



Use Week of:

Unit 1 • Session 3

Sin Entered the World

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Genesis 3

STORY POINT:

Adam and Eve broke God's law, and their sin separated them from God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

Adam and Eve enjoyed all that was good in the garden of Eden. The Lord gave them only one restriction: “You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” and the punishment for disobeying was severe: “You will certainly die” (Gen. 2:17).

Before the fall, Adam and Eve enjoyed a loving, two-way relationship with God. The garden was a true paradise. God filled the garden with good gifts so that they might enjoy them and give thanks to God. This glorifies God. All of that changed when Adam and Eve gave in to the serpent’s temptation. Eve believed the lie that leads many of us to sin: Maybe God is holding out on me.

Adam and Eve desired something more: the wisdom the fruit offered. But when their eyes were opened, they were aware of their nakedness and they felt ashamed. Surely the Lord’s heart broke at their act of disobedience and rebellion. Because of their sin, He cast them out of the garden. Though they did not die right away, sin’s effect was immediate and thorough. Their lives and their children’s lives—and the lives of all of mankind—would be forever affected by their choice.

God did not leave Adam and Eve without hope. He promised that one of Eve’s descendants would strike the head of the serpent. (Gen. 3:15) Each generation after Eve hoped that one of their children would be the promised One—the One who would crush the head of the snake and put an end to the curse over creation.

Sin is a big problem that needs a big solution. At just the right time, God sent His Son into the world, born as a baby. Matthew 1:21 says, “You are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” As the kids you teach become increasingly aware of the bad news—that we are all sinners from birth—rejoice with them over the good news: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15).

The BIBLE STORY

Sin Entered the World

Genesis 3

God gave the first two people, Adam and Eve, a beautiful garden to call home. He gave them everything they needed, and He gave them one command. God said, “You may eat from any of the trees in the garden, except for one.” The garden had a tree in it called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God warned Adam, “If you eat from that tree, you will die.”

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals. One day, the serpent went to Eve. “Did God really say, ‘You can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’” he asked.

Eve answered, “We can eat the fruit from the trees in the garden, but God told us not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. He said if we eat the fruit or touch it, we will die.”

“No! You will not die,” the serpent lied. The serpent told Eve that she and Adam would be like God. They would know good and evil.

Eve looked at the fruit. It did look delicious, and she wanted to be wise. So she **took some of the fruit and ate it**. Eve also gave some of the fruit to Adam, who was with her, and he ate it. Then their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked. Adam and Eve sewed together fig leaves and made clothes



for themselves.

That evening, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden. They hid among the trees. God called out to Adam, "Where are you?"

Adam said, "I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

God asked Adam, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

Adam blamed Eve. "She gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it," he said.

Eve blamed the serpent. "He tricked me," she said.

God said that bad things would happen. Life would be hard and painful, all because of sin. The snake would crawl on its belly and be an enemy to people. But God promised that one of Eve's descendants would destroy the serpent.

Everything changed after Adam and Eve sinned. They were not close to God like before. Sin separated Adam and Eve from God. God made them clothes out of animal skins and then sent them out of the garden. God put angels and a sword of fire at the entrance of the garden to guard the way to the tree of life.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use lighting effects:** Begin telling the story with a cheerful voice in a brightly lit room. After describing the fall, use a serious voice and cue an adult volunteer to dim the lights.
- **Dramatic conversation:** During dialogue, stand in various places for each speaker.

Christ Connection: Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, all people have been sinners. Our sin separates us from God, but God still loves us. God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve's family. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Sin Entered the World

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 3

STORY POINT: Adam and Eve broke God's law, and their sin separated them from God.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to describe things that don't work like they should. What seems to be broken in the world?

SAY • When God created the world, it was perfect. Everything and everyone did exactly what God created them to do. But now, something is obviously wrong. Things break. Today, we will find out why.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- "The Fall Word Search" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete "The Fall Word Search" on the activity page. Kids should find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle. Allow kids to work individually or in pairs.

Choose a few of the words to discuss: *sin* is breaking God's law; *serpent* is a word for a large snake; *evil* means "something that is harmful or bad"; *good* means "something that is right or proper."

SAY • All of these words are related to the Bible story we will hear today. Listen carefully to the story to find out what happened.

Session starter (10 minutes)

**LOW
PREP**

OPTION 1: Excuse me, what are you doing?

Instruct kids to stand in a circle. Join them and pretend to do an action (washing your hair, drinking water, or so forth). The player to your left should say, “Excuse me, what are you doing?” Say something other than what you are really doing. If you are pretending to wash your hair, you might say, “I’m eating a sandwich.” The second player should pretend to eat a sandwich.

The next person will ask him, “Excuse me, what are you doing?” He will say something different than what he is doing. Keep going around the circle as time allows.

SAY • That was a tricky game. Today’s Bible story is about something else that was tricky—a snake. Adam and Eve were in God’s garden when a snake tricked them. Let’s hear more.

OPTION 2: Beanbag toss

Use masking tape or painter’s tape to outline a target (three concentric circles) on the floor at one side of the room. Line up two teams of kids at the other side of the room.

• beanbags
• masking tape or
painter’s tape

Instruct players to take turns tossing a beanbag toward the target. Award a point for each beanbag that lands in the center circle. For an added challenge, require each player to toss the beanbag with her nondominant hand.

SAY • How often did your team miss the mark? The word *sin* comes from a Greek word that means “to miss the mark.” When we sin, we miss the mark of God’s standard for us. Let’s find out more.

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire
- clipboard
- toolbox
- Bible
- bicycle

[Leader enters wearing a mechanic's apron and carrying a clipboard, toolbox, and Bible. Display a bicycle at the front of the room.]

LEADER • Hello, everyone! Welcome to The Cyclery. We exist to keep people's bikes working like they are supposed to. If you were here before, welcome back! I'm *[your name]*, lead bicycle technician. *[Set down the toolbox. Point toward the displayed bicycle.]*

Today I have a bike that needs a tune-up. It's not working quite like it's supposed to. The owner who brought it in said it's been in a couple wrecks in the past, and for the last year or so, it's been in a shed. But I have a checklist here to help me diagnose any problems. *[Read from clipboard.]* Check tire pressure, tighten crank arms, check bearing systems, replace worn brake pads, clean the drive chain, and so on.

Whew. Keeping a bike running like it should

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

requires a lot of maintenance. [*Set down clipboard and pick up a Bible.*] I will get to that later. Now it's time to introduce today's Bible story.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Does anyone remember our big picture question?

[*Allow kids to respond.*] That's right, **who is God?**

God is our Creator and King. Let's say that together. **Who is God? God is our Creator and King.** The Bible tells us that God made everything, and He is in charge of everything. God is all-present, or everywhere at the same time. He is all-knowing; nothing surprises Him or happens without His knowledge. And God is all-powerful. He can do anything according to His character.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review. - Giant Timeline

LEADER • Take a look at our timeline. We started here at the beginning and heard how **God created everything, and everything He created was good.** On the sixth day, God made people. **God created people in His own image, and He loves us.** Everything was perfect at the beginning, just like God made it to be. Adam and Eve had a close relationship with God.

Today's Bible story is called "Sin Entered the World." Raise your hand if you've ever heard the word *sin*. What is sin? [*Allow responses.*] Those are some good answers. Listen carefully to our Bible story to see if you are right.

- Bibles
- “Sin Entered the World” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Genesis 3. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Sin Entered the World.”

LEADER • Before sin entered the world, everything was perfect. God had a perfect relationship with Adam and Eve. He commanded them to trust Him and obey Him. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God when they ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **Adam and Eve broke God’s law, and their sin separated them from God.**

Who is God? God is our Creator and King. The serpent was an enemy of God. Satan, or the devil, wants to stop God’s good plans—but nothing can stop God’s plans. The serpent tempted Eve, and she believed a lie about God. Eve ate the fruit and so did Adam, who was with her. Adam and Eve did not trust God and obey Him.

What did Adam and Eve do after they ate the fruit? [*Allow responses.*] They tried to hide from God. Sin separates people from God. God told Adam and Eve bad things would happen, and life would be hard and painful—all because of sin.

God created us to know and love Him. When we ignore God and His plan for our lives, life doesn’t work. We can see today ways sin affects the world. There is suffering, violence, poverty, pain, and death.

When life doesn’t work, we might try to figure it out on our own. Some people think they will find their purpose and happiness in money or success or in doing good works. None of these things can make us truly happy. We need God, but our sin separates

us from Him. That is the bad news. But all along, God had a plan to bring us back to Him.

Christ connection

LEADER • Here is the good news! Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, all people have been sinners. Our sin separates us from God, but God still loves us. God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve's family. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

Jesus lived the perfect life of obedience we fail to live. He died the death we deserve so that we can be forgiven by God. Jesus rose from the dead, and everyone who believes in Him has forgiveness and will one day enjoy a perfect home with God forever.

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided on page 49 to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 1, Session 3" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about how they can know if something is a sin. Guide them to discuss some ways Christians can help one another say no to sin.

• "Unit 1, Session 3" questions from kids video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

LEADER • The Rigney family are a missionary family living in London, England. They moved to London so they can share the gospel with the people there. Many people there have not heard the good news that Jesus forgives sins.

Watch this video about the Rigney family. As you watch, think about the people living near you whom you could tell about Jesus.

Show the "Our London" missions video.

• "Our London" missions video

• Key Passage Poster
• “All Things Hold Together” song

Key passage (5 minutes)

LEADER • Let’s take a look at our key passage.

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Colossians 1:16b-17.

LEADER • Our key passage is talking about God the Son.

Everything was created with a purpose: to bring glory to God. Sin does not bring glory to God, and God is right to punish sin. But God loves people and wants to give us life through Jesus. Let’s sing.

Lead boys and girls in singing “All Things Hold Together.”

Sing (4 minutes)

Open your Bible to Psalm 103:8-10. Read the verses aloud.

LEADER • **Adam and Eve broke God’s law, and their sin separated them from God.** We are sinners like Adam and Eve, but God has provided a Rescuer—Jesus! ***God is our Creator and King.*** He loves us! Let’s sing.

Sing “My Father’s World,” “Our Creator and King,” or another song of your choice.

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord God, we confess that we have not obeyed You perfectly. Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue people from sin. Give us boldness to share this good news with the world! We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

• “My Father’s World,”
“Our Creator and King,” or other song
of your choice

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



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BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 3

STORY POINT: Adam and Eve broke God's law, and their sin separated them from God.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- sticky notes
- marker

Write words or phrases of the key passage on separate sticky notes. Post them to a focal wall and lead the group to read the key passage together.

Invite a kid to remove one sticky note. Challenge the kids to read the passage again, supplying the missing words. Continue reading and removing one sticky note at a time until kids recite the entire key passage from memory.

SAY • Keep working this week to memorize our key passage.
God gives us His Word so we can know Him.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster

Distribute Bibles. Instruct boys and girls to find the table of contents in their Bibles. Ask a volunteer to read the names of the first five books of the Bible: *Genesis*, *Exodus*, *Leviticus*, *Numbers*, *Deuteronomy*. Explain that the first five books of the Bible are called the books of the law because they contain laws and instructions God gave to His people, the Israelites, long ago.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Genesis 3. Choose two volunteers: the first will read aloud Genesis 3:1. The second will read Genesis 3:2-3.

SAY • God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed, and He gave them one rule. God wanted Adam and Eve to trust Him. But when the serpent tempted Eve, the Bible says Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the fruit from the tree He told them not to eat from.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What are some rules your parents have for you? Why do you think they give you rules? *Help kids recognize that rules are for their own good. Our parents—and our heavenly Father—love us well by giving us healthy boundaries and rules.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 6:4.)

2. Why do you think people sin against God? *Lead kids to understand that at its heart, sin comes from a distrust of God. We sin because we believe the lie that we know better than God.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 3:23.)

3. How does sin affect our relationship with God? How does it affect our relationships with one another? *Point out that God created people to live under His loving authority, but sin made us His enemies. Instead of living for God, we live for ourselves. Guide boys and girls to acknowledge that sin separates us from God. It breaks our relationships with one another.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 6:23.)

SAY • **Adam and Eve broke God's law, and their sin separated them from God.** Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, all people have been sinners. Our sin separates us from God, but God still loves us. God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve's family. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people from sin and bring them back to God.

Tip: Write the optional references on index cards and allow volunteers to bookmark their place in the Bible before you call on them to read.

LOW PREP

• “Rigney Family Prayer Card” printable

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

• “Thaumatrope Discs” printable

• scissors

• markers or colored pencils

• drinking straws or unsharpened pencils, 1 per kid

• tape or glue sticks

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Missions exploration

Give a “Rigney Family Prayer Card” to each kid.

SAY • Do you remember the name of the missionary family living in London, England? The Rigneys moved to London so they can share the gospel with the many different people living there.

Can you guess how many languages are spoken in London? More than 300 languages can be heard in this city, and God loves every person speaking them! Remember to pray for the Rigneys as they share the gospel in London, England!

Encourage kids to share with their family what they learned about the Rigneys and the city of London. Instruct them to display the prayer card at home as a reminder to pray for the Rigneys and the people they tell about Jesus. If time allows, introduce some of the languages spoken in London. Invite kids to practice speaking in other languages:

- *Good morning!* / Spanish: “Buenos días” (booEHN-os DEE-as)
- *Hello!* / Arabic: “Marhaban” (MAR-ha-bahn)
- *Thanks!* / Polish: “Dzięk” (JEN-key)
- *Good day!* / German: “Guten Tag” (GOO-tehn tahg)

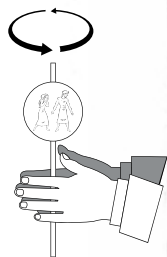
OPTION 2: Thaumatrope discs

Before the session, prepare a thaumatrope as an example. Demonstrate how to make a thaumatrope toy:

1. Choose a set of circles from the “Thaumatrope Discs” printable and cut out the circles.
2. Use markers or colored pencils to color the pictures.
3. Glue or tape one end of a straw to the back of a disc.
4. Then attach the second disc back-to-back with the

first disc so the straw is between them.

5. Hold the straw or pencil loosely between your palms and rub your hands back and forth to spin the discs. The pictures should appear as one image.



SAY • In our Bible story today, we heard how **Adam and Eve broke God's law, and their sin separated them from God.** Sin against God is a big deal because of who He is. ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.*** But instead of leaving us in our sin, God had a plan to send a Rescuer. Many years later, God sent His Son into the world to rescue sinners.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for loving us by sending Jesus to be our Rescuer. Pray that kids would trust in Him.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Sneaky Snakes" on the activity page. Kids should decide whether each statement is true or false. Then kids will color in the number of the true statement to discover the key word. Challenge kids to circle its correct definition.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "Sneaky Snakes" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.