

Lesson Three

Sin Spoiled God's Creation



Growing as a Teacher

Scripture

Genesis 3

Bible Truth

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their sin spoiled God's perfect creation, but God in his goodness promised to send the Savior.

Lesson Aim

To understand why sin spoiled *all* people and to learn what God promised to do about sin.

Memory Verse

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8

It is hard for us to picture a perfect world—a place where everything is beautiful and good, and where people are always loving, helpful and happy. But that is the way it was when God made the world. Adam and Eve enjoyed each other, their lovely surroundings, their work and fellowship with God.

But lurking about was Satan, the terrible enemy of God, looking for a way to tempt Adam and Eve to sin, looking for an opportunity to spoil God's creation by tempting the first humans disobey God. So in that idyllic Garden, Satan found Eve and lied to her. She believed him and did what he said. She ate the fruit God said not to eat and gave some to Adam. He ate it, too, and Adam and Eve's sinful act affected the whole world and the whole course of history.

Instead of being content and good, Adam and Eve became unhappy and sinful. Their corrupt hearts separated them from holy God, and because he is holy he had to punish them: work became hard and burdensome, childbearing painful and relationships troublesome. When Adam and Eve had children, their offspring were born with sin in their hearts. Indeed, Adam's sin infected the entire human race. We are all guilty and sinful.

But God in his mercy and grace gave Adam and Eve a wonderful promise—a promise meant for them and for us. In Genesis 3:15, we learn about the descendant of the woman who would eventually crush the serpent's head. This promise, of course, was fulfilled in the victorious work of the Savior. God sent his Son, Jesus, to take away the sins of his people and defeat death and the enemy Satan.

Yes, God loves his own enough to send Jesus to take their punishment. Those who trust in the Savior are members of God's family. No longer separated from their loving heavenly Father, they are called children of God.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you teach this lesson simply and clearly, and that he will do a work of grace in the hearts of the precious lives before you.

Those who trust in
the Savior are members
of God's family.

Lesson Three at a Glance

Step	Minutes	Children's Activities	Supplies (complete list, p. 11)
1 Welcome	5–10	Play <i>Obey What Is Right</i> to introduce the Bible story.	
2 Bible Time	15–20	Hear about the fall of humanity and the promise of the Savior.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 3 Adam & Eve* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Optional</i> : cup of water, large paper towel, foil
3 Memory Verse	5–10	Memorize Romans 5:8 .	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 1a Memory Work poster <input type="checkbox"/> TA 1a Verses poster* <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5:8 door hanger** <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Optional</i> : pushpins, glue
4 Activities	10–15	Do <i>At Home 3</i> activities. Make a heart as a reminder of the Bible story.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At Home 3</i> ** <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils/crayons or markers <input type="checkbox"/> SA 3 heart** <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors
5 Final Focus	5	2 Sing “Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!” (<i>Songbook</i> , pp. 6–7). Pray together.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Songbook</i> * <input type="checkbox"/> <i>At Home 3</i> ** <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Optional</i> : song poster, <i>Younger Elementary Vol. 1 CD</i>

Total time: 40–60 minutes

* *Younger Elementary Teaching Aids Pack*
 ** *Younger Elementary Student Activities Pack*



Enrichment

Give each child two sheets of construction paper to make a John 3:16 booklet. Cut the sheets in half and staple the four pieces together to form a booklet. Print the phrases from John 3:16 inside the pages of the booklet, including the reference. Draw a cross on the cover. Special drawings and borders could supply the finishing touches.

2 “Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!”
Younger Elementary Vol. 1 CD



Practical Preparation

Go over the **Welcome** activity, *Obey What Is Right*. You want the children to see that they make decisions every day, and you want them to focus on obedience and right decisions.

Separate **TA 3 Adam & Eve** along the perforation lines to prepare for the lesson. It would be helpful to include the optional water demonstration (p. 31) to help the children understand the effects of sin.

Children will learn **Romans 5:8** in **Memory Verse**. Memorize it ahead of time and be ready to teach it. Have a memory verse door hanger ready to send home with each student.

Make one **SA 3 heart** ahead of time to show the students. Each child will complete one in **Activities**.

Students will start learning the hymn “Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!” It is found on pages 6–7 of the *Songbook*, and the words are on the back page of *At Home 3*. It is also found in *Trinity Hymnal*. Consider making a song poster (see p. 10) and playing the *Younger Elementary Vol. 1 CD* to accompany singing.



Welcome

5-10 minutes

Welcome your students and tell them that they will play a game called *Obey What Is Right*. Tell them that it is a *deciding* and *doing* game. Explain that you will tell them to follow a rule, then they will think and decide on an answer. If it is a *good* rule, the children will stand and say “I will obey.” If it is a *bad* rule, they will fold their arms and remain seated.

Rules:

- Do not brush your teeth in the morning
- Eat breakfast every morning
- Never clean up your room
- Vegetables are good for you—eat them every day
- Take care of your pet
- Be mean to other family members
- Eat fruit
- Play in your neighbor’s yard without permission
- Cross the street without looking
- Be kind and helpful to others

After the game is over, point out that **Good rules help us live safe and healthy lives. We all have family, school and neighborhood rules that we follow.** Discuss everyday rules that are part of the children’s lives. Focus on how they are useful and why it is best to follow them.

Next, help the children focus on the fact that sometimes people decide to disobey good rules. God has made us so that we can think and decide. Sometimes people decide to do what is right; sometimes people think and do what is wrong. (At this point, do not point out that sin is disobedience to God or explain *why* people sin; you will do this in the next step, **Bible Time**.)

God wants us to do what is right. He wants us to trust him and obey. This pleases our heavenly Father, who made us. Today I am going to tell you about two people who decided not to trust God or obey him. They did what was wrong, and bad things happened because of what they did.



Bible Time

15-20 minutes

Open your Bible to Genesis 3. Show the children where the story for today is found.

Say **God made Adam and Eve strong, healthy and happy. He gave them perfect hearts, willing to serve and obey him. For a while, everything in the Garden of Eden was absolutely wonderful!**

But even way back then, God gave Adam and Eve an important

Early Arrivals



Have the children create a Garden of Eden mural. Tape a large length of shelf paper to the table. Hand out an assortment of writing and coloring materials—pencils, crayons, markers, glitter glue and so on. Encourage the children to draw a variety of animals, rivers, trees, plants and the like. Ask someone to draw Adam and Eve in the picture. Tape the finished mural to the wall.



Forgiven

The whole Bible is the story of how God planned and prepared for the coming of His Son, and how the Saviour finally came to earth and died to pay for our sins. It is the story of how you and I, even though we have wicked hearts, can be forgiven, and once again walk and talk with God.

Catherine F. Vos,
The Child's Story Bible



rule to obey. He showed them the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that grew in the middle of the Garden. God said, "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 meant he wanted Adam and Eve to trust and obey him. He created them to live forever. God warned them not to disobey him and become wicked so that they would not die.

But Satan, the enemy of God, was altogether evil. Satan was an angel created by God. But Satan became wicked. He tried to fight against God and he wanted to destroy God's wonderful world.

So Satan made use of a serpent, which is a snake, and entered the Garden of Eden. He wanted Adam and Eve to stop trusting God and to disobey God's good rule.

Satan said to Eve, "Did God really tell you not to eat from *any* trees in this Garden?"

"No, that is not true," Eve replied. "We may eat from all of them, except one. God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the Garden . . . or you will die.'"

"You will not die if you eat the fruit," Satan lied to Eve. "You will be like God. You will know good and evil."

Eve listened to Satan. She believed him instead of God and decided to do what Satan said. She thought it would be okay for *her* to be the boss and decide what is good and what is bad.

Eve looked at the fruit. It looked beautiful and tasty. So she took some and ate it. She gave some to Adam and he ate it as well. They ate the fruit God had told them not to eat. They disobeyed God. They did what the serpent said. They did what *they* wanted to do. *Show the picture of Adam and Eve and the serpent on TA 3.*

In that act of disobedience, Adam and Eve became sinners. They were ashamed. They wanted to hide from each other and from God. They sewed fig leaves together to cover their naked bodies.

Instead of being like God, they had become like Satan. Instead of having good hearts, they now had sinful hearts. Instead of loving God and wanting to spend time with him, they were afraid of God and tried to hide from him.

Yes, it was a very, very sad day when sin entered the world and spoiled everything. But God, who had created all things and knows everything, was not surprised at all.

He called Adam and questioned him about what had happened. But Adam said it was Eve's fault, and Eve quickly blamed the serpent.

God is holy. He cannot stand sin. So even though God loved Adam and Eve very much, he had to punish them for their sin. They had not trusted him and had disobeyed his good rule. Now punishment would follow.

First, God punished the serpent. Next, God told Eve that she would have pain when she had children, and that she would be unhappy with being Adam's wife. Then God told Adam he would have to work very hard and long to grow fruits and vegetables. Ruling the world would be very difficult, and one day, their bodies would die.

But God did not stop caring for Adam and Eve. He gave them a wonderful promise. He promised that one day he would send a Savior to take away the sins of his people. Then Satan's power would be broken.

And before God sent Adam and Eve from the Garden forever, he kindly gave them animal skin coverings to protect their bodies.

Show the picture of Adam and Eve leaving the Garden on TA 3.

Sin spoiled Adam and Eve. Their hearts were evil and they could not obey God the way they should. When they had children, they too had sinful hearts. And every baby born has sin in his or her heart. Sin spoiled everyone.

Optional water demonstration: If you brought a cup of water, aluminum foil and a paper towel to class, demonstrate the following to show the effects of sin: Put a square of foil on the table, then pour a small amount of water in the middle of the foil. Tell the children to watch what happens when you slowly place the paper towel over the water. The small puddle spreads throughout the paper towel, making a large water spot. *Tell your students that* **When Adam and Eve sinned, sin spread to all people in the whole wide world.**

But God loves sinners! He loved Adam and Eve, and he loves you and me. Just as he promised, he sent Jesus Christ, his own Son, to be the Savior. The Bible tells us Jesus came and died on the cross for the sins of *all* his people, and he rose from the dead. *Show the picture of the cross on TA 3.* All those who trust Jesus as Savior have their sins forgiven. Jesus is the One who saves us, helps us, keeps us, loves us and will always be with us. This is God's good news for his children!



Memory Verse

5–10 minutes

Open your Bible to **Romans 5:8**. Read the verse to the children. *Then explain that* **All along God had a plan to save his people. God promised to send the Savior, and he kept his promise. God sent Jesus Christ to die for our sins.**

Display Romans 5:8 on **TA 1a Verses poster** or mounted separately on **TA 1a Memory Work poster**. Then point to the verse and have the children say it with you. *Explain* **Demonstrates** means “shows”—that is, **God shows his own love for us in this. . . .** Say the verse twice with the children, then ask them to close their eyes and repeat the verse.

Set out the **Romans 5:8 door hangers**. The children will take these home at the end of the lesson to help them review the memory verse.

If you have time, have the children cut along the dotted lines to cut out the center. Otherwise, tell them they can cut them at home to hang on their doors.



Teaching Tip

Even though the children may not make the analogical connection between this water demonstration and the effects of sin today, they may recall it as they get older and understand it more then.



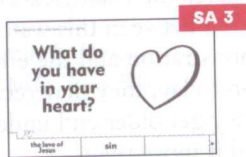
Music Resource

Romans 5:8 is set to music and recorded on *Scripture Songs for Kids*. CDs and Songbooks are available from GCP at 800-695-3387 or www.gcp.org.

Optional Memory Work

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

ROMANS 3:23



- 2 "Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!"
Songbook, pp. 6-7



Items to Send Home

- At Home 3*
- Romans 5:8 door hanger
- SA 3 heart

4

Activities

10-15 minutes

Hand out copies of *At Home 3*, pencils and crayons or markers. Read aloud the title and directions for the part(s) you choose to do.

In *God's Promised Savior*, help the students number the pictures correctly, then read aloud the text in each box in that order. Help them transfer the letters to the blanks below. **Answers: h-2, C-1, s-5, i-4, t-6, r-3; Christ**

In *Sin Spoiled Everything*, provide help to the children as needed. When they are finished, talk about *God's Good Rule!* and why he made it. **Answer: commanded**

Hand out one SA 3 heart to each child. Have the children color. You may want to direct them to color the heart in red, the space that says "the love of Jesus" in red, and the space that says "sin" in black. Pass out scissors and have them cut along the dotted line. Show them how to thread the paper strip through the heart, starting on the left side from the back and threading through the right side on the front. Pull the paper strip so sin is first in the heart, followed by the love of Jesus.

5

Final Focus

5 minutes

Teach the children the hymn "Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!" Plan to teach the first verse, the refrain and the last verse. The hymn is found on pages 6-7 of the Songbook, and the words are also on the back of *At Home 3*. Consider making a song poster (see p. 10). Plan to use musical accompaniment for the singing.

Sing the first verse and refrain and explain any words that may be hard to understand. Next, teach the last verse and sing it as a prayer. Then sing the refrain once more.

Close the lesson in prayer. Invite volunteers to say sentence prayers, asking God for forgiveness of sins. Have one or two children thank God for showing his love by sending Christ to die for sinners. Thank God that Jesus paid the price for sin and helps sinners trust God and obey his Word.

Make sure children leave with their *At Home 3* papers, Romans 5:8 door hangers and SA 3 heart. Remind them to go over the papers with their parents.