh day? (He rested.)

Was there anything wrong with God's creation? (No)

Why not? (Everything God made was good because God is good.)

Lesson:

Use **Genesis 1:26-2:25** as you teach.

God created all kinds of wonderful things! He made many different plants and animals.

Read Genesis 1:26-27. Did you know that God created one very special creation? This was different than anything else that he created. Do you know what it was? People! People are God's special creation because only people are created in God's image. God made man in a different way than He made anything else. Remember, God made the world by speaking. But with man, He made him out of dust. Then God breathed into the man, and the man became a living person. The first people that God created were named Adam and Eve. **Read Genesis 2:7.** Why do you think God made man in a different way? God made people in His image. People are not like plants. People are not like animals or mountains or stars or anything else that God created. We are made to be special. God made us to have His image, to be like Him in many ways. Discuss how people have God's image (You may want to refer to the teaching ideas above).

Read Genesis 1:31. In the beginning, everything was perfect. The first people were also perfect. When God made the world, everything God made was good. There was no sin. (You may want to discuss what the world was like before the effects of sin—animals did not eat each other, animals did not hurt people, no death or pain or sickness...)

Read Genesis 2:8. God made a special garden for the man to live in. The garden was called Eden. The man did not just live in the garden though. God wanted the man to work in the garden and to take care of it. **Read Genesis 2:15.** In the perfect world that God had made,

people still worked. In the beginning, this was good. People were not lazy. They enjoyed doing work for God. We are made to do things.

Read Genesis 1:29-30. God provided plants as food for the people and the animals. (Let the kids think of some plants that we still eat today. What is their favorite plant to eat?)

Read Genesis 2:9. There were two special trees in the garden, the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. **Read Genesis 2:16-17.** God gave Adam one command to obey. God said that Adam could eat from any tree in the garden except for one tree, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told Adam that he would die if he ate from that tree. God wanted Adam to choose to obey.

Read Genesis 2:18. God said that it was not good for Adam to be alone. **Read Genesis 2:19-20.** God brought all the animals to Adam, and Adam gave them names. Adam saw that the animals all had other animals that were like them, but Adam was alone. There was no one like him. **Read Genesis 2:21-23.** So, God made a woman from Adam's rib. Adam called the woman Eve, and she was his wife. **Read Genesis 2:24.** God designed marriage and this is was God's plan for marriage. (For older children, you may choose to discuss this further or use the lesson extension option at the end of this lesson.)

In the beginning, the man and the woman were naked, but they were not ashamed. The world was perfect. No one knew about being embarrassed or being mean. Adam and Eve lived in the garden of Eden, and they spoke with God. All of God's creation was beautiful, and world was a new and good place.

God is a good and wise creator. God created Adam and Eve in His own image as His special creation. God created you too, and you are special to him! All people have been made in God's image. God chose everything about you: whether you would be a boy or a girl, what your hair color would be, what color your eyes would be, and what family you would have! God is always good and always wise. He doesn't make mistakes. That means nothing about the way God made you is a mistake. God knew exactly how to make you and what He wanted you to be!

Lesson Extension Options for older children:

- Many people in our world today teach lies about gender and marriage (For example, that people can change their gender or that same-sex marriage is ok). There is much sin and confusion in this area. Consider how much is appropriate to talk to your students about and how to approach these topics (being mindful of their age, culture, and home situations). Here in Genesis, it is clear that God is the one who makes each person male or female. God also planned for marriage to be between a male and a female and that they should remain together for life. In what ways does this go against your culture? You may have a discussion on this topic if your students are older. For younger students, you may just want to mention that God made both boys and girls and that God created marriage between a husband and a wife.
- People are meant to rule over and take care of God's creation. This means being wise about how you use animals, resources, plants, and land. God has given these things to us to use. Where you live, do people think about taking care of the world? Some people try too hard to take care of the world and act like using creation is

wrong. But God wants us to enjoy what He has made and to use the resources He has given us. In other places, people do not think about taking care of creation at all. They use up all the resources or treat animals with cruelty. We must remember that God has given us creation for us to rule over with wisdom.

Activity Ideas:

- Allow the kids to use clay or Play-doh to make some of the things that God created. They can make plants, animals, or people. As they play, use that time to review the lesson.

Review Questions:

Can God lie? (No.)

How did God make Adam? (From the dust and by breathing into him.)

How did God make Eve? (From Adam's rib.)

What was special about Adam and Eve? (They were made in God's image.)

What was their job? (To rule over the world/take care of the garden.)

What rule did God give them? (Not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)

Lesson 5: The Curse and the Promise

Genesis 3

Purpose: To teach how sin corrupted God's perfect creation, and to help the children understand the consequences of sin.

Bible Memory: Review any previous verses. When most of the children seem to know the verse, choose another verse from the Memory Verse List. You may choose to practice verses using one of the activity ideas.

Materials:

- Objects or pictures that show examples of the effects of sin: thorns, a dead plant, a snake, etc.

Teacher Planning:

- **Study** Genesis 3. Think about what the children might find hard to understand, and how you can teach the events clearly and in an interesting way.
 - This lesson is full of extremely important truths! In Genesis 3 we learn about sin and its effects upon people and the world. We learn about how our relationship with God was destroyed. We learn about a promise of hope for the future. In this chapter we understand many things about ourselves, the world, and the purpose of Scripture. Take this lesson seriously.
 - Be careful when you teach about Satan, the serpent. Many people think that Satan is much more powerful and important than he really is. They think that Satan is the one who makes us sin, or that he is in charge of hell. The children may believe some of these wrong ideas. This lesson is not about Satan. Even though he did lie and deceive Eve, Adam and Eve were the ones who chose to disobey God. Just because someone tells us to do something wrong does not mean we have to obey them. We cannot say that Satan made us do it. And yet, Satan truly is the enemy of God and of humanity. He was and will be punished. He is evil and a liar, and he seeks to deceive the world (Revelation 12:9). Try to be balanced when you teach about him. Many children are curious about Satan and will want to ask questions. Be prepared to answer carefully and truthfully.
 - This lesson is a great place to include a clear Gospel presentation. You may want to end the lesson by looking at the Gospel in the New Testament, sharing your own personal testimony of salvation, or using another Gospel presentation method. You could also pass out some Gospel tracts if you have some available. Invite the children to talk with you after class if they want to know more. Be careful that you do not scare or pressure the children to make a profession of faith. It is important that they understand and make the choice on their own.
- **Find** the materials you will need.

- **Pray** for wisdom as you plan and teach.

Important Truths:

- Adam and Eve both chose to disobey God.
- Guilt, shame, and death entered the world because of sin.
- God is holy and just. He must punish sin.
- Humans are separated from God by sin.
- God promised that one day someone would crush Satan.

Teaching Ideas:

- For young children, you may want to use lots of pictures and props or act out the story. You may want to have the children participate as you teach by doing certain actions (making a sad face when they hear something sad, shaking their head when someone makes a wrong choice, making a hissing sound whenever you talk about the serpent, pointing to heaven whenever you mention God...)
- For older children, have them help you to make a list of the effects of sin on the board or on a large sheet of paper as you talk about them.

Review Questions from the Last Lesson:

Can God lie? (No.)

How did God make Adam? (From the dust and by breathing into him.)

How did God make Eve? (From Adam’s rib.)

What was special about Adam and Eve? (They were made in God’s image.)

What was their job? (To rule over God’s creation/take care of the garden.)

What rule did God give them? (Not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)

Lesson

Introduce the lesson by asking, “Have you ever had a rule that you had to follow?” (Allow students to respond and share rules). We have rules at school and rules at home. Some rules are to keep us safe, some are to make things run smoothly, and some are to save money or time. (You may want to share a rule that you have in your home and the reason for the rule.) Do you remember the rule that God gave to Adam and Eve? (They could eat from any tree in the garden except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.)

Read Genesis 3:1.

The serpent was sneaky. He tried to get Eve to question what God had said. What did the serpent say? He asked, “Did God really say?”

Read Genesis 3:2-3. What did Eve tell the Serpent? Had God said that they couldn’t touch the fruit? (No, God only said not to eat the fruit.)

Read Genesis 3:4-5. Satan wanted Eve to doubt God. This is one of the ways that Satan works to get people to turn to their own way instead of God’s way.

Read Genesis 3:6.

Eve wanted the fruit, and she decided to disobey God. Then she gave it to Adam, and he disobeyed God too! Adam should have said no, but he also chose to sin.

Read Genesis 3:7-8. As soon as they both ate, they knew what good and evil were, because now they had done something evil. Sin was now in them, and God's creation was no longer perfect.

Adam and Eve were ashamed, and they made clothes for themselves and hid from God.

Read Genesis 3:9-13. When God spoke to them, they did not ask God to forgive them. Instead, they blamed one another. God is perfect and just, so He had to punish them.

Read Genesis 3:14-19. God put a curse on the serpent and on Adam and Eve. He cursed the ground. Sin ruined the perfect world God had made. Sin broke the relationship between God and people. Sin brought death.

Read Genesis 3:21 God made clothes for Adam and Eve out of animal skins. This was the first time an animal had to die because of sin.

Read Genesis 3:22-24 Adam and Eve could no longer be in the garden of Eden. God had to drive them out, and He put a guard so that they could never come back. Explain to the children the different consequences of sin for the snake, Adam, and Eve. Talk about some of the ways things changed because of sin.

- There is pain, sickness, disease, and physical death.
- Our sin separates us from God.
- Animals began to fight and eat each other.
- Things are no longer safe. There are many things that can harm us now.
- Thorns and weeds began to grow.
- All people are born with a sin nature and choose to sin.

How have the children seen these things in their own lives? Have they seen death? Pain in childbirth? Trouble in the home? Thorns? Hard work? Slithering snakes? Help them think of examples. The effects of sin are real, and they affect people every day.

God still loved Adam and Eve. He still cared about His creation. God is good. God said that the snake and the woman's descendants would be enemies. He promised that one day a descendant of the woman would crush the snake. God had a plan, even from that first terrible day, to save people from the curse and sin. One day there would be victory over sin and Satan. It means that there is hope for the future, even though God's perfect creation was ruined. Does God ever break His promises? No. God always keeps His promises.

Lesson Extension Options for older children:

- Shame is a concept that is easier for older children to understand. Think with them about a perfect world that has no shame or embarrassment, because everything that people do or see is good. Imagine how that would change the way people live. Older children, especially teens, often feel very embarrassed and worry about what others might think of them. They are afraid of doing wrong and making mistakes. Help them imagine what it would be like if they were not afraid about those things. Because of sin, we know that we do wrong and can make mistakes. We know that

people are selfish and look down on one another. We feel shame and embarrassment. This is a direct result of Adam and Eve's sin.

- Guilt. When Adam and Eve heard God coming, they hid from Him, even though God is everywhere and knows everything! They tried to hide from God, and then they tried to blame other people for their sin. Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the snake. Do you notice what they did *not* do? They did not ask God to forgive them. They did not try to make things right. Instead, they hid and lied. Just like Adam and Eve, people do not like to admit that they did something wrong. Even if you watch a small child disobey, the child will often say that they did not do it. People are afraid of being found out. People like to think that they are good, even when they are doing wicked things. People cannot make things right with God by themselves, because sin makes it so that we don't even want to do right.
- God told Adam and Eve that they would die if they ate the fruit. Then the snake told them that they would not die. After Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they did not die! Was the snake telling the truth? Did God lie? No! Death did enter the world when they ate the fruit. First, there was a death of the spirit. Adam and Eve became separated from God. They were no longer perfect, like God. Instead, they were sinful. They could no longer be with God. This is the spiritual death. It means that later, in the afterlife, they would stay separated from God in a terrible place called hell. This death was passed on to all of Adam's descendants. Second, there was physical death. Even though Adam and Eve did not die right away, they did die many years later. They could no longer live forever like God. This physical death was also passed on to Adam's descendants.

Activity Ideas:

- Let the children draw pictures that show how things changed because of sin. Divide the paper down the middle. On one side of the paper, have the children draw what things were like before sin. On the other side of the paper, have the children draw what things are like now.
- Play "Right Choices." Cut out the headings that say "God's Way" and "Own Way." Put the headings someplace where the class can see them. Cut apart the right choices cards and fold them. You may want to adapt the names or situations to things that would be familiar to your students. Put the cards into a container or lay them out on a table. Let the students take turns choosing a card. You may have them choose cards in teams or individually, depending on the size of your group. After choosing a card, they will read it and decide if the child on the card chose to obey God or chose their own way. Help the students to place the card under the correct heading.
- Use the "Discussion Cards" to guide the students in learning how to make right choices. You may read the cards and answer as a class or have the students answer individually and discuss their answers as a class. The students may have many ideas

about what would be right, and there may be several good answers to some situations. Try to help the students think of what God wants them to do and point them to God's Word. For older students, you may want to guide them to include Bible verses in their answers. The Teacher Card gives you some ideas to use as you guide the discussion.

Review Questions:

Who deceived Eve and lied about God's words? (The snake/Satan.)

Why did Eve eat the fruit? (She saw that it was good and wanted it.)

What did Adam and Eve do when they heard God? (They hid.)

Did Adam and Eve ask God for forgiveness? (No.)

What was in God's curse? (The snake would crawl on his belly, men and women would try to rule over each other, women would have pain in childbirth, etc.)

What was God's promise? (Gen. 3:15.)

What did God put to guard the garden of Eden? (A cherubim and a flaming sword.)

Discussion Cards

1. Jane was helping her Sunday School teacher put away crayons after church. She wished that she had some crayons at home. The church had lots of crayons. Nobody would even notice if she took home just a few. She thought about putting some in her pocket. What should Jane do?

2. Jon was so excited to play with his best friend, Jim. They had lots of plans for the afternoon! Just as they started to play, Bob came over. Jon and Jim didn't really want Bob to join their game. Bob was younger than them, and there wasn't anyone else to play with Bob. What should they do?

3. Jim asked Jon to take care of his pet for a few days while he was visiting relatives in another town. Jim was supposed to go to Jon's house every morning and evening to check on the pet and to feed it. Before Jim went to Jon's house the next morning, Jane invited Jim to go to the river with her family for the whole day. Jim really wanted to go with Jane, but if he did, he wouldn't have time to go to Jon's house to feed his pet that day. What should Jim do?

4. Jon told Bob that he would teach him how to play a game this afternoon. Bob was excited to learn a new game. As Jon was walking to Bob's house, he met Jim and Jane. They had made some fun plans and asked Jon to join them. Jon wanted to join, but he remembered the promise that he had made to Bob. What should he do?

5. Jane had lots of homework to do for school. She started to work on it, but it was hard, and she didn't enjoy doing it. Her sister was watching tv in the next room. Jane really wanted to watch tv too, but her parents said she had to finish her homework first. She thought about just writing numbers on her math homework without working the problems. Jane knew that her parents wouldn't notice that her answers were wrong, as long as they saw that she had written something. Then they would let her watch tv. What should Jane do?

TEACHER CARD:

1. The crayons do not belong to Jane. Taking them would be stealing. Exodus 20:15, Deuteronomy 5:19
2. God wants us to be kind and patient with each other, and to love each other. Jon and Jim can show patience, kindness, and love to Bob. Eph 4:2, 32; 1 Peter 4:9; John 13:34; John 15:17
3. God wants us to be responsible and to do what we say we will do. Col. 3:23; Luke 16:10
4. God wants us to do what we say we will do. Numbers 30:2
5. God wants us to do our best and to obey our parents. Col. 3:23; Eph. 6:1-2

Right Choices Game Cards

<p>Jim heard some of his friends laughing at the new student at school. Jim didn't know the new student, but the new kid did seem kind of strange. Jim didn't want his friends to think that he was strange too, so he laughed at the new student too.</p>	<p>Jim saw Bob sitting all alone during the morning break time at school. None of the students wanted Bob to play with them. Jim really wanted to play with his friends, but he didn't want Bob to feel lonely. He decided to go talk with Bob instead.</p>
<p>Jane's teacher gave each student a candy for doing a good job on their test. The teacher told the students not to eat the candy until after class. Jane was so hungry! She thought she could eat it without her teacher noticing. Jane unwrapped the candy as quietly as she could and hid the wrapper in her pocket. Then, she quickly put the candy in her mouth while the teacher wasn't looking.</p>	<p>It was Saturday and Jane did not have any classes or homework. She was excited to go outside and play with her friends. Jane noticed that her mother looked very tired. Her mother had been awake most of the night with her baby sister. Today, her mother had a lot of chores to do and still had to take care of the baby. Even though Jane wanted to play outside, she knew that her mother needed help. Jane decided to help her mother with the chores and to play with her friends later.</p>
<p>As Jon was walking down the street, he saw some money on the ground. No one else was around, so Jon picked up the money. It was enough to buy himself a treat! Jon began to plan what he would buy with the money. As he walked to the store, Jon saw Jim. Jim was looking around the ground for something. Jim told Jon that he was looking for some money that he had dropped on the way to the store. Jon knew that the money he found must have been the money that Jim dropped. Even though Jon could have kept the money, he returned the money to Jim.</p>	<p>Jon's dad told him not to touch any of the tools that his dad used for work. Jon liked seeing his dad's tools and watching his dad work. The tools were so neat! Jon really wanted to try using one, but his dad did not let him hold them. His dad promised to teach Jon how to use the tools properly when Jon was older. Jon had watched his dad a lot, and Jon thought he knew how to use the tools already. He just wanted to try. One day, when Jon's dad wasn't home, Jon saw his tools laying out on the table. Jon decided to pick up one of the tools and just pretend to use it. He didn't think that would hurt anything.</p>

<p>Every day, during the morning break at school, Max says mean things to Jim. Sometimes, Max pushes Jim or makes Jim fall down. Max laughs at Jim and teases him. When Max says mean things, Jim wants to say mean things back to Max. One day, Jim gets so mad at Max that he calls him a mean name. He feels like Max deserves to be treated the same way he treats others. But Jim doesn't feel any better after being unkind to Max.</p>	<p>Max is always unkind to Jim, even though Jim tries to be kind to Max. Jim knows that God wants him to love Max, even though it is hard to do sometimes. One day, Max had been even more unkind than usual. Jim really didn't want to be kind to Max in return, but he asked God to help him to love Max. After school, Jim saw Max alone outside, and Max was crying. Jim didn't really want to help Max, but he knew that God would want him to be kind, so Jim went to Max and asked him what was wrong.</p>
<p>Jane was running through the house and accidentally bumped the table. Her father's glasses fell to the floor and one of the lenses cracked! Jane knew that it would cost a lot of money to fix them. She wasn't sure what to do! If she told her father, he might be upset with her for breaking them. She thought about leaving them on the floor and pretending not to notice. Maybe her father would think something else happened to them? Later, her father asked her if she had seen his glasses. Jane told him that she did not know where they were.</p>	<p>Sally let Jane borrow her doll. Jane was so excited to get to play with it. As she was playing, Jane decided to pretend to share her juice with the doll and accidentally spilled some juice. It left a big purple spot right on the front of the doll's pretty white dress! Jane tried to wash it off, but it didn't come out. Jane decided to tell Sally the truth and take responsibility. Jane explained to Sally what had happened, told Sally that she was sorry, and Jane offered to buy a new dress for Sally's doll as soon as she could earn enough money.</p>

God's Way

Own Way