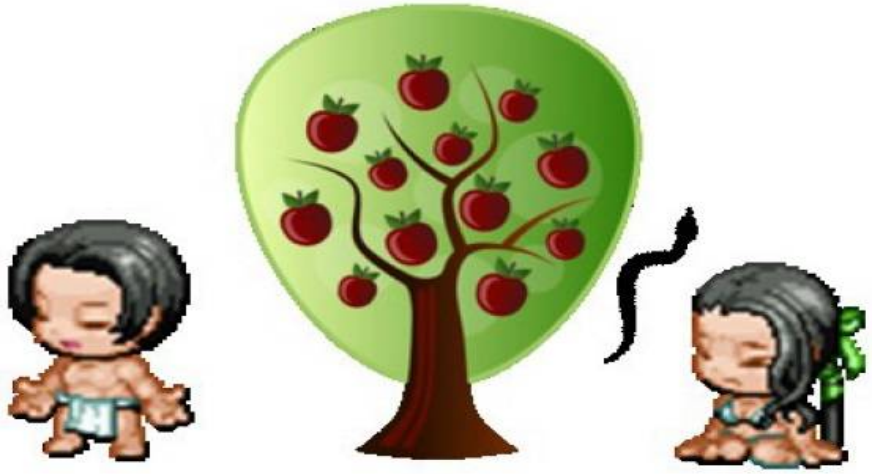


# Created

## Children Sunday School Lessons for

## Genesis 1-11



by Rev. Steve Wilson



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**Note:** All Scripture quotations I've included are from the NIV, but feel free to use any translation you prefer.

# Why Do We Study the Bible?

Use this introductory children’s Sunday School lesson about the Bible to teach kids what the Bible is. The lesson includes an object lesson, two optional games that you can play, and a craft. The two games teach children that when we study the Bible, we’re learning how to follow God and that the Bible is God’s way of telling us the truth about Himself. The craft can serve as a way to inspire children to study the Bible on their own. If your class is too young to read on their own, they can use the craft to draw pictures of what they learn in their family devotions.

## Making the Lesson Part of an Event

If your church does a Bible Giveaway for students, this would be a good lesson to use that week. When I've used this lesson for elementary students, one of my volunteer teachers or I taught the lesson during the Sunday School hour. Then, during the service, we called all of the students up to the front and presented them with Bibles.

I chose The Boys Bible for boys 3rd grade and above. It comes in a very inexpensive paperback edition or a sturdy hardcover. I chose the Girls Life Application Study Bible for girls 3rd grade and older. It's a little more expensive than the boys' choice, but both are worth the expense for the notes and the way they engage kids. After a Sunday School lesson like this, your students will hopefully be inspired to spend time reading the Bible themselves, and these study Bibles will make it even easier for them to get into the habit.

I would also encourage homeschool parents to present their children with one of these or a similar Bible to encourage their kids to start doing devotions on their own. You could use the following lesson as part of your family devotions or Christian teaching time and then give them their Bible. Part of their daily routine could be reading a passage of Scripture from their own Bible and writing a journal entry about what they learned.

I never wanted to leave any of the kids out, so if you want to get something for the younger children in your church, class, or home, I recommend The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible. It's not a Bible per se, and it's not a complete record of Scripture. It's a summary story of what happened in nearly 300 Bible stories. And the pictures are amazing. In fact, even if you don't gift one of these to each of your young ones, it would be worth having a copy for your classroom. As for accuracy to Scripture, it's spot on with no added commentary or possible biases from the author. It's simply easy to read Bible stories that a parent or teacher can read to their children. The reading level is perfect for students to practice reading by themselves once they start learning.

If you want to add something extra besides the Bibles or something instead of the Bibles, you could consider The Beginner's Bible Super Duper Mighty Activity Book. I like this one because it has activities that cover every section of the Bible, which is what you'll want. It also has a variety of activities: coloring pages, dot-to-dots, mazes, matching activities, different styles of word puzzles, comparison pages, and more that will help kids engage with the Bible stories. I wouldn't necessarily take church time to hand these out, but you could give them out at the end of the lesson and let kids get started on them if you have any time left.

# Why Do We Study the Bible?

*Use this Sunday School lesson about the Bible to teach kids what the Bible is.*

**Needed:** a children's fictional story book, Bibles, construction paper, ribbon, markers or crayons, stickers, hole punches

**Intro Game 1: Follow the Leader** – Class Teacher chooses a Leader. Students must follow the Leader in every way, going where they go and doing what they do. Play for a specified amount of time and then choose a new Leader. Play until everyone has had a chance to be Leader or until students lose interest. After the game, explain that today's lesson is about why we should study the Bible. When we study the Bible, we are learning how to play Follow the Leader. God and Jesus are our Leaders, and the Bible tells us everything we need to know to follow Them. The Bible tells us how we can live the way Jesus lived and how we can do the things that God is happy for us to do.

**Intro Game 2: Musical Chair Share** – Play Musical Chairs. Remove one chair. When the music stops, the person without a chair must say one true thing about themselves. Remove no more chairs. No one leaves the game. Play until interest fades. When the game is over, explain that the Bible is like the game students just played. They told true things about themselves in the game, and the Bible is the place where God tells us true things about Himself.

**Lesson:** (Note: Always allow students enough time to think about and answer the questions before clarifying the teaching.)

How many of you are in school?

Who knows why we go to school? Why do we study all those books that they give us? (To get a good job, to learn what we need to know.)

When you come to church, we also study a book. What book do we study? (The Bible.)

Who knows why we study the Bible?

The Bible is even more important than our school books because it tells us about God and Jesus. It tells us about how God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit love us and all the things that They have done for us, and it tells us not how we can get a good job, but how we can be saved and go to Heaven when we die. It tells us how we are supposed to live our lives now. It tells us what kind of people God wants us to be and the kinds of things that He wants us to do.

Those are pretty important things, aren't they? That's why study the Bible; to learn all those things.

(Show students a popular children's fiction book.) Who can tell me who wrote this book?

(Now, show them the Bible.) Who can tell me who wrote this book?

More than 40 people wrote the Bible, people like Moses and King David and Peter and Paul. It is a collection of books, a big book made up of a lot of smaller books. There are 66 books in the Bible. But those 40 different people weren't just making up the Bible from their own ideas, were they? They weren't just making up a story like this fiction book, right?

The people who wrote the Bible were writing true things, things that really happened. And they were writing the things that God gave them the idea to write about.

(Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

What does it mean for the Bible to be God-breathed? (It basically means that it comes from God. When the people were writing the Bible, God was talking to them and helping them to know what to write.)

(Read 2 Peter 1:20-21.)

“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

This verse again tells us that people wrote the Bible, but that God, the Holy Spirit, was giving people the ideas for what to write.

**Craft: Devotion Diaries** – If time allows, let children use construction paper, hole punches, ribbon, and craft supplies to make their own Devotion Diaries. Students will tie construction paper into a booklet with ribbon and then decorate the covers with markers, stickers, or whatever else you have available. Encourage students to take their booklets home and record Bible verses, prayers, and important things they learn about God in them.

# Creation and Adam and Eve

Here’s my collection of 4 Creation and Adam and Eve Sunday School lessons. They include object lessons, Bible stories, games, craft activities, a short service project you can do with your class, and a few recommended resources to enhance your sessions.

## Recommended Extras

You don't need anything extra to use the lessons. I will, however, provide some suggestions you might find helpful. You can use these resources in addition to or instead of the ideas I've provided.

Here are the resources I recommend for the entire series. I'll list story-specific resources at the end of each lesson.

The Animated Kid's Bible – a computer-animated series that will take you all the way through Genesis

The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible – for telling the stories with beautiful artwork and Biblical accuracy

The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Stories for Children – for telling the stories to younger children

Manga Comic Book: Mutiny – for your classroom or church library

My Big Book of Bible Heroes Devotional – a devotional to recommend for families or older students

Bible Fun Factory: Genesis 1-24 - Sharing my same ideals for focusing on the essentials of the faith, Mary Kate Warner delivers 5 lessons on the main stories of the first half of Genesis. The one on Creation includes original games and activities that you can use to lengthen the Sunday School lessons below.

# Why Did God Create the World?

*You can use this creation Sunday School lesson to 1) show children the wonder of what God made and 2) to express God's love to them in making them. God made us because He loves us!*

**Needed:** A large roll of paper or poster board and markers or crayons

**Lesson:** Ask students, How many of you have ever drawn a picture?

Think of the best picture you've ever drawn. What was it of?

Why did you draw that picture?

(As the teacher, tell a story about a time when you made something artistic and explain how you felt about creating it. If you still have it, bring it in to show.)

(Summarize Genesis 1, asking the following questions as you read.)

In the beginning, God created everything in six days. How many days did it take God to create everything? (Six days.)

That's pretty fast to create everything, isn't it? But remember that God is really powerful and He can do anything as quick as can be.

Well at first, everything was dark, but on the first day, God created the light. He said, "Let there be light!" and suddenly everything was bright. Then at nighttime, it got dark again.

On the second day, God made the sky.

The third day, He made the oceans, and all the dry ground came up out of the oceans. Show me with your hands what it would look like for the ground to rise up out of the oceans.

Then plants and trees started growing out of the ground and covering everything.

Then, on the fourth day, God made the sun and the moon and the stars. How many stars do you think there are in the sky?

Lots, right? There are more stars than we could ever count. And God made them all.

On day five, God made everything that lives in the water. What kinds of things can you think of that live in the water? (Fish, dolphins, whales, sharks, seals, seahorses, starfish, etc.)

Then, on that same day, God made all the different kinds of birds that fly in the sky. What are some of the different kinds of birds that you can name? (Pigeons, blue jays, robins, cardinals, eagles, hawks, crows, etc.)

On day six, God made all the animals that live on the land. What kinds of animals live on land? (Dinosaurs, bears, horses, dogs, pigs, lizards, lions, squirrels, etc.)

Then, after God made all those different kinds of animals, He made a man and a woman. The man was named Adam, and the woman was named Eve. God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and let them live there.

The question I want to ask you today is, Why do you think God made all those things? (He wanted to.)

Just like when you made your drawings that you told me about, and I made mine, God made what He made – people and animals and the whole world – because He wanted to. He created everything so that He could be proud of it and so that He could love it. God loves the world. He loves the mountains and the lakes and the animals, and He loves you.

The Bible tells us that God even made you when you were still inside your mother’s womb. He made you in there because He loves you and He wanted to make you.

**Closing Craft Activity:** Have students work together on a large piece of roll paper or poster board, drawing a collage of all their favorite things that God has made.

**Closing Prayer:** Father God, You created us and the whole world because You love us. Thank You for everything that You made. Help us to love You as You love us. Amen.

## Recommended Extras

Superbook: In the Beginning – an animated video from the updated Superbook series, includes time-traveling children who learn lessons from the story

God Creates the World – free short video summarizing creation

Through the Bible Series: Genesis – free coloring and activity pages

The Ministry-to-Children free lesson for Creation Day #1 has a great **game** called Flashlight Find. You'll turn off the lights and allow kids to find objects that you've hidden around the room. Use it to illustrate God's creation of light. The author also includes a fun way to memorize Genesis 1:1 with finger motions.

Another free **game** from the same site has kids acting like trees, different types of animals, and then snacking on some of the fruits and veggies God made.

Another **craft idea** from Ministry-to-Children has children drawing their own animals to help them appreciate God's creativity while they exercise their own creativity.

Creation Songs – follows the tune of well-known children's songs.

# Created to be Like God

*Use this creation Sunday School lesson to teach kids what it means to be made in God's image. They should come away with the idea that God is loving and always does what is right, so that's what He wants us to be like. God wants us to love Him and love other people as we always try to do the right things.*

**Needed:** drawing paper and markers or crayons

**Intro Craft Activity:** Give each student a piece of paper and some crayons and instruct them to draw a person as best as they can.

When finished, allow students to show their drawings to the class and compliment them on their work.

Ask, How did you know how to draw a person? (Suggest that we know how to draw people because we are people and because we've seen lots of people.)

Well, we were drawing people, but God made real people. Does anyone remember who the first two people were that God made? (Adam and Eve.)

(Read Genesis 1:26-27.)

"Then God said, 'Let Us make humans in Our image, in Our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created humans in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."

Who is God talking to when He says, "Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness…"? (He's talking to Jesus and the Holy Spirit.)

God made us to be like Himself and like Jesus and like the Holy Spirit. We knew how to draw a person because we are people and we knew how to

draw someone like ourselves. In the same way, God knew how to make us because He made us to be like Himself.

If God made us to be like Himself, let's try and think about what it means to be like God. What is God like? How would you describe Him?

(Lead students in thinking of different terms they could use to describe God. God's general attributes are that He is Spirit, He is eternal, He is everywhere, He knows everything, He can do anything, He is holy, He always loves, He always does what is right, He is merciful, He is generous, He is peaceful, He is creative, etc.)

(Help students see that we are like God in some ways, but not in others. For example, God is a Spirit, and we have a spirit, but God is powerful enough to do anything He wants, and we are not.)

What about love? Does God love? (Yes.)

Do you think God wants us to love? (Yes.)

One way that God wants us to be like Him is always to love Him and to love other people. If we love God and other people, we will be like God.

What about doing what is right? Does God always do what is right?

Do you think God could do something that's wrong? Could God sin?

Sure, He could. He could do something wrong if He wanted to. But the great thing about God is that He never wants to do anything wrong. He always wants and does the right thing.

Do you think God wants you to do the right things? (He does.)

If we will love God and love other people and do the right things that God wants us to do, then we will be like God and will be doing the things He made us to do.

**Closing Prayer:** God, You made us to be like You. Help us to be like You by always loving You and other people and by always do what is right. Amen.

# Male and Female

*Use this Adam and Eve Sunday School lesson to teach kids about the non-sexual differences between the sexes. In the end, they should understand that God made the genders different so that we can help each other.*

**Needed:** Bibles

**Intro Activity: Agree or Disagree?** – Have students line up in the middle of the room. The leader reads the following statements and the children move to the right side of the room if they agree with the statement, the left if they disagree, or stay in the middle if they're not sure. If time allows, give students time to explain their positions.

Men are better than women.
Women are better than men.
Men can do things better than women can.
Women can do things better than men can.
Men are smarter than women.
Women are smarter than men.
God likes men better.
God likes women better.
Men and women are equal.

**Lesson:** Read Genesis 2:7, 18, 21-23, asking the following questions as you read.

"The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being…The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone.'"

Why do you think it wouldn't be good for the man to be alone? (The man might get lonely with only the animals being there. He might need help doing something.)

So God said, "I will make a helper suitable for him…"

What did God say He was going to make for the man? (A helper.)

“So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man. The man said, ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called “woman”, for she was taken out of man.’”

How did God make the woman? (He took one of the man’s ribs and made the woman out of it.)

And what was the woman supposed to be for the man? (A helper.)

God made the man first, but then He made the woman to help the man. The man couldn’t do everything by himself. That’s because God made men to be good at some things, but not so good at other things. Can you think of some things men are good at?

Can you think of some things that men are not usually as good at?

So, then, God made the woman, and God made the woman to be good at some things and not so good at other things, just like the man. Can you think of some things that women are usually good at?

Can you think of some things that women are usually not as good at?

So, God made the woman to help the man at the things he’s not very good at, and the man can help the woman at the things she’s not very good at. Men are women are supposed to work together and help each other. God made us to all help each other.

**Closing Prayer:** God, You love all the men and women, boys and girls that You made the same. But You made them to be different too. Help us to understand the ways we’re different so that we can help each other like You want us to. Amen.

# Created as Stewards

*Use this Sunday School lesson to teach kids about caring for the creation. I've included a couple of games and an idea for a short service project at the end of the lesson to wrap up your time talking about creation.*

**Needed:** Bibles

**Lesson:** Tell students to imagine the following scenario: Pretend that you've just drawn the best picture you've ever done. You're so proud of it, and it's so good that you know you could never draw something that good again. So you take it to your mom or your dad, and you give it to them as a present. Now imagine that they take it from you, look at it, and then start tearing the picture up. How would that make you feel?

(Read Genesis 1:26-28.)

"Then God said, 'Let us make humans in Our image, in Our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created humans in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Ask, Who did God put in charge of the world? (Humans.)

(Read Genesis 2:15.)

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

What job did God give the man when He put him in the Garden of Eden? (God told the man to take care of the garden.)

Adam, the first man, was supposed to take care of everything in the Garden that God had made. He was in charge of all the plants and all the animals.

(Read Genesis 2:19-20.)

“Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.”

What did Adam get to do here? He got to name all the animals. All of the animals were Adam’s pets, and he got to name them all.

What do you think Adam and Eve and all the animals ate for their food?

(Read Genesis 1:29-30.)

“Then God said, ‘I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.’ And it was so.

So, what were the people and the animals supposed to eat? (Plants.)

Today, people and animals hunt and eat other animals. But that’s not the way it was when God created everything. When God created the first people and the animals, everything was nice to each other, and people and animals didn’t eat other animals.

God put Adam in charge of the world to take care of it. And God wants us to take care of the world, too. The Bible says that God has made the best thing He could, the world, and He’s given it to us for a present. But people don’t always take care of the world in the way that they should. Sometimes they destroy the world or hurt the animals that God made and that makes God sad and angry, just like you would be if someone tore up your best

drawing. Can you think of some things that people do that hurt the world or the animals? (Pollution, litter, hunting endangered animals, hunting animals or raising them for food, cutting down too many trees, etc.)

Can you think of some things that people do take care of the world? (Picking up trash, recycling, taking care of animals, not making pollution, car-pooling, riding the bus or their bikes, driving hybrid cars, etc.)

Let's all remember to do things that help take care of the world instead of hurting it, and God will be happy with us.

**Game: Adam's Zoo** – Pick one student to be the first guesser. Have them leave the room. Whisper to the other students what animal they all should pretend to be. Call the guesser back in to figure out what animal everyone is pretending to be.

**Game: What Am I?** – Tape names or pictures of animals on students' backs. They have to figure out what animal they are by asking each other yes or no questions.

**Optional Activity: Litterbug Chase** –Take kids to a littered field or park. Have teams race to collect the most cans, the oldest paper item, and the biggest piece of trash.

**Closing Prayer**: God, we thank You for everything that You made. You made the sun and the plants and the animals and the whole world and gave it to us to take care of. Help us to take care of the world the way You want us to. Amen.

# The Fall

Here’s my Sunday School lesson on the Fall from Genesis 3. The lesson includes a drama to read with your class, 2 object lesson activities, and 2 games. I’ve also included some links to other resources or ideas you can use to personalize your lesson time.

The Fall is an incredibly important story for building kids’ awareness of why the world isn’t as perfect as God intended. When you teach, I’d encourage you to emphasize the tragedy of Adam and Eve’s decision to disobey God. When we don’t listen to God in our own lives, it only hurts us in the end. God wants what’s best for us, and He helps us show us what’s best by giving us His rules.

# The Story of the Fall

*Use this Sunday School lesson about the Fall to help kids think through the events of the Fall and the salvation that Jesus gives to us.*

**Needed:** candy or treats; a potato or another object to pass around; a ripped up dollar bill, a crumbled up cookie, or a similar broken prize (Optional: a copy of the script for each of your characters, included after the leader's guide)

**Intro Activity:** Have a bowl of candy or other treats sitting out in plain view. In secret, ask your assistant (another adult) to tell children not to eat the candy, no matter what.

Then, you contradict what that person said. Tell the children they can have it. Talk to them about how good candy tastes and tempt them to take some. You'll return to this predicament after the lesson.

**Lesson:** Ask students, Can any of you think of a time when your parents made a rule or told you not to do something?

What did they tell you not to do?

Have any of you ever broken one of those rules that your parents gave you?

What happened when you broke the rule? Did your parents punish you? Did you feel bad about breaking the rule?

(The leader should also tell a story about a time when they broke a rule and got in trouble for it.)

(Act out the following play with your students, asking questions about the lesson as you go. You can give your student characters a script and let them read their lines, or you can narrate the entire script yourself and simply instruct students to mime the appropriate actions as you go.)

**Characters:** Narrator (Leader), God, Adam, Eve, Snake

Based on Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17; 3:1-24:

**Narrator:** The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. (Adam is lying on the ground with his eyes closed, God forms Adam like Play-Doh and then breathes on him, Adam wakes up and stands)

Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden (God is planting a garden); and there He put the man he had formed (God puts Adam in the garden). God later also made a woman for the man, and she was in the garden too. (God puts Eve in garden) And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food (God makes trees grow, pushing up with His hands). In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (God displays the two trees in the middle of the garden). The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and to take care of it. (God points to the plants in the garden, motioning for Adam and Eve to take care of them) And the LORD God commanded the man,

**God**: You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it, you will surely die. (God leaves)

**Teacher:** What did God tell Adam and Eve not to do? (He told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)

And what was going to be their punishment if they did? (They were going to die.)

Why do you think God told them not to eat from that tree? Why would God put that tree in the Garden with them if He didn't want them to eat from it?

God wanted to test Adam and Eve to see if they would obey what God said. That's why He told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good

and evil. Sometimes, God tells us to do or not to do things to test us, to see if we will obey Him.

**Narrator**: Now the snake (Snake enters) was more crafty and more tricky than any of the other animals the LORD God had made. The snake said to the woman,

**Snake**: Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden”?

**Narrator**: The woman said to the snake,

**Eve**: We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, “You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.”

**Snake**: You will not die,

**Narrator**: the snake said to the woman.

**Snake**: For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

**Narrator**: When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. (Eve takes a piece of fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and eats it) She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. (Eve takes another piece of fruit from the tree and gives it to Adam. Adam eats it.)

**Teacher:** Who told Eve to eat the fruit? (A snake.)

Who was that snake? (The devil, disguised as a snake.)

**Narrator**: Then Adam and Eve realized they were naked (Adam and Eve trying to cover up); so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. (Adam and Eve sewing leaves together) Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden

in the cool of the day, (God walking up, Adam and Eve scared, they stop sewing their leaves together) and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Adam and Eve hiding from God) They knew that they had done something wrong and they felt bad about it. They felt guilty. But the LORD God called to the man,

**God**: Where are you?

**Teacher:** Do you think God really didn't know where Adam and Eve were?

God knows everything. Adam and Eve couldn't hide from God and neither can we. God is always with us, and He sees everything we do.

**Narrator**: Adam answered,

**Adam**: I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.

**Narrator**: And God said,

**God**: Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?

**Teacher:** Did God know that Adam and Eve had eaten the fruit? (Yes. God knows everything.)

So why did God ask them about it if He already knew?

God wanted to give them a chance to confess and admit what they had done. God always wants us to admit what we have done, too. God knows everything that we do, but He wants us to pray and confess what we've done and ask for forgiveness.

**Narrator**: Adam said,

**Adam**: The woman You put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.

**Narrator**: Then the LORD God said to the woman,

**God**: What is this you have done?

**Narrator**: Eve said,

**Eve**: The snake deceived me, and I ate.

**Narrator**: So the LORD God said to the serpent,

**God**: Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly, and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put hate between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.

**Teacher:** What did God do to punish the snake? (God made the snake slither on its belly, and He made it so that people wouldn't like snakes anymore and so that snakes wouldn't like people.)

**Narrator**: To the woman God said,

**God**: I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

**Teacher:** What did God to punish the woman? (God made it painful for women to have children. He also made men to be in charge of women.)

**Narrator**: To Adam God said,

**God**: Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the

ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

**Narrator**: And God made Adam and Eve leave the Garden of Eden. He made two angels with flashing swords stand guard at the entrance to the Garden and block Adam and Eve or anyone else from ever going into the Garden again.

**Teacher:** What did God do to punish Adam? (God made it harder for Adam to grow food. He made it so that they had to leave the Garden of Eden and never come back, and He made it so that Adam and Eve would eventually die.)

You remember that was what God told them would happen. He warned them that if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would die. They weren't going to die right away, but they were going to die.

Did you know that if Adam and Eve had never broken God's rule, they never would have died? They would have lived forever! But they did break God's rule, and we all break God's rules sometimes and do wrong things, and that's why we all eventually die. Death is a punishment for the wrong things we do.

But if we believe in Jesus, we don't have to stay dead, do we? If we believe in Jesus, we will go to Heaven when we die, and then, God will bring us back to life when Jesus comes back to Earth.

**Resolving the Intro Activity:** If the children resisted your temptations, congratulate them on doing better than Adam and Eve did when faced with temptation.

If they gave in, tell them that the same thing happened to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Say, God told Adam and Eve not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, just like you were told not to eat the candy, but then what happened?

Then Satan, the devil, appeared as a snake and tempted Eve to eat from the tree, just like I was tempting you to eat the candy.

You're not going to get in trouble today for eating the candy, but Adam and Eve did get in a lot of trouble. God made them leave the Garden of Eden for disobeying Him, and He made it so that they would get old and die someday. If they hadn't eaten from the tree, they would have lived in the Garden of Eden forever.

But Satan tempted them to do wrong, and Satan tempts us to do wrong things too, so we have to be careful and know when we're being tempted. That way, we can resist temptation so that we don't get in trouble as Adam and Eve did. We want God to be proud of us and happy with us when we resist temptation.

**Game: Hot Potato** - Have students stand in a circle. Give the potato to one child and have him pass it to their right, around the circle, as fast as they can while you time them for 30 seconds or so. The child holding the potato after 30 seconds is caught with it. Play a few times.

After the game, say Adam and Eve did something they shouldn't have done, didn't they? And then, when God asked them about it, they started blaming other people. Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the snake. They were passing the blame around just like we were passing that hot potato. Why do you think Adam and Eve wanted to blame someone else when they got in trouble?

No one likes to get into trouble. It's always easier to try to blame someone else. But did it work when Adam and Eve tried to blame someone else, or did they still get in trouble anyway?

They still got in trouble and were punished for disobeying God. Blaming someone else didn't work. And it doesn't work for us either. God knows everything we do. He knows when we do something wrong, and He won't believe us when we try to blame someone else. If we do something wrong, we are responsible for it.

What do you think God wants you to do when you do something wrong?

The great thing about God is that if we take responsibility for our sin instead of blaming someone else, and ask God to forgive us, He will! God loves us and will always forgive us if we ask Him to. We just have to take responsibility for our sin and pray for God to forgive us for it.

**Game: Satan's Lies** - Ask for a volunteer to do something silly, like stand on their head or "oink" like a pig for 5 seconds. Tell them that if they do it, you'll give them (a dollar, a cookie, etc.).

Being kids, you'll probably have a number of them wanting to volunteer for the silly action. If you want, you can crumble multiple cookies and promise them all cookies for doing activities. Just tell them that they will all receive their cookies after everyone has done the activity who wants to.

Then give them all crumbled up cookies. When they complain, tell them that you promised them a cookie and you gave them a cookie. You never told them that the cookie would be in good condition.

Say something like, And that's kind of what happened to Adam and Eve in the Bible.

Did Satan, the snake, promise to give Eve something good if she ate the fruit she wasn't supposed to?

Was she happy after she ate the fruit?

It was kind of like Satan promised her something good, just like I offered you a cookie, but when she got it, it wasn't as good as she thought it would be.

Satan always does that. He tries to tempt us to do things that are wrong, and he makes it sound like doing wrong things is fun or will give us something that we want, but then if we do the wrong thing, we just feel bad about it.

So remember Satan's trick. If he wants you to do something wrong, it will never be something you feel good about afterward. So don't do it. Tell Satan you know his trick and that you won't do the wrong thing he's tempting you to do. It's that easy!

**Closing Prayer:** Father God, we are sorry for the wrong things that we do. We pray that when we do something wrong, You will help us not to blame other people, but just to ask You to forgive us. Amen.

## Recommended Extras

A is for Adam – Co-written by Ken Ham, the founder of Answers in Genesis, telling the entire Gospel from Genesis to the New Creation and includes additional activity ideas that you can use in Sunday School or at home

Fall of Man –a free object lesson about how our choices affect other people

What Happened in the Garden? – free coloring page and dot-to-dot

The Fall of Man – free coloring and activity pages

# The Story of the Fall (Student Script)

**Characters**: Narrator (Leader), God, Adam, Eve, Snake

**Narrator**: The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. (Adam is lying on the ground with his eyes closed, God forms Adam like play-doh and then breathes on him, Adam wakes up and stands)

Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden (God is planting a garden); and there He put the man he had formed (God puts Adam in the garden). God later also made a woman for the man, and she was in the garden too. (God puts Eve in garden) And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food (God makes trees grow, pushing up with His hands). In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (God displays the two trees in the middle of the garden). The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (God points to the plants in the garden, motioning for Adam and Eve to take care of them) And the LORD God commanded the man,

**God**: You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it, you will surely die. (God leaves)

**Narrator**: Now the snake (Snake enters) was more crafty and more tricky than any of the other animals the LORD God had made. The snake said to the woman,

**Snake**: Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden”?

**Narrator**: The woman said to the snake,

**Eve**: We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, “You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you

must not touch it, or you will die.”

**Snake**: You will not die,

**Narrator**: the snake said to the woman.

**Snake**: For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

**Narrator**: When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. (Eve takes a piece of fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and eats it) She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. (Eve takes another piece of fruit from the tree and gives it to Adam. Adam eats it.)

Then Adam and Eve realized they were naked (Adam and Eve trying to cover up); so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. (Adam and Eve sewing leaves together) Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, (God walking up, Adam and Eve scared, they stop sewing their leaves together) and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Adam and Eve hiding from God) They knew that they had done something wrong and they felt bad. They felt guilty. But the LORD God called to the man,

**God**: Where are you?

**Narrator**: Adam answered,

**Adam**: I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.
**Narrator**: And God said,

**God**: Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?

**Narrator**: Adam said,

**Adam**: The woman You put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.

**Narrator**: Then the LORD God said to the woman,

**God**: What is this you have done?

**Narrator**: The woman said,

**Eve**: The snake deceived me, and I ate.

**Narrator**: So the LORD God said to the serpent,

**God:** Because you have done this, cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly, and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put hate between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.

**Narrator**: To the woman God said,

**God**: I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.

**Narrator**: To Adam God said,

**God**: Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

**Narrator**: And God made Adam and Eve leave the Garden of Eden. He made two angels with flashing swords stand guard at the entrance to the Garden to block Adam and Eve or anyone else from ever going into the Garden again.

# Cain and Abel

Here's my lesson on the "fall out" from the Fall with a story about Adam and Eve's very different sons, Cain and Abel. The object lesson and story game at the end will help them connect the Biblical lesson to their lives. And if you're looking for more resources on how to expand this lesson or for alternate activity ideas, scroll through my list of Recommended Resources.

If you haven't already talked about Creation and the Fall, do that first. Cain's actions in this story don't make sense until we see how the world was supposed to be and why it changed.

# Cain and Abel

*Use this Cain and Abel children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids about envy and giving their best to God.*

**Needed:** A twenty-dollar bill (or something comparable)

**Intro Activity:** Pull out a $20 bill and hand it to one of your students. Be as dramatic with this as possible. Watch everyone react for a moment and refuse to give anyone else any money. Then ask the student to return your money and ask the class, How did it make you feel when I gave one student that money but didn't give you any?

Who knows what the word "evny" means? (It means wanting something that someone else has.)

You probably all wanted that twenty-dollar bill, right?

But we can be envious of lots of things. Have you ever wanted a toy or a cool-looking shirt or something that someone else had? Or maybe your brother or sister got a treat or something that you didn't, and you wished that thing was yours. Maybe someone got a good grade on their test in school, and you were mad at them because you didn't get a good grade. Maybe you saw someone with a really nice house, and you wished it was your house. Or you saw a girl who you thought was really pretty and you wished you were that pretty. Those are all examples of wanting what someone else has. That's what it means to be envious.

In our story today, an older brother is envious of a younger brother.

**Lesson:** Read the summary of Genesis 4:1-18 below, asking the included questions as you read.

After God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, Eve gave birth to two boys. The older one was named Cain, and the younger one was named

Abel. As Cain grew up, he became a farmer. Abel grew up and became a shepherd, taking care of his sheep and lambs.

Cain would often bring some of the fruit or vegetables that he was growing on his farm and give it to God as an offering. But when Cain gave his offering, God was not happy with it. God did not like Cain's offering.

Why do you think God didn't like what Cain brought Him?

God did like Abel's offering, though, because Abel would bring God the best new lambs from his flock and give them to God. So God was very pleased with Abel's offering.

Why did God like Abel's offering of the lamb, but didn't like Cain's offering of the fruits and vegetables?

It's because Cain only brought God some of what he was growing on his farm. Abel brought God the best of his animals. Maybe Cain wasn't giving God the best of his fruits and vegetables. Maybe he was only giving God the rotten ones. Maybe Cain didn't really want to give God any of his things and Abel did want to. Either way, Abel was giving God his best and Cain was not giving God his best. God always deserves the best from us.

So Cain was angry and envioous that God accepted Abel's offering but didn't accept his. And God said to Cain, "Why are you angry? If you do what is right, I will accept you."

But Cain wouldn't listen to God. He didn't want to do what was right. Instead, he went to his brother Abel and said, "C'mon, Abel. Let's go take a walk in my farm field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Then God said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

Do you think God really didn't know where Abel was? (No. God knows everything. He knew exactly what Cain had done.)

So why do you think God asked Cain where Abel was if He already what had happened?

God was giving Cain the chance to confess and say he was sorry for what he had done. God knows everything we do, but He wants us to confess it to Him and say we’re sorry.

But Cain replied, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

Then God said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

What is God making Cain’s punishment to be?

He is making Cain leave the place where he lives and go live somewhere else away from his family, away from Adam and Eve. And God is making it so that Cain can’t be a farmer anymore. God says that the ground won’t grow any more food for Cain. He’ll have to go find it instead of growing it.

Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

What is Cain afraid of? (Someone killing him.)

Why would someone want to kill Cain? (Because he killed Abel. Maybe someone wants to punish Cain for what he did.)

But God said to Cain, "Not so. If anyone kills you, Cain, I will punish that person seven times as bad as I’m punishing you." Then God put a mark on Cain (like a tattoo maybe), warning anyone who found him not to kill him.

So Cain moved away from his home and from Adam and Eve and lived with his wife in the land of Nod. He built a city there and named it Enoch,

after the name of his first son.

**Game: Alex and Alicia** – Help kids see what the right choices are for each of these imaginary situations.

So, God wasn't happy with Cain's offering at the beginning of the story because Cain didn't give God his best. What are some ways that we can give God our best?

Let's think about a couple of stories about a boy and a girl named Alex and Alicia, and see if we can decide how they can give God their best.

**Story #1: Jimmy the Bully.** Alex has a classmate at school named Jimmy. Jimmy can be nice sometimes, but a lot of times, he's mean to Alex. One day, Jimmy was walking by Alex's desk, and he knocked Alex's art project on the floor on purpose. That made Alex very angry. He wanted to stand up and push Jimmy and call him a bad name.

What should Alex do to give God his best in this situation? (Alex shouldn't push Jimmy or call him names. He should try to calm down and tell the teacher what happened.)

**Story #2: Alicia Tries to Read the Bible.** Alicia loves God. She's been going to Sunday School and church, and she wants to start spending time reading her Bible and praying by herself every day at home. She tried reading her Bible and praying before school, but she didn't have enough time before she had to get ready. She tried to read her Bible and pray when she got home from school, but her favorite TV shows were on then. She tried to read her Bible and pray right before she went to bed, but she was too tired.

What should Alicia do to give God her best in this situation? (Alicia can get up earlier so that she has more time in the morning, or she can skip one of her favorite TV shows to spend time with God, or she can start reading and praying before it's bedtime so that we won't be too tired.)

**Story #3: The Case of the Missed Baseball Game.** Alex usually likes going to Sunday and School church. But one Sunday he didn't want to. You see, Alex played baseball on a team, and his team had a game at the same time the church service was! He told his mom that he didn't want to miss the game, so his mom told him that he was old enough to decide if he wanted to go to church and miss the game or skip church and play in the baseball game.

What should Alex do to give God his best in this situation? (Alex should skip the game and go to church. God is more important than playing baseball, and God will reward Alex's good decision for giving God his best.)

**Story #4: To Give or Not to Give?** Alicia had a great birthday. Her friends gave her presents. Her parents bought her a bike. And her grandma gave her $100 to spend however she wanted to. Now, Alicia is in the church service, and people are putting money into the offering plate. Alicia was planning to spend all of her money at the store, but now she thinks that maybe she should put some of it in the offering.

What should Alicia do to give God her best in this situation? (Alicia should give some of her money as an offering to God. When we give God some of our money, we're thanking Him for all the things He gives us and helping the church help other people with our money.)

**Story #5: Alicia's Brand New Bike.** Alex is Alicia's cousin. He went to her house after church and Alicia showed him the new bike her parents bought for her birthday. When Alex saw the new bike, he felt very envious because his bike was old. He felt angry at Alicia for having a new bike when he didn't.

What should Alex do to give God his best in this situation? (Alex should be happy for Alicia that he got a new bike and not worry about how his bike is older than hers. God wants us to be happy with what we have and happy for other people when something good happens to them.)

**Story #6: Alex's Championship Game.** Later that night was Alex's final baseball game of the season. If his team won, they would get to play in the championships. If they lost, they would have to wait until next season to play again. The score was tied, and Alex was up to bat. He was very nervous, but he hit the ball all the way into left field! He ran a home run, and the crowd went wild. "Yay, Alex!" everyone cried. But Alicia just sat in her seat. She was very envious of the attention everyone was giving Alex.

What should Alicia do to give God her best in this situation? (Alicia should be happy for Alex that he scored a point for his team. People will give her attention another time. God wants us to be happy for other people when something good happens to them.)

If Cain would have given God his best, God would have been happy with him. But instead, Cain made the wrong choice. Then, when God was happy with Abel for giving God his best, Cain was envious. We should always remember to give God our best and not be envious of the good things that happen to other people.

**Closing Prayer:** God, we thank You for this story about Cain and Abel. We pray that You'll always help us to give You our best and not be envious when good things happen to other people.

## Recommended Extras

Cain and Abel – free coloring and activity pages

# Enoch Disappears!

Before we get to Noah, there's an interesting story about one of his ancestor in Genesis 5. Enoch was a man who walked with God and got to Heaven without dying! How can we not want to spend some time talking about a person like that? More than being simply an interesting story, Enoch shows us what it means to have an intimate relationship with God, and what our final reward will be for a life of faithfulness.

# Enoch Disappears!

*Use this Sunday School lesson about Enoch to teach kids the importance of having a personal relationship with God and about what our final reward will be.*

**Needed:** Bibles, random objects, trash bags or strings to tie children's legs together

**Intro Game: "What's Missing?"** Place a variety of objects on the table or around the room. Have students close their eyes, and then take one of the objects and put it in your pocket or outside the room. Have students open their eyes and guess what's missing. Give them hints if they can't figure it out. The first student to correctly guess what was missing then gets to take the next object. Play until everyone has had a turn taking an object or as long as time allows.

**Lesson:** We were taking objects out of the room and pretending that they were disappearing. Do you think a person could ever disappear like that?

(Read Genesis 5:21-24.)

"When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away."

(Read Hebrews 11:5.)

"By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God."

What happened to Enoch? (God took him away. He disappeared. People were looking for him, but God took him away and made him disappear.)

Where do you think God took Enoch? (To Heaven.)

Why do you think God took Enoch? What was so special about Enoch that he got to go to Heaven?

The Bible verses we read said that Enoch was a man who walked with God, and had faith, and pleased God. That means Enoch was friends with God and did all the right things that God wanted him to. That made God happy, and God took Enoch to Heaven.

Do you think we can be God's friends and do what God wants us to do?

What are some things we can do to be God's friends and learn what He wants us to do? (Read the Bible, go to church, pray, etc.)

Why do you think it's important to read our Bibles if we want to be God's friend?

When we read our Bible, we're reading God's words to us. He told the people what to write so that we can learn what God wants to say to us. And if we want to be God's friend, we have to know and listen to what He says.

Why is important to pray to God if we want to be God's friend?

When we read our Bible, we're listening to what God said to us, but when we pray, God listens to what we say to Him. God cares about us, and He wants us to tell Him about what's happening our lives. God is our friend. And sometimes, God will help us with a problem that we tell Him about. Other times He just wants us to talk to Him.

Why is it important to go to church if we want to be God's friend?

When we go to church, God teaches through other people. We also get to help other people be better friends with God by praying for them and encouraging them.

If we do those things and if we really are God's friend like Enoch was, then God will take us to Heaven one day, and we will live with Him forever and ever.

**Game: Walking with God** – Have students pair up side by side and put one of each of their legs in a trash bag or tie them together to set up for a three-legged race. Mark a start and finish line. If kids fall down, make them start over.

**Round 1. Cooperation.** The Bible said Enoch walked with God. You can imagine two friends taking a walk and talking together side by side. So, we're going to practice walking with someone else. The team who walks together the best to the finish line wins. That means that you'll need to work together and walk slowly this time.

**Round 2. Speed.** But sometimes, things in life are happening very quickly, and we still need to be able to walk with God when things get busy. This time, the first team to get to the finish line first wins. But, remember, if you fall down, you have to start back at the beginning.

**Round 3. Hopping.** And sometimes, life is crazy, but God is always right there with us. So, this time, you're going to walk with God by jumping together to the finish line.

**Round 4. Crab Walking.** And sometimes, life is really hard. Things happen, and we get sad, but God is still with us through those hard times. So, this time, I want you to walk like a crab with your partner to the finish line.

When we walk with God in life, we will eventually get to the finish line. The finish line that we're all going for is Heaven. God might not take us away like He took Enoch, but when we die, God will take us to be with Him in Heaven.

If time allows, you can have the students pair up with another teammate and repeat the rounds.

**Closing Prayer:** God, we thank You that You are our friend and that You want us to be with You in Heaven. We pray that You will help us to be friends with You. Help us to read our Bibles and pray so that we can talk to You. And help us always to want to go to church so that we can learn about You and help other people to be friends with You. Amen.

# Noah’s Ark and the Flood

What an exciting opportunity you have to teach children the truth this week. To help you do that, here are the lessons I’ve used to teach kids about Noah’s Ark and the Flood.

Then, we get to faithful Noah, who built a huge boat even though it had never rained before! But Noah wasn’t perfect. He made a mistake after the Flood that caused his family big problems.

These lessons about the Flood and Noah’s mistake include object lessons, games, interactive storytelling, and a snack idea. You’ll find some extras that you can add to the lesson inexpensively or for free that will help you extend your teaching on Noah and the Flood.

It’s important to note that the story of the Flood is a tragedy. Whereas we can celebrate God’s faithfulness in saving Noah and his family, we can’t overlook the fact that everyone else died as a punishment for their sin. The account gives us the opportunity to talk about the consequences of our sin and how Jesus saves us from the ultimate penalty. The story also shows God’s emotions, which can lead to a very informative discussion on our emotions as humans made in God’s image.

This collection has some heavy ideas to teach, but you can do it! The Lord is with you, mighty teacher.

# Noah's Ark and the Flood

*Use this Noah's Ark and the Flood children's Sunday School lesson to show kids why Noah was saved and how we can be too.*

**Needed:** Bibles, Legos or building blocks of some kind, a picture of a rainbow, Bingo sheets and animal crackers

**Intro Activity:** Build a couple of simple objects out of building blocks beforehand. A tower, wall, or small house would work well.

When the children come in, give them some blocks and show them your example. Ask them to build the same thing, just like you did.

Do the same thing with your second object.

When they're finished, say something like, Now that you're all expert block builders, I have an assignment for you. I want you to build a boat that is 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Do you think you can do that? Can you make a boat that big?

Well, we're not actually going to make a boat that big, but one man and his family did.

**Lesson:** Summarize Genesis 6-8 using the Bible story below and asking the included questions as you read.

God saw that all the people had become wicked and that they only thought about bad things all the time. It made God sad, and He was sorry that He had made people on the earth. He said, "I will destroy everyone and everything on the earth because I am sad that I made them."

Why was God sad that He had made people? (Because all the people were doing bad things and thinking bad things.)

Can you believe that God was sad? Did you know that God gets sad sometimes?

God does get sad. The Bible tells us that God also gets mad. He's not always happy. If God gets sad and mad, do you think it's okay for us feel those ways sometimes?

God never does anything wrong. So if it's not wrong for God to feel bad about something or to get angry, then it's not wrong for us to feel sad and angry. We just have to be careful what we do when we feel those ways.

Everyone, pretend to be God and act sad about the wrong things people were doing.

So, God felt sad about all the wrong things people were doing. What was God going to do about that?

He was going to destroy everything that lived on the earth. He was going to kill all the people and all the animals too. Remember that God made everything, so He can destroy it if He wants to.

But Noah found favor with God. Noah was a righteous man, who walked with God.

What does it mean to be righteous?

If you're righteous, it means that you have a good relationship with God and that you always try to do the right things.

Everyone, pretend to be Noah and give me your biggest smile. Noah was happy because he was in a right relationship with God.

So, because Noah had a good relationship with God and because he did the right things that God wanted him to do, God was happy with Noah. God told Noah what He was about to do. "I am going to flood the earth," God said, "and I am going to destroy everyone and everything on it because they have all become wicked. But you, build an ark. It will be a very large boat

that you and your wife and your sons and their wives can go into, and then you will not drown like everyone else when I flood the earth. Also, I will bring a few of every kind of animal to you, and you are to put them on the ark with you so that you can keep some of every kind of animal alive and safe from the flood."

Then God told Noah how to build the Ark-boat and Noah did everything that God told him to do.

Everyone pretend that you're building a really big boat. Cut the boards. Hammer the nails into the boards.

Noah made the ark because God told him to. Would you do something if God told you to do it?

How can we find out what God wants us to do?

We can find out what God wants us to do by reading our Bibles, and praying, and coming to church. That's how God tells us what He wants us to do.

Everyone, pretend that you're reading your Bible. Now, pretend you're praying. Now, pretend you're in church.

When the Ark-boat was finished, God told Noah and his family and some of every kind of animal to go onto the boat. Then God made it rain very hard for forty days and forty nights.

Everyone, make the sound of rain coming down.

It rained so much, and the water got so high all over the earth that even the tops of the mountains were covered with water! And everyone and everything on the earth drowned.

It was a very sad time because everyone died. They didn't listen to God, and so God had to punish them by flooding the world.

Everyone, make a sad face for the people who died.

But Noah and his family and the animals with him were safe on the Ark-boat.

Everyone, make a happy face that Noah and the animals were safe.

Finally, after one hundred and fifty days, the water started to go back down, and the Ark-boat that Noah and his family and the animals with them were on came to rest on a mountain called Mount Ararat.

Everyone, pretend that you're in a boat and that it just landed on a mountain.

Then God said, "Noah, you and your family and the animals with you can come out of the ark. It's safe now."

Everyone, cheer that Noah and the animals made it safely through the Flood.

So, Noah and his family and the animals with them came out of the ark and spread out again all over the earth. And Noah thanked God for saving him and his family in the Ark-boat.

Everyone, pretend to be Noah and thank God for saving you from the Flood.

And God put a rainbow in the sky, promising, "I will never flood the whole earth again." (Show your picture of a rainbow.)

God said that He would never flood the whole earth again, but does that mean that God won't destroy everything again? (No.)

(Read 1 Peter 3:7.)

"By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly."

God isn't going to flood the whole world again, but this verse tells us that He is going to destroy it again. What does this verse say God will use to destroy the world? (Fire.)

The Bible says that at the end of the world, God will destroy everyone who is evil, and everything, with fire coming down from Heaven. Just like He did with the flood, God will destroy everyone who is bad and thinks about bad things.

But what can we do to escape that fire and not be destroyed?

We can be like Noah. We can believe in God and have a good relationship with God and do the right things that God wants us to do. Then, God will save us from the fire, and we will live forever with Him.

**Game and Snack: Ark Animals Bingo** – Create Bingo Cards using the names of different animals that might have been on the ark. Use animal crackers as the markers. Put all the animal crackers on a plate in the middle of the table. When you call an animal's name, kids will grab an animal cracker from the middle to put on their card. Tell them that their goal as they're marking their card is to make matches with their animal crackers because God told Noah to take two of every kind of animal on the ark. When you're finished with the game, kids can eat some of the animal crackers.

Some ideas for animals include Dog, Cat, Horse, Rhino, Monkey, Dove, Pigeon, Giraffe, Elephant, Lion, Lizard, Snake, and Camel.

**Closing Prayer:** God, we thank You that You saved Noah from the Flood and that You will save us when You destroy the world again. Help us to be friends with You like Noah was and always do the right things. Amen.

## Recommended Extras

The Greatest Adventure Stories from the Bible: Noah's Ark – animated video with time-traveling teenagers who witness the Biblical story, realistic art style

N is for Noah – also co-written by Ken Ham, the founder of Answers in Genesis (also available: the N is for Noah Coloring Book)

Noah's Ark Coloring Page – four-panel summary of the story

On the Ark – free coloring and activity pages

Tissue Paper Rainbow – craft idea in which children cut out colored pieces of tissue paper and paste or tape them into a rainbow pattern

# Noah's Big Mistake

Use this children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids about the dangers of alcohol and the need to be forgiving when others make a mistake.

**Game: Try Not to Laugh** – Make funny faces at the kids. The first one that laughs has to get up and make funny faces at the group. Keep playing until everyone has had a chance to stand up. If some are good at not laughing, call on them to make faces.

After the game, say, It's fun to laugh at other people when they're being silly and they want you to laugh at them. But it's mean to laugh at people when they make a mistake. We're going to talk today about a son who laughed at his father when his father made a mistake.

**Lesson:** Ask students, What do you think? Are Christians allowed to drink alcohol – beer and wine and things like that?

What happens if somebody drinks too much alcohol?

They can get drunk and make bad decisions. They can get sick and throw up. They can become addicted to alcohol and spend too much time and money on drinking instead of doing other things that God wants them to do. Sometimes, they can even get mean and hurt other people.

In our story today, we're going to find out what happened when someone in the Bible drank too much alcohol.

(Summarize Genesis 9:18-29 using this Bible story and asking the included questions as you read.)

After Noah and his family and the animals with them came off the Ark after the Flood, Noah started a farm and planted some grapes. When the grapes were ready, he took some of them and mashed them up into grape juice. Then he let the grape juice sit and get old for a while and, eventually, it turned into wine.

Noah drank the wine, and he drank so much that he got drunk and was lying naked inside his tent!

What mistake did Noah make in this story? (He got drunk.)

And when Noah got drunk, what embarrassing thing did he do? (He took off all his clothes and laid around naked.)

Noah's son, Ham, saw his father, Noah, lying there naked in the tent and he thought it was so funny. He went out and told his two brothers, Shem and Japheth, "Dad's sleeping in the tent naked!" And Ham made fun of Noah.

Do you think Ham should have made fun of Noah? (No. God doesn't want us to make fun of anyone, and we should especially show respect for our parents.)

So Shem and Japheth, Noah's other sons, walked in backward and laid a blanket over Noah so that no one else would see him naked.

Do you think that was a nice thing that Shem and Japheth did for Noah? (Yes. They didn't make fun of Noah when he made a mistake, like their brother, Ham, did. Instead, they helped Noah by covering him up.)

So when Noah woke up, he yelled at Ham for making fun of him, but he was happy with Shem and Japheth.

Remember, God doesn't want us to get drunk because He doesn't want us to make mistakes as Noah did. And God doesn't want us to make fun of other people, either. We should be like Shem and Japheth and help people when they make a mistake, not make fun of them.

Does God make fun of us when we make a mistake? (No.)

God helps us when we make a mistake. He helps us say we're sorry and He helps us not to make those mistakes again.

So, if we help people when they make a mistake as Shem and Japheth did, then God will be happy with us.

**Game: Try Not to Laugh (Take 2)** – Hold the ultimate silly tournament. Students pair up and make funny faces at each other simultaneously. The first one to laugh is out. The other pairs up with another winner until you find the one child who is the best at not laughing.

Remind students that sometimes we have to keep ourselves from laughing so that we don't hurt someone else's feelings.

**Closing Prayer:** God, thank You for warning us about the dangers of drinking too much alcohol. We also thank You for teaching us how not to laugh when someone makes a mistake. Instead, show us how we can help someone when they make a mistake. Amen.

# The Tower of Babel

In this lesson on the Tower of Babel, you'll play games, pull a little trick on the kids, and do a simple craft that will have your students thinking big ideas. The point of the lesson is to remind us to be humble and make us think about how we can reach out to other people who speak different languages.

And, if you're looking for more ideas or some take-home activities, see my Recommended Extras. We're all on the same team in ministry, so I love sharing the good work of others.

# The Tower of Babel

*Use this Tower of Babel children's Sunday School lesson to teach kids to be humble and how to serve people in different parts of the world.*

**Needed:** Charade cards, Charade cards printed in another language (you can use Google Translate to get an approximate translation of the phrases you enter), a picture of a world map, drawing paper, crayons or colored pencils or markers

**Game: Charades** – Prepare a number of charade cards beforehand with familiar words or phrases written on them. The leader should start the game by silently acting out one of the words or phrases. The first student to guess what you're acting then takes the next card and becomes the next actor. Play until everyone has had a turn to act or as long as time allows. After the game, point out that it's hard to get someone to know what you're talking about when you can't speak to them. It would have been much easier if the actors could have just said what their word was.

**Round 2** – Tell students that you're going to make things easier. Instead of the actor acting out the word or phrase on their card, they're just going to show it to the class. The first person to read the card wins. Give a couple of students a card printed in your language and watch the children race to call out the words. Then, give them one written in a foreign language. When they can't guess what it says, pretend as if you don't know what the problem is. As you "catch on," explain that the word or phrase is written in another language.

**Lesson:** Ask students, Have you ever heard someone speaking in a different language?

Why do you think there are so many different languages in the world? Where did all those languages come from?

(Summarize Genesis 11:1-9 with following Bible story, asking the included questions as you read.)

At the beginning of the world, when God created Adam and Eve, everyone spoke the same language. People were still speaking that same language when Noah and his family came off the Ark after the Flood. But when Noah's grandchildren grew up, some of them moved to a certain area and decided to build a city. "C'mon," they said, "let's make bricks and build a city. And we can make a huge tower that stretches all the way up to the sky, and everyone will see it. We'll have the biggest tower, and we'll be famous for it."

Why did the people want to build a tower? (So that everyone would see it and so that they would be famous.)

Do you think God wants us to try to be famous?

Do you think God wants us to brag about ourselves and make everyone pay attention to us?

It's okay to be famous if we're good at something, but we shouldn't try to be famous. We shouldn't brag about what we can do or how good we are at something. Instead, we should talk about how good God is and what God has done for us. If you're good at something, it's not because you're so great. It's because God made you to be able to do it. He's the one who gave you your skills and talents in the first place.

So God came down and looked at the city and the tower the people were building. He saw how much they were bragging about their tower and heard them talking about how famous they would be, so He confused their language as a punishment to them. He made it so that some people were speaking one language and some people were speaking another language, and no one could understand what the other person was saying. It just all sounded like gibberish! Someone would say, "Hand me a brick," but all the other person would hear was, "Flaffa re backenugen." And they had to stop building the city and the tower because they couldn't understand each other well enough to work together.

Everyone, talk gibberish to each other!

Good. Now, you might know what you're saying, but no one else does. It would be very difficult to work on a project together if no one could understand each other.

What did God do to punish the people for bragging and just wanting to be famous? (He made it so that everyone was speaking a different language and they had to stop building the city and tower.)

So, then, all the people moved away. (Illustrate this point by grouping the children together.) The people who could understand each other went off by themselves and lived in one part of the world while another group of people who could understand each other lived in another part of the world, and a third group of people who could understand each other lived in another part of the world. And that's how all the different languages got started. The city that the people were trying to build was named Babel after that because everyone sounded like they were just babbling to each other. Babble, babble, babble!

So, remember to not brag about yourself. Don't try to be famous or popular. If you're good at something, just be quiet about it and thank God for giving you that talent or skill.

**Craft: Languages of the World** – Show your students a picture of a world map. Have them choose a country to draw on their piece of paper. Tell them to draw the shape of the country on one side of the paper along with the name of the primary language people speak in that country. On the other side of the paper, ask them to draw a picture of how they could help someone in that country if they knew their language. Point out that as Christians, we try to learn other people's language so that we can tell them the Good News about Jesus.

**Game: Charades** – Continue playing the regular game for as long as time allows.

**Closing Prayer:** Father, help us not to brag or become too prideful. We know that everything comes from You, even our skills and talents. We also

know that You punished people when they became too prideful by making them speak different languages. But now, You want us to help people who speak different languages, so help us know how to do that. Amen.

## Recommended Extras

Superbook: Tower of Babel – an animated video from the updated Superbook series, includes time-traveling children who learn lessons from the story

Charades for Kids – a printed Charades game

The Tower of Babel – free coloring and activity pages

# The Story of Job

Here, we have a children's Sunday School lesson on the story of Job, which probably took place during the period of Genesis.

What a great example Job is! And I love pointing out how happy God was with Job's faithfulness. I have a couple of games and a Bible story that will inspire kids to be like God by placing their trust in God through the hard times of life.

# The Story of Job

*Use this children's Sunday School lesson on the story of Job to teach kids to hope in God through every situation.*

**Needed:** Blankets or sheets or beach towels, various objects

**Game: Up and Down** – Give the students blankets, sheets, or beach towels to hold between them. You can break the students into teams or have them complete the following challenges together.

1. Bounce an object 5, 10, and 20 times without dropping it.

2. See how high they can bounce an object.

3. Bounce more than one object for 30 seconds without dropping any of them.

4. Bounce an object while spinning their blanket, sheet, or towel. (Everyone in the circle moves one step between bounces.)

5. Bounce and object while hopping. (Everyone takes one hop between bounces.)

You can add more complicated challenges if your group is doing well. As you finish, point out that we all have ups and downs in life. Sometimes, things are going well for us, and, sometimes, they're not.

**Lesson:** Ask students, Has anything bad ever happened to you? Tell me about a time something bad happened.

Did it get better?

(The teacher should also tell a story about a time when something bad happened to them and how the situation was resolved.)

Why do you think God lets bad things happen to us?

We're going to read in our Bible story today about a man who had some pretty bad things happen to him. Let's pay special attention to what his attitude is and how he deals with those bad things.

(Summarize the story of Job with the following Bible story, asking the included questions as you read.)

A long time ago, in the city of Uz, there lived a man named Job. Job was a man who had a good relationship with God, and he always did the right thing. He had seven sons and three daughters, whom he prayed for every day, and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, along with many servants.

It sounds like Job is pretty lucky, doesn't it? How would you like to have all those animals and servants and be rich like Job was?

But one day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan – or the devil - also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, "Satan, where have you been and what have you been doing?"

Satan answered, "I have been traveling back and forth all over the earth."

Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you seen My servant, Job? There is no one on earth like him. He has a good relationship with Me, and he always does what is right."

"That's only because You protect him and his family and everything he owns," Satan replied. "Take away some of his things, and he will surely curse You to Your face."

Do you think it's true what Satan said? Was Job just doing the things God wanted him to do because God was protecting him and making everything go well for Job? No, Job was doing the right thing because he believed in God and wanted to make God happy.

So the Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands. You can take away anything that Job has, but you can’t hurt him."

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and got ready to make his attack against Job.

Then, one day when Job's sons and daughters were having a party at the oldest brother's house, a servant came running back to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing, and the donkeys and camels were grazing in the field, and a bunch of men attacked and carried them off. They killed all your servants who were watching the animals, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

While he was still speaking, another servant ran up and said, "Fire fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants watching them, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

While he was still speaking, still another ran up and said, "Your sons and daughters were having a party at the oldest brother's house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. The house fell down on them, and they are all dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

Those are some pretty bad things to happen to Job, aren’t they? How would you feel if all those things happened to you? What would you do? Would you get angry at God about it? Would you think it was all God’s fault that those bad things were happening to you?

When Job heard all this, he got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away. May the name of the Lord be praised." In all this, Job did not sin by saying that God had done something wrong to him.

On another day, the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them to present himself before Him. And the Lord said to Satan, "Satan, where have you been and what have you been doing?"

Satan answered, "I have been traveling back and forth all over the earth."

Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you seen My servant, Job? There is no one on earth like him. He has a good relationship with Me, and he always does what is right. And he still has not cursed Me, even after you had all his animals stolen and all his sons and daughters killed."

Satan replied. "Job is only good because You protect him. Hurt his body, and he will surely curse You to Your face."

Do you think Job will curse God?

The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands. You can hurt him, but you can't kill him."

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and made Job's skin break out with painful sores all over - from the bottom of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

Job's wife said to him, "Are you still doing the right thing? Curse God and die!"

Job replied, "You are talking like a foolish person. Sometimes we have good things in our life, and sometimes, we have bad things. We have to accept both." In all this, Job did not sin by saying that God had done something wrong to him.

When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon Job, they set out from their homes and came and sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him because they saw how very sad he was.

Job was so sad about everything that had happened – about all of his animals being stolen and all his children dying and all the painful sores all

over his body – that he suddenly cried out to God and to his friends, “I wish I was never born! Then all this bad stuff couldn’t have happened to me.”

Job’s friends were also very sad, and they said, “Job, you must have done something very bad for God to do all of this to you. He is punishing you for your sin.”

Was God punishing Job? (No. Remember that the story said that Job always did the right things. God was not punishing Job.)

So Job said, “Good things happen to everyone, and bad things happen to everyone. Just because something bad is happening to me, does not mean that God is punishing me.”

Then a great storm started to form in the sky, and God’s voice came out of the storm. “You are right, Job. Good things happen to everyone, and bad things happen to everyone. You have done very well to keep your faith and not curse Me, even through everything that has happened to you. Now I will reward you.”

And over the next few years, God gave Job twice as many animals as he had before and He gave Job seven more sons and three more daughters, and He let Job live until he was one hundred and forty years old!

So you see that even though bad things happen to us, God can always make things better, can’t He? We just have to keep doing the right things and having a good relationship with God. Then, we can trust Him to make things better for us.

**Game: Job Relay Race** – Students can run this race in teams or as individuals.

**Leg 1. Skipping.** In the beginning, Job was happy because everything in life was going well for him. Skip like you’re happy.

**Leg 2. Flapping Arms.** Then, God called all the angels to a meeting. Flap your arms like they’re angel wings.

**Leg 3. Hopping with Devil Horns.** Satan came to the meeting too. Hop with your fingers on your head in the shape of devil horns.

**Leg 4. Hopping and Pointing Fingers.** Satan didn't' think Job would stay faithful to God if bad things started happening to Job. Hop and point your fingers like you're Satan pointing at Job.

**Leg 5. Dragging Feet.** God believed in Job, so He let Satan do bad things to Job. That made Job very sad. Drag your feet, cry, and mope like you're sad.

**Leg 6. Crippled and Rubbing "Sores."** Satan even made Job break out in painful sores all over his body. Hop on one leg and rub your arms like you have sores on them and are in pain.

**Leg 7. Running and Shouting for Joy.** But through it all, Job never turned against God, and that made God very happy with Job. Run and shout with joy like you're God being happy.

**Leg 8. Skipping.** Then, God rewarded Job by making his life better again. Skip like you're Job being happy.

**Game: Up and Down** – Play the intro game again as long as time allows. Remind children that we have ups and downs in life, but God is always with us, and He always makes everything better in the end.

**Closing Prayer:** God, we thank You that You are with us in our good times and our bad times. We thank You that You have a plan to make everything better. Help us to stay faithful and keep our hope in You, as Job did. Amen.

## Recommended Extras

Superbook: Job – an animated video from the updated Superbook series, includes time-traveling children who learn lessons from the story

The Book of Job –a storybook with very unique illustrations

The Story of Job – free coloring and activity pages

It Must Be Your Fault – free object lesson in which the author compares the losses we experience in life to the losses a king or queen might suffer when their controlling player is facing an opponent in chess