



# BEGINNINGS IN GENESIS

TEACHER'S BOOK

BIBLE STUDIES FOR AFRICAN YOUTH



# **BEGINNINGS**

## **Genesis**

**BIBLE STUDIES FOR AFRICAN YOUTH**

Africa Coordinated Curriculum  
for Bible Study

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Written by Moses Ochwo



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# CHAPTER ONE

## THE GOD OF CREATION

### PREPARING TO TEACH

Background Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2; 2:4-6; John 1:1-5; Psalms 19:1; Nehemiah 9:6; Job 26:7-14; Psalms 24:1-2

Verses in Today's Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2; 2:4-6

#### Memory Verse

"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalms 24:1).

Lesson Aim: To help students understand how creation reveals God's grace and love.

Teaching Aids: Sand, two or three flowers, chalk board or a large piece of paper. Write the topic on the chalk board or on a large piece of paper.

#### Background Study

The Bible stories about creation reveal to us three important truths about God:

1. *He is the Creator.* The Bible clearly teaches that the universe and all matter had a beginning. They came into existence through the will of the eternal God (Genesis 1:1-2). At the beginning the universe was in chaos and confusion. God brought order to it.
2. *God is revealed in his creative work.* It is for this reason that all people are aware of God's existence. The Bible never tries to prove God's existence. It should be obvious to everyone. Creation cannot exist without a Creator, just as a building cannot exist without a builder.

Psalms 19:1 teaches that the creation ceaselessly declares and reveals the glory of God.

The vastness, order and beauty of the universe reveal to us the power, wisdom and beauty of God. The creation of man reveals God's love and grace. Man is unique. He is the crown and climax of God's creation. He alone was created in God's image. Everything else was intended for man's benefit. In fact God made the whole universe to be a home for man. He was given power to rule and develop the earth. Man did not do anything to deserve all these riches and blessings. God's love and grace did it.

Job 26:7-14 explains how the creation reveals God's power. How mighty is the Creator of the universe! Words fail to describe the whole of his greatness. When you have fully described your most exact impressions of God's power, there is always more that can be said.

3. *Man needs God.* Nehemiah 9:6 explains how the people worshipped God. First, they recognized him as their Creator, the Maker of heaven, earth, seas and all that is in them. Secondly, they recognized him as their great Protector and Preserver of the whole creation. What God has created, he will preserve. Thirdly, they recognized that God deserves their worship and praise.

John 1:1-5 says that God created the world through Christ. Through the same Christ man can receive spiritual light and a new creation. Man cannot exist and find meaningful life without God.

## TEACHING THE LESSON

### Introduction

Say: "Look at page one of the first lesson in your book. Read the introduction." (Give about three minutes to complete the reading.)



Say: "Think of the excitement those men felt in achieving their goal. Have you ever had the same feeling when you made a toy car or drew a beautiful picture? Think about those who make table cloths or who decorate a house for a special occasion. How do you think they feel after completing the work?"

Say: "Think of how big this universe is. Compared to the whole universe, the earth is but a drop of water in a bucket, a grain of sand near an ocean, a small bit of dust on a big tree." Hold one grain of sand. Give a student a small rock on the far side of the class. Explain that the grain of sand represents the earth and the rock represents the sun. From the earth to the sun is 93,000,000 miles. "What do you think of the one who made the universe?"

Ask: "What are the differences between you (man) and the other creatures God made? Why should you thank God for this universe? Read Genesis 1:1-2; 2:4-6. What do these verses teach you about God and the creation of man?"

### Examination

Say: "The reason why God created the universe at all is not very clear to us. God is perfect and complete. He needs nothing to satisfy his being. Why then did he create the universe when he did not need the universe?"

"Some people have compared God to an artist. It is the nature of an artist to draw and paint pictures. He finds God is perfect and complete. He needs nothing to satisfy his being. Why then did he create the universe when he did not need the universe?"

"Some people have compared God to an artist. It is the nature of an artist to draw and paint pictures. He finds his greatest joy in creative activity. It is the character of a



musician to compose. It is the nature of a Creator to create. God created us for his own pleasure (Revelation 4:11).

"The Bible tells us that God is good and God is love. It is the nature of goodness and love to share one's riches and blessings with others. Therefore God made beings capable of enjoying him and his blessings. The creation therefore reveals the love and grace of God. One of the most staggering verses in all Scripture is John 3:16 about how much God loves the world. How could God love things less than himself and act to give them pleasure? And yet it is true.

"Some people have interpreted the words, 'Let there be light' (Genesis 1:3) to mean 'Let me (God) be seen.' It is the work of light to reveal things as they are. Creation is our light. It reveals God to us. It reveals the power, wisdom, beauty, love and grace of God."

### **Application**

Say: "Read the application notes in your pupil's book. Three points come out very clearly in those notes. What are they?"

1. Our belief in creation is based on what we know about God, not what we know about science or any other human knowledge.
2. We are responsible to God for the way we live in this world. The earth is the Lord's, and we are God's stewards. We are to develop the earth and not to destroy it.
3. God deserves our worship, thanksgiving and praise. Our lives belong to him. We must give them to him to use as he wants.

We must thank God forever for his grace and love. Count your blessings; name them one by one. It will surprise you how much the Lord has done for you. He has created us. He has given us everything to enjoy. He has given us work to do. He gives us new life. He forgives our sins and heals our diseases. He has prepared a wonderful future for those who love him."

Have students repeat the memory verse until they can say it without help. Call attention to the Things To Do in their books.

### **Prayer Suggestions**

1. Pray that this lesson will bring your students closer to God.
2. Pray that they will learn to worship God, trust God, thank God and be good stewards of God's creation.
3. Pray that the students will see God's love and grace through creation.

## CHAPTER TWO

### THE WORLD GOD CREATED

#### PREPARING TO TEACH

Background Scripture: Genesis 1:3-24; Colossians 1:15-19

Verses in Today's Lesson: Genesis 1:3-24

#### Memory Verse

"For in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities--all things were created through him and for him" (Colossians 1:16).

Lesson Aim: To help students see that God created a good world and wants us to use it to glorify him.

Teaching Aids: A chart showing what God created each day, a chalkboard or a large piece of paper.

#### Background Study

Genesis 1:3-24 describes the creation of the universe. The writer describes God as working for six days. The earth, we read in Genesis 1:2, was at first a shapeless waste steeped in darkness. God began by bringing light, then he put some order into the confusion. This was the work of the first three days. During the second three days, God put moving creatures into the various parts of the world.

God made all these things out of nothing. He simply said, "Let there be light" (verse 3), and light was made. In the same way he made the sky, the land, the sea, the trees and plants, the sun, moon and stars, the fishes, birds and animals. All were made by a mere word of God. God who



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made this marvelous world out of nothing simply by the power of his Word, must be able to do anything. In fact, he must be all powerful (omnipotent).

In Colossians 1:15-19 we have more information about the created universe and especially its relationship to Jesus Christ. Jesus is the *Source*, the *Goal* and the *Unity* of creation.

He is the Source of creation - all things were created through Christ (Colossians 1:16). He is the Goal of creation - all things were created for him (Colossians 1:16). He is the Unity of creation - in him all things hold together (Colossians 1:17). In the same way, he is the Head of the new creation, the Church (Colossians 1:18).

We have already learnt in the first lesson that God gave man power to rule and develop the earth. He was also to use the earth to meet his needs. Some people have interpreted this to mean that man can do anything he wants with the created universe. This is a false interpretation. The whole Bible teaches that God is the Creator and Owner of the universe. Man is only the steward of God's property. We have already seen in Colossians 1:16 that Christ is the Goal of creation. This means that everything must be used to glorify Christ.

## TEACHING THE LESSON

### Introduction

Ask: "Would you say that this world is a good world or a bad one?" Allow five to seven students to answer this question. They should give reasons why they say the world is good or bad.

Say: "On a piece of paper, I want you to make a table of two columns. See the example on the board. On the right

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column write down the created things you need for every condition you may be in."

The condition I may be in      The created things I need

- | The condition I may be in | The created things I need |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. When I am hungry       |                           |
| 2. When I am thirsty      |                           |
| 3. When I am lonely       |                           |
| 4. When I am cold         |                           |
| 5. When I am tired        |                           |

Ask: "Does this table help you to determine whether this world is good or bad?" Say: "Now read your Introduction (chapter two)." After three minutes ask: "Would you identify yourself with that young man? Do you have the same desires and ambitions? Why do you think so many people strive to get material things? Why do so few people think about God, the Creator?"

Say: "Read today's verses (Genesis 1:3-24) and write down what God created each day. When you have finished writing down these things, also write what you think are the two most important things God created."

### Examination

Say: "In Genesis 1:31, we read that 'God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.' Some of you may have said that this world is bad. Indeed, there are many bad things in this world. But, these bad things were not part of God's original plan in creation. Everything God created was intended for man's benefit."

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"The two most important things God created were light and life. Light always helps us to remove chaos and bring order. Sometimes our lives are full of confusion and disorder. Jesus can remove the confusion and put our lives in order. Left to ourselves, we would be at the mercy of our selfish desires.

"Science tells us that life came from non-living matter. But it has been proved that life only comes from life. We cannot account for the origin of life without a Creator who, himself, is life. That is why we call him the living God - a God in whom is life, and who alone has imparted life to all. Jesus, God's Son, is the Author of our spiritual life (eternal life)."

### Application

Say: "Take five minutes to read the application section of your book." Ask: "Do you think that all who don't have Christ's life know that they are living in darkness? What about you? Do you believe that there is darkness in some area of your life which needs Christ's light? Would you like to let Christ shine his light upon those areas and bring order in your life?"

Say: "Our Lord said to the Jews, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly' (John 10:10). This life of which he was speaking could not be the life we already possess from our parents. He must have meant some new life. Today, Jesus can give this new life to all who are willing to receive it."

Have the students repeat the memory verse until they can say it without help. Call attention to the Things To Do section of their books.



**Prayer Suggestions**

1. Pray that your students will see Christ as the giver of light and life, that they will see that God created a good world and wants us to use it to glorify him.
2. Pray that they will see Christ as the Source, the Goal and the Unity of creation. This should lead them to accept him as the King of their lives.
3. Pray that others will see the kingship of Christ in your life.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **THE MAN GOD CREATED**

#### **PREPARING TO TEACH**

**Background Scripture:** Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7-17; Psalms 100:3

**Verses in Today's Lesson:** Genesis 1:26-31

#### **Memory Verse**

"Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7).

**Lesson Aim:** To help students understand that God created man in his own image with a special place in his creation.

**Teaching Aids:** Take with you pictures or toys of human beings.

#### **Background Study**

After creating the animals God seemed to pause and reflect and then say, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). Of course God does not need to pause and reflect. This was only to stress the importance of what he would do next. So far he had been preparing a dwelling place for what was to be his greatest masterpiece, man.

Man was made in the image of God. God can think, love and choose. He made man capable of thinking, loving and choosing. Because of these abilities man was more like God than animals. Man was made to understand, love and obey

God. God wanted a relationship with man like that of a father and son.

Man is unique. He is the crown and climax of God's creation. He alone was created in God's image. Everything else is intended for man's benefit. He was made to rule and develop the earth. He was made to help God to create other human beings.

Genesis 2:7-17 pictures God forming the body of Adam from clay of the earth. Have you ever seen a potter making pots of clay? That is how God made man. Have you ever seen a dead human body? The first man looked like this before God put breath in him. God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being.

God intended the man to be happy. He (God) gave him a beautiful Garden with trees bearing fruits good to eat. God gave Adam and Eve a commandment to obey and warned them about the consequences of disobedience. They were free to choose to obey or to disobey. Freedom was an important thing that God gave to man.

## TEACHING THE LESSON

### Introduction

Say: "Take a piece of paper and draw a picture of a man." Allow three minutes for this. Do not worry about the correctness of the picture. After they have finished, show them the pictures and toys of human beings you have brought. Tell them to write down the differences between themselves and the toys or pictures.

Next, ask the students to write the similarities and differences between man and all the other created things (including plants and animals). You might find it better to



divide the class into groups so that they can work together on one question.

Ask the students to read Genesis 1:26-31. Ask: "What is your understanding of the words 'Let us make man in our image,' (verse 26). Does this mean that God looks like man in physical appearance?" Allow time for discussion, but do not agree or disagree with any answers.

Ask: "What is your understanding of Genesis 1:28? What are the three duties God gave to man?" The answers you should expect are: 1. To bring forth children and increase the human population. 2. To rule the earth. 3. To develop the earth. Ask: "Do you think man has fulfilled these duties?"

### **Examination**

Say: "We have discovered that the creation of man was special. Man is very unique. He is the crown and climax of God's creation. He alone was created in God's image. The image refers to man's spiritual and moral characteristics, not to his physical appearance. God is spirit, and a spirit has no flesh and blood. God can think, love and choose. He made man capable of thinking, loving and choosing.

God gave man work to do - to increase human population, to develop and rule the earth. To some extent man has fulfilled these duties. He has defeated big animals and tamed some. He has populated the earth. He has used the earth to meet his needs.

To some extent man has failed in his duties. He has destroyed life. He has made the land poor by cultivating badly. He has cut down trees and failed to plant new ones. He has brought forth more children than he is able to look after. What can we do to remedy the situation?

## Application

Say: "The important questions many people ask are: 'What is the meaning of life? Where did I come from? What am I supposed to do here on earth? Where am I going?' This passage of Genesis gives us answers.

1. *Man was created by God.* It is very important for you to believe this. This is what will lead you to ask, 'Why did God create me?' and more specifically 'What is his purpose for my life?'
2. *Man was created to live in fellowship with God.* We don't know why God created the hyena, the ostrich, the snake, the lion and others, but we know why he created man. He wanted a relationship with man like that of a father and son. That is why he created man in his own image. Because of that image man is able to understand, love and obey God. What is your relationship with God?
3. *Man was made to live in fellowship with other human beings.* God made males and females to live in families. They would live in harmony with their neighbours.
4. *Man was made to rule and develop the earth.* What can you do to change the failures people have made in this area?"

## Prayer Suggestions

1. Pray that your students will understand that man is God's special creation.
2. Pray that they will understand why God created man in his own image.
3. Pray that they will commit themselves to live like God wants them to live.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **THE WOMAN GOD CREATED**

#### **PREPARING TO TEACH**

**Background Scripture:** Genesis 2:18-22; Ephesians 5:25;  
Colossians 3:19; Titus 2:4-5

**Verses in Today's Lesson:** Genesis 2:18-22

#### **Memory Verse**

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church  
and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25).

**Lesson Aim:** To help students understand the dignity and  
worth of a woman in God's sight.

**Teaching Aids:** A chalk board or large piece of paper (for  
writing five questions).

#### **Background Study**

We have already discovered in Genesis 1:26-28 that  
sexuality is part of being a human person. Everyone is born  
either male or female. Our happiness depends very much on  
how we live as male or female persons. Sexuality belongs to  
the very nature of man and woman.

In that passage we also discovered that man and woman  
are equal. God made all of them in his own image. They  
were given the mandate to rule and develop the earth.

Genesis 2:18-22 emphasizes the following points.  
1. Marriage is willed by God who makes it possible and  
blesses it. 2. Man and woman are made to live together.  
They are to become partners, united by mutual respect and  
love. 3. Man and woman complete each other's being.



From these points, we conclude that husband and wife are called to love each other, to give themselves to each other, to draw each other out of isolation and selfishness. They are to be responsible for each other and to share their lives in justice, unity and peace.

Genesis 2:21-22 says that God took a rib from man to form a woman. This means that man and woman are part of each other. It also means that a man is not complete without a woman, and a woman is not complete without a man.

In Ephesians 5:25 Paul compares the relationship between husband and wife to the relationship between Christ and his Church. The man is told to love his wife as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her. A man has no right to make a slave of his wife. Christ's love is seen in service and sacrifice.

Titus 2:4-5 teaches that Christian women are to serve in the family and home as good wives and mothers. The wife should submit to her husband recognizing him as the head of the house.

## **TEACHING THE LESSON**

### **Introduction**

Say: "Read the introduction to chapter four in your book." After three minutes of reading ask: "Can you remember any human relationships that started well and then ended badly?"

Say: "All of us have observed relationships between men and women, husbands and wives, boys and girls. I want you to describe the nature of those relationships." Divide the class into small groups, not more than five in a group. Each group will choose a leader and a secretary who will take

notes. Explain that you will write questions on the chalk board for them to consider. Allow about ten minutes for this part of the lesson.

### Questions

1. Would you say that the relationship between men and women, husbands and wives, boys and girls in your community is good? Explain your answer.
2. What are men's attitudes toward women in your community? Do the men consider the women as equals, as slaves, as servants or as property? Is your answer good or bad?

Say: "Now read Genesis 2:18-22."

3. What points about relationships between sexes are being made in these verses?
4. Consider how you relate to your father, your mother, your sister, your best friend, your uncle. Why do you relate differently to each one?
5. If you were the opposite sex would you relate differently to them?

### Examination

Say: "According to the Old Testament the dignity and value of men and women flows from their being created by God in his image and likeness. Genesis 2:18-22 tells us the importance and purpose of the creation of the woman. There is no indication in these verses that a man is superior to a woman or that a woman is a man's slave. What verses say that the man was lonely and incomplete? The animals could not give him sufficient company. God gave him a helpmate or a companion, a woman. We all need other people to complete our being. We are meant to live in

society. Which do you regard as more important, a sewing needle without a thread or a thread without a needle? Both are important. Neither can work well without the other.

"The verses also tell us that a woman was made from man. They are a part of each other. They are called to love each other, give themselves to each other, be responsible to each other and to share their lives. They are equally important to each other."

### **Application**

Say: "Jesus taught in his life that all men and women are children of God, equally important in God's eyes. He gave himself to anyone. It did not matter what sex the person was. What does this mean to us?"

"The difference between man and woman are so that each can complete the other. We should not permit anything that discriminates against people, lessens their human dignity or treats them unfairly. Love and respect must be the basis for *all* our relationships.

"What are the duties of husbands to their wives? What are the duties of wives to their husbands? Relationships can not be right until each one understands this and does it."

Have the students repeat the memory verse. Remind them of the Things To Do.

### **Prayer Suggestions**

1. Pray that the students will understand the dignity and worth of a woman in God's sight.
2. Pray that love and respect will be the basis of all our relationships.



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3. Pray that your family will be an example of love and respect for fellow human beings.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### THE CREATION OF THE HOME

#### PREPARING TO TEACH

Background Scripture: Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:4-6;  
Proverbs 18:22; Matthew 5:32; Hebrews 13:4

Verses in Today's Lesson: Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:4-6

#### Memory Verse

"Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

Lesson Aim: To help students understand that holy marriage is the foundation upon which the home is built.

Teaching Aids: A chalk board or large piece of paper.

#### Background Study

We studied in the previous lessons that after God created man, he created a woman to be his companion (Genesis 2:20-22).

Genesis 2:23 says that when the man saw the woman, he was filled with joy. He recognized in the woman a being with whom he could have a genuine personal relationship. She meant more to him than anything else in the world. He proclaimed her 'bone' of his bones and 'flesh' of his flesh. He recognized in her someone with whom he could share himself completely.

Genesis 2:24 describes the basis and nature of that relationship. *The relationship is meant to be complete and*

*lasting.* It is meant to be more permanent than the relationship with parents or other relatives.

*It is a shared life.* They share beliefs, ideas, interests, goals, sorrows, happiness, successes, failures and material possessions. They share in the creation and education of other people, their children. *Marriage is meant for one man and one woman.*

In his teachings about marriage, Jesus upheld the ideals of Genesis 2:23-24. Read Matthew 19:4-6.

Hebrews 13:4 says that there is nothing dishonourable about marriage and sex within marriage. But those who engage in improper sexual relationships will have to face God's judgement. *Adultery is sin.*

### TEACHING THE LESSON

#### Introduction

Say: "Each of you take a piece of paper and write reasons why you would or would not want to get married."

"In many of our traditional marriages wives are taken to live in their husband's families. They become a part of their husband's family. Is there any danger in this? Does it agree with Genesis 2:24? One of the reasons given by some African young men for taking their young wives into their parents' home is that they marry before they are economically independent. What do you think about this reason?"

"Let us discuss the practical implications of Genesis 2:24. What does this verse mean about leaving one's parents and cleaving to the marriage partner? What problems could develop if the young couple do not do this? Does the Christian point of view differ from the traditional view? How?"



## **Examination**

Say: "The Christian teaching about marriage is very clear. It is marriage with complete faithfulness to your partner until death. It is intended to be monogamous (one man, one woman). It is impossible to love two or more partners equally.

"In the last lesson we learnt about God's purpose for creating the sex differences. The two sexes were created to complement each other and to help each other develop in a fully human way. This means that it is wrong for a man to use his wife only as a servant to take care of his house and bear his children. She is to be his companion, someone to share life with.

Genesis 2:24 is the foundation upon which the home is built. The man is to leave his father and his mother and cleave to his wife. This should be done publically in the sight of others, legally in the sight of the government and the church. Cleaving means a unity that nothing can separate. True love is the basis for that unity.

## **Application**

Say: "Read the application section in your book on this topic. In this you will find that there are some decisions for you to make. There are things for you to do. What are they? (List these on the chalk board).

"What should you do if the teachings you learn from the Bible are different from what your friends are doing? What should you do if the biblical teaching conflicts with a traditional teaching? A Christian must be prepared to reject any teaching that is contrary to Christ's teaching. A Christian must stand on the Word of God regardless of what his or her friends do.

## THE CREATION OF THE HOME

"Will you pray to God right now and commit yourself to establish your home on his foundation?"

Allow a few moments for silent prayer.

Have the students repeat the memory verse until they can say it without help. Remind them of the Things To Do in their books.

### **Prayer Suggestions**

1. Pray that your students will choose to build their relationships on the solid foundation, Jesus Christ.
2. Pray that they will commit themselves to Christian marriage as the foundation for their home.
3. Pray that your family will be a good example to the young people in your community.

## CHAPTER SIX

### THE SABBATH - DAY OF REST AND WORSHIP

#### PREPARING TO TEACH

Background Scripture: Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; 34:31;  
Matthew 21:1-8; John 20:10; Acts 20:7

Verses in Today's Lesson: Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11

#### Memory Verse

"This is the day which the Lord has made; let us  
rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalms 118:24).

Lesson Aim: To help students understand the meaning of  
the Sabbath.

Teaching Aids: Write on a chalk board or large piece of  
paper, THE SABBATH.

#### Background Study

Genesis 2:1-3 says that after God had finished his work of  
creation, he rested. This means he rested from his creative  
work.

The Sabbath commandment in Exodus 20:8-11 tells us to  
keep a day of rest. For most people it is a day when we do  
not do our usual work. We are free to spend the time as we  
like. We can forget the demands of school or put aside the  
demands of our employer until Monday morning.

God intended this simple law for man's good and his  
happiness. It gave him the chance to rest from his labours  
and to worship God. But by the time of Jesus, the Jewish  
teachers had added on to this commandment many things



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that a man could not do on the Sabbath day. It is not surprising therefore, that we read in the Gospels that Jesus was often in conflict with these leaders over this particular commandment (Matthew 12:1-8).

Jesus taught that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Man-made restrictions and rules had made the Sabbath a day of fear and inconvenience. Jesus did not teach that laws should be disregarded as one wishes. He did teach that human need is above the law. He taught that there are times when a law would not help in meeting human need.

### TEACHING THE LESSON

#### Introduction

Have someone read Exodus 20:8-11. Say: "You all know how busy school and college pupils and students can be when the examinations are approaching. They want to work all the time. On Sunday morning they may wake up to study from 5.00 o'clock until 9:30. They wash quickly, attend church and return to their books. Is this a proper way of keeping the Sabbath? What advice would you give to such students?" Let the students give their answers.

#### Examination

Say: "God gave this commandment for our own good. The human body, like any machine, needs rest and servicing. It will have a break-down if it does not get rest. But it is important to understand what rest means.

"Genesis 2:1-3 says that God rested. This does not mean that God rested from every work. He only rested from his creative work. In the same way, the Sabbath is the day we rest from our usual daily activities, and we are free to do other things. We can sleep more than usual. We can visit

friends. We can get involved in recreation or developing our talents and gifts. Most important of all, we can use the day to worship God and to have fellowship with Christians in the church.

"This commandment means more than physical rest. The human soul needs rest. Many people's souls are burdened with worries, anxieties, loneliness, discontent and disappointment. The greatest burden of all is guilt and sin. The Sabbath is a good day to seek rest from these burdens. Like Jesus we can use the day to give others rest from these burdens."

### **Application**

Say: "There are some people who do not agree with our choice of Sunday as the Sabbath. Some say that Saturday is the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. This is the seventh day of the week according to the Bible. But the word, Sabbath, does not mean Saturday or seventh. It means the day of rest. We are not commanded to keep the seventh day. We are commanded to keep the Sabbath, one day in a week when work is stopped."

"Christians chose to use Sunday to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Read Acts 20:7.

"How can we keep the Sabbath holy? We can realize that all God's gifts are good and are to be enjoyed. The Sabbath is one of these gifts. It is a day of rest for man's enjoyment. There are beauties of the world around us that we might not see every day as we hurry to work or school. There is the happiness of visiting friends, the joy of being with family. There is the opportunity of spending time with those who are sick or lonely. There are many ways of resting and enjoying a holy day."

## THE SABBATH - DAY OF REST AND WORSHIP

Help the students learn the memory verse. Call attention to the Things To Do.

### Prayer Suggestions

1. Pray that your students will understand the meaning of Sabbath.
2. Pray that they will know how to use the Sabbath for God's glory.
3. Pray for yourself and for your family, that you will practise what you teach.



## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **HOW SIN BEGAN**

#### **PREPARING TO TEACH**

**Background Scripture:** Genesis 3:1-7; Isaiah 53:6; James 4:17; Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23

**Verses in Today's Lesson:** Genesis 3:1-7

#### **Memory Verse**

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

**Lesson Aim:** To help students understand the origin of sin and how we are tempted to sin.

**Teaching Aids:** Take a fruit with you. You will also need a chalk board or a large piece of paper on which to write the topic of the lesson.

#### **Background Study**

We have seen how God completed the work of creation. Genesis 1:31 says, "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good." Even Adam was pleased with God's creation. He said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh..." (Genesis 2:23). And yet as we see the world today we cannot say, "It is very good." There is unhappiness. Where did this come from? How did sin get into the world? How can God who is unlimited in wisdom, power and love allow such a terrible thing to exist? To many minds, the origin of sin and the reason for its existence are a source of great perplexity. The

Bible teaches plainly that God was not responsible for the entrance of sin. Sin came through Satan.

Genesis 3:1-7 describes how sin entered the world. Satan, in the form of a serpent, approached Eve and tempted her to sin. He told her that obedience to God was not good. He said that God made laws out of fear that human beings would become God. He told her that if she had the courage to disobey she would be like God and equal to him. Eve, instead of turning away from the tempter, listened to him and gave in to the temptation. She brought Adam to join her. Adam chose to please his wife rather than God.

That which happened to Adam and Eve can happen to all of us. Adam and Eve disobeyed God out of pride. They wanted to do as they pleased rather than as God wanted. They imagined they could go on being happy without taking any notice of their Creator.

Genesis 4 tells us how Adam's sin soon began to appear in his descendants. And now all men are born sinners (Romans 3:23; 5:12; James 4:17). Is there any way of escape? Yes, there is a way, the only way. Read Isaiah 53:6.

## TEACHING THE LESSON

### Introduction

"Have you ever experienced a conflict inside your heart? When you have a decision to make you start hearing two voices. One voice tells you to obey God, and the other voice tells you to ignore God. The latter voice says, 'Do what you like and you will achieve success.' How often do you obey the voice which tells you to obey God? Have you ever thought that the voice which tells you to disobey God is the voice of Satan?

"Which one do you find easier to do - to do right or to sin? If you find it easier to sin than to do right, what do you think is your problem? Does everybody have the same problem or is it only you who have it?"

Say: "Read Genesis 3:1-7. What similarity is there between the Genesis account of temptation and our own experience?" Allow a few minutes for discussion.

Say: "Here is a fruit which is not mine. Is there anything wrong if I ate it?"

### **Examination**

Say: "Some people blame Satan for their sins. Others blame fellow human beings for their sins. Still others blame circumstances. Very few see their own responsibility for their sins.

"Genesis 3:1-7 shows us that, although sin comes through Satan and through others, each of us has a choice to make. We choose to sin or not to sin. Satan did not force Eve to sin. Eve did not force Adam to sin. It was their choice to disobey God. Jesus was tempted in every way like we are, but he did not sin (Hebrews 4:15). Like Jesus we can resist sin and Satan if we choose to do so.

"God gave freedom to man. He does not force men to obey, serve or love him. He wants men to render voluntary service. He wants love and obedience from man, but he does not force us. We are free to choose to sin or to obey. If we choose sin, we must pay severe consequences."

### **Application**

Say: "From Genesis 3:1-7 we learn that this world is a battleground between good and evil. Satan is the leader of evil. God is the leader of good. We have constant calls to

take the side of right verses evil. In this battle we do not fight alone. God helps us overcome evil.

"Satan is a powerful spiritual being. His method is to tempt men to sin through deceit and tricks. He seeks to falsify the word of God and to misrepresent God's plan for all men. He tries to make people believe that God's laws are not just. Satan comes in many disguised forms.

"We must be aware of our spiritual enemy and resist him. He makes us want to serve ourselves instead of God. In this way we worship ourselves instead of God.

"If we ask God, he will help us recognize and resist Satan."

Have the students learn the memory verse and do the Things To Do in their books.

### **Prayer Suggestions**

1. Ask God to help you show the students that this life is a battleground between good and evil. They are called to resist evil and stand for good.
2. Pray that you can help them recognize their spiritual enemies and know what weapons they should use to defeat them.
3. Pray that they will look to Jesus as the only one through whom we can defeat our enemies.



## **CHAPTER EIGHT**

### **THE PENALTY OF SIN**

#### **PREPARING TO TEACH**

**Background Scripture:** Genesis 3:8-21; Romans 3:10,23; 5:12; 6:23

**Verses in Today's Lesson:** Genesis 3:8-19

#### **Memory Verse**

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

**Lesson Aim:** To help students recognize the seriousness of sin and disobedience toward God.

**Teaching Aids:** Write the topic of the lesson on a chalk board or a large piece of paper.

#### **Background Study**

Genesis 3:8-21 tells us the result of Adam's sin:

1. *Unhappiness.* By their sin Adam and Eve brought unhappiness upon themselves. In their hearts there were feelings of shame, guilt and fear.
2. *Bad relationships with God.* They lost their familiar friendship with God. They could no longer face God without fear. It is the reason they ran and hid when they heard God's voice.
3. *Bad relationships with fellow men.* Adam did not see his wife as a helper. He saw her as the one who led him into

trouble. "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate" (Genesis 3:12).

Eve was even told that a result of her sin was that her husband would rule over her (Genesis 3:16). In some families of the earth, the woman is almost a slave.

4. *Bad relationships with the rest of God's creation.* The earth was not so fruitful. The people had to work hard to make the earth produce food (Genesis 3:17-19). Man was no longer in full control of God's creation. From that time man and some of the animals would be enemies (Genesis 3:15).
5. *Physical death.* Their bodies began to experience tiredness, suffering, sickness, old age and death.

Man was reduced to a state of sin, shame, fear and separation from God. Man began to die physically. He lost total control over nature and matter, found himself unable to subdue the earth and had to supply his needs by hard toil. He began to experience conflict and suffering. A barrier had come in between man and God which only Christ could remove. It is an experience of every man (Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23).

## TEACHING THE LESSON

### Introduction

Say: "A story is told of a little girl who became very unhappy after stealing some money from her father. Nothing could comfort her. Finally a Christian friend came and told her the things that would help her experience the peace she had before. She must confess to her father what she had done. She must ask his forgiveness, and she must return the money.

"She did what she was told and received peace again."  
Ask: "Have you ever had an experience like that?" (Do not require the students to answer.)

Say: "Think of a day you had a bad relationship with someone. For days you did not like to see or to talk to that person. Who was more to blame for this bad relationship - you, or the other person? Be very honest."

Ask: "What happens when you know you have sinned and you try to pray? What is the problem?"

Say: "Read Genesis 3:8-19. Write down the consequences of Adam's sin. In what ways is this similar to your own experience?"

### Examination

Say: "I believe you have discovered the consequences of sin. Sin spoils many things. Who would like to write these on the chalk board?"

1. *It stops men from being happy.* God had intended man to be happy. He gave man everything that would make him happy - a helpmate, a garden of delight, free fellowship with God. By their sin Adam and Eve brought unhappiness upon themselves. They could no longer experience peace within their hearts.
2. *It brings us into conflict with others.* Adam blamed his wife and God for his sins. He also began to oppress his wife. Destruction criticism and oppression are two things that bring conflict among men. Sin makes men incapable of living together in peace.
3. *It brings conflict with God.* Adam and Eve lost their original familiar friendship with God and the happiness that flowed from it. They could no longer face God without fear.

4. *It brought many sufferings.* They began to experience fatigue and suffering. The earth was not fruitful. They had to work hard to make it produce food. Their bodies began to grow old, to fall sick and to die."

### **Application**

Ask: "What two points can you get from the application section of your books?" They are: We must know that we are all sinners and we must know that our sins bring terrible consequences. Most people are blind to their sins, although they can see clearly the sins of others. We can not avoid God as Adam and Eve tried to do in the Garden. We cannot get away from him.

Say: "It is important for us to know if there is any way to escape from sin. Genesis 3:15 shows God's attempt to save the sinner by creating enmity between man and Satan. Jesus finally defeated Satan by his death on the cross. He is the only one who can save us from sin."

Teach the memory verse, and remind them of their Things To Do.

### **Prayer Suggestions**

1. Pray that this lesson will impress upon the students the serious consequences of sin. It should lead to repentance and faith toward God.
2. Pray that they will see their responsibility to help others to escape from the power of sin.
3. Pray for all members of your church to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit daily.



## **CHAPTER NINE**

### **VICTORY OVER SIN**

#### **PREPARING TO TEACH**

**Background Scripture:** Genesis 3:22-24; Luke 19:10; John 3:16-17; Hebrews 7:25

**Verses in Today's Lesson:** Genesis 3:22-24

#### **Memory Verse:**

"For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

**Lesson Aim:** To help students understand that man's only hope for eternal life is in Jesus Christ.

**Teaching Aids:** A chalk board or a large piece of paper.

#### **Background Study**

In Revelation 3:20 Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock...." For Jesus to talk about the door presupposes that there is a wall, a barrier between us and God. This wall has not been there. It was erected when Adam and Eve sinned. God drove them out of the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:22-24) and put a cherubim and a flaming sword to prevent man from returning to the Garden. Since then all Adam's descendants have been born on the other side of the flaming sword. All men remain on the other side until they find the way back through the door which God has provided. The way is Jesus.

The important lesson we learn from this passage (Genesis 3:22-24) is that sin cuts us off from God and therefore from

life. "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you so that he does not hear" (Isaiah 59:2). Sin hinders the fulfilment of God's plans for our lives. The tree of life was the symbol of man's blessedness. It was the symbol of life which unsinning men might enjoy in the communion with God. The taking and eating is a symbolical way of referring to enjoyment of eternal life. This he cannot now enjoy. He is put beyond reach of the tree of life. He is lost. Is there any way of coming back to the Garden and receiving eternal life?

In Luke 19:10 Jesus explains the reason for his coming - to seek and save the lost. The whole world or all of mankind is lost. Christ came into this lost world to seek and save it. There is salvation in no other. He came to give us eternal life (John 3:16-17). His motive of doing this is because God loves us.

### TEACHING THE LESSON

#### Introduction

Say: "I want to tell you a story. One day a young boy burnt his father's shirt through carelessness. The father was angry and decided to shut him up in a room for thirty six hours. He was to be given neither food nor water. The boy had never received such severe punishment. The father knew it would hurt his son very much. He loved his son, and it hurt him also to see his son suffering. But he also knew that if the son did not suffer, he would not grow into a responsible person.

"But, because of his love, the father decided to go and suffer with his son in that room. For thirty six hours he was there with his son in that room. He neither ate food

nor drank water. They talked a lot with each other, until the punishment was over."

Ask: "What do you think the father and son talked about in that room? Remember that they were hungry, thirsty and suffering. What was the father's reason for punishing his son? Why do you think he would share the punishment with his son? Do you think punishment can help us gain victory over sin?"

Say: "One of you read Genesis 3:22-24. Another read Luke 19:10. Another read John 3:16-17. What similarities exist between the ideas of these Bible verses and the story of the father and son I have just told you?"

### **Examination**

Say: "The Bible teaches us a lot about God's love for men and how God can help us gain victory over sin. God made Adam and Eve. He made them very happy and intended them to stay like that. But because they were free persons, he wanted them to show freely their love and obedience.

"Then sin spoiled everything. The people became subject to suffering and death. They no longer had the happiness of friendship with God. They were cut off from the life of God. Man became lost.

"But God is good. His love is unchangeable. God continued to love man even after he sinned. On the day he told of their punishment he also promised a Saviour."

### **Application**

Say: "What two important ideas do you get from the application section of your book?" The best ideas are: how to get eternal life and how to overcome sin.

Ask: "What are some wrong ways to try to get eternal life? What is the right way?"

Say: "We can talk about our victory now because we are joined to Christ through faith. We still have temptations and suffering during life, but through his death and resurrection he has won for us the strength to overcome temptation. 'This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith' (1 John 5:4). 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16). The only condition we have to fulfil is faith. If we believe the victory is ours."

Teach the memory verse and call attention to Things To Do.

### **Prayer Suggestions**

1. Pray that your students will understand that man's only hope of eternal life is in Jesus Christ.
2. Pray that they will put their faith in him.
3. Pray that they will accept their responsibility to lead others to Christ.



## **CHAPTER TEN**

### **CAIN AND ABEL**

#### **PREPARING TO TEACH**

**Background Scripture:** Genesis 4; Hebrews 11:4;  
1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalms 95:6; John 4:24

**Verses in Today's Lesson:** Genesis 4:1-10; Hebrews 11:4

**Memory Verse:**

"O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel  
before the Lord, our Maker" (Psalms 95:6).

**Lesson Aim:** To help students know how to worship God in  
truth and spirit.

**Teaching Aids:** If possible take two pictures with you to  
class. One shows Abel offering his sacrifice to God. The  
other shows Cain. Perhaps you could draw the pictures.

#### **Background Study**

The effects of Adam's sin soon began to appear in his  
descendants. They were inclined to seek their own  
satisfaction rather than obey God. The Bible tells how men  
became more and more sinful. It does not tell us all their  
sins, but it gives us some examples.

The first example is within the lifetime of Adam and Eve.  
They had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain became jealous of  
his brother, and one day he murdered his brother. The  
story began when both men offered their sacrifices to God.  
On the entrance of sin it seems that God had ordered such  
sacrifices. It was perhaps a picture of the atoning death of  
Jesus many years later.

Abel's sacrifice was accepted by God because it was offered in faith (Hebrews 11:4). God did not accept Cain's sacrifice because Cain was of the evil one, and his deeds were evil (1 John 3:12). Cain did not have a right attitude toward God, toward his possessions and toward his fellow man. He did not worship God in truth and spirit (John 4:24).

What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth? It means:

1. *We should try to understand the nature of God*, what pleases him and what does not please him. Cain tried to worship God without understanding the nature of God. God is not pleased with some of our worship. In fact he despises and hates some of our worship (Amos 5:21-24).
2. *We should obey God* (Mark 7:6-8). God tried to warn Cain about this and to save him from sin, but Cain ignored God's Word (Genesis 4:6-8).
3. *We should love others*. Any worship of God which does not include the love of fellow men is false worship. Cain did not love his brother. "If any one says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20).

## TEACHING THE LESSON

### Introduction

Say: "Today we are going to learn about worship." Ask: "What do you understand about worship? What does it mean to worship God?" Write the answers on the chalk board.

Have one student read Genesis 4:1-10. After the reading divide the class into groups to discuss the following questions:

1. Is offering a sacrifice the same as worshipping God?
2. Why do you think God accepted Abel's sacrifice and not Cain's?
3. Many people claim to be Christians and to worship God. Do you think God accepts the worship of all these people? Give reasons for your answer.
4. What does this passage teach us about true worship?
5. Think about your own type of worship. Read Matthew 5:23-24 and Mark 7:6-8. Would you say that your worship is true or false? Suppose you hate someone and you have refused to forgive that person. Would you worship God in spirit and truth?
6. A girl once said, "I love God very much, but I cannot keep his commandments." Do you think she loved God? Read John 14:15.) Do you think God would accept her worship?

### **Examination**

Say: "There is a lot of false worship in many local churches today. The Bible teaches that not all worship is equally acceptable to God. God hates and rejects certain kinds of worship.

"The word, worship, is understood differently by different people and different churches. Some people think of worship in terms of kneeling down in order to pray. In this way, they believe they are showing the greatness of God and the littleness of men in God's sight. It is quite possible



for a person to show outward respect for God and yet refuse to obey God.

"Some people think of worship in terms of beautiful candles burning in the altar, beautiful flowers, decoration of church buildings, quietness, well-prepared sermons and prayers and splendid music. Other people think of worship in terms of clapping their hands, swaying their bodies and shouting aloud the 'Alleluias' and 'Amens'. Others think in terms of serving others because to serve others means to serve God.

"Read Romans 12:1. This verse simply means that we must worship God with the whole of our lives. It includes listening to God, obeying God, praising God, giving to God and serving others. We must give God our best, because that is what he deserves."

### **Application**

Say: "Read the application in your book. What do you learn from that section about true worship? Think of the five questions you tried to answer. Read this passage again carefully and see if it can help you to answer the questions.

Say: "Let us now gather together all we have learnt about true worship:

1. We should try to understand the nature of God - especially what pleases him and what does not please him.
2. We must have faith in God. God accepted Abel's offering because of his faith.
3. We must repent of sin. Cain failed to worship God because of sin.
4. We should obey God. This is what Cain failed to do.



5. We should love others. Cain failed because he did not love his brother, Abel. Cain's reaction toward God was expressed in his anger toward Abel.

Teach the memory verse and call attention to Things To Do.

**Prayer Suggestions**

1. Pray that your students will understand the meaning of true worship.
2. Pray that your church will be one that worships God in truth and spirit.
3. Pray that love will characterize the fellowship of your class and your church.

## **CHAPTER ELEVEN**

### **NOAH**

#### **PREPARING TO TEACH**

**Background Scripture:** Genesis 6-8; Matthew 24:37-39;  
Hebrews 11:6-7

**Verses in Today's Lesson:** Genesis 6:5-8, 17-19

#### **Memory Verse**

"And without faith it is impossible to please him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

**Lesson Aim:** To help students understand God's plan of salvation.

**Teaching Aids:** Bring any film, slide or picture of Noah that you can get.

#### **Background Study**

In the first 11 chapters of Genesis, we see how God revealed to Israel that the deepest problem, not only of Israel, but the whole human race in SIN. The stories of these chapters tell us of how sin came into the world (Adam and Eve, Genesis 3), how it deepened (Cain and Abel, Genesis 4) and spread to others (Noah, Genesis 6-8). Sin deepened and spread so much through the human race that, "the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5-6). During Noah's time there were abnormal marriages, violence and corruption.

Judgement came upon men at each point. The deeper the sin, the deeper the judgement. So great was the wickedness on earth during Noah's time that God sent a flood of water which destroyed the earth. Only Noah and his family were saved from the flood because they had been faithful to God.

In the midst of judgement, there was grace at work to heal, to protect, to save and to renew. Men in Israel came to see the incredible riches of the grace of God at work even in the heart of sin and judgement. "For where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (Romans 5:20).

Two things saved Noah and his family - God's grace and Noah's faith. "For by grace you have been saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8). "By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, took heed and constructed an ark for the saving of his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness which comes by faith" (Hebrews 11:7). Noah's faith was practical faith. He listened to God's Word and obeyed it. What is the nature of your faith?

## **TEACHING THE LESSON**

### **Introduction**

Say: "Read Genesis 6:5-8, 17-19. Think of what people might have thought and said about Noah as he built the ark." Divide the students into groups and let each group do one of the following:

1. Write a short play about Noah showing how people mocked him. Noah did not care but continued to build the ark. The rain came and only Noah and his family were saved.

2. Compose or sing any song you know about Noah and the flood.
3. Make two drawings - one showing how people mocked Noah as he was building the ark, and one showing Noah and his family safe in the ark while the rest of the people were dying in the flood.
4. Tell a story which has happened during your own time which is similar to Noah's experience.

Also have the groups answer these questions:

1. What is God's attitude toward you and your sins?
2. Do you think every suffering is due to man's sins? Explain your answer?

### Examination

Say: "There are two important truths in this lesson:  
1. The serious consequences of sin. 2. God's grace which saves the sinner.

"The people's sins brought God's wrath and judgement. God destroyed all life on earth except Noah's family, because of human sin. Many people know God as a God of love and imagine that he cannot punish wickedness, destroy life or let people go to hell. It is true that God is a God of love, and he does not like to punish people. But the Bible also teaches that God is a God of righteousness. He cannot let sin go unpunished. Your sins will either be pardoned in Christ or punished in hell.

"However, in the midst of judgement, there was grace at work to heal, protect and save. It was the grace of God that saved Noah and his family. Read Hebrews 11:7 and find out what Noah did to make it possible for the grace of God to work. What did he do? Read also Ephesians 2:8-9 and



find out how you and I can be saved from sin. What must we do to be saved?"

### **Application**

Say: "Read the application in your book." After the reading let the class answer the following questions together.

1. Where does sin begin? (Answer: in the mind and in the heart before it becomes an action)
2. Do you find it easy to control your thoughts and your heart? If not what must be done to make you and me clean and righteous?
3. How did Noah and his family escape from God's wrath, judgement and punishment? Is there anything in Noah's life that people today should follow?
4. What is the meaning of grace?

Have the students learn the memory verse. Call attention to the Things To Do in their books.

### **Prayer Suggestions**

1. Pray that every student will desire to imitate the faith of Noah.
2. Pray for understanding of God's grace, for you and for your students.
3. Ask God to cleanse your own heart and mind of sinful thoughts before they become action.

## **CHAPTER TWELVE**

### **AFTER THE FLOOD**

#### **PREPARING TO TEACH**

**Background Scripture:** Genesis 5:32; 6:18; 9

**Verses in Today's Lesson:** Genesis 9:8-17

#### **Memory Verse**

"I will not violate my covenant, or alter the word that went forth from my lips" (Psalms 89:34).

**Lesson Aim:** To help students understand how God's new covenant with Noah is a blessing to all men.

**Teaching Aids:** Chalk board or a large piece of paper on which to write the topic of this lesson.

#### **Background Study**

After the flood Noah stood forth under God's blessing as the second head of the human race. The human race had begun again (Genesis 9:1-7). Noah received the same blessings as Adam had received. (Read Genesis 1:28-29; 9:1-2.)

The main point of Genesis 9 is God's work of salvation - to help man overcome his natural tendencies to destroy himself and his fellow man. In the first place, God warned man not to shed the blood of another man. If he did, his own blood would be shed. There are many countries today that have removed capital punishment, which is the punishment of death for one who commits murder. The reason for capital punishment is that the fear of losing one's own life as punishment would keep the person from

taking the life of another person. Verse 5 and 6 show that life is a gift from God, and man is not free to take it.

Secondly, God made a covenant with Noah. He gave Noah the rainbow as a promise that never again would the earth be destroyed by water. (Read 2 Peter 3:7 to find the way the world will be destroyed the next time.) Noah would know from this day that whenever he would see a rainbow, it would be God's reminder and pledge of the covenant.

A covenant is more than a promise. It is an agreement. God made the promise, but Noah was expected to have faith in the promise. Faith lays hold of the promise connected to the sign (the rainbow). The sign strengthens and confirms the belief that God will fulfil his Word. Where there is no faith in the promise, there can be no assurance in the sign. The promise and the sign can never be separated. In Genesis 9:16 God said, "When the bow is in the clouds, I will look upon it and remember the everlasting covenant...." God pledged himself to fulfil his agreement.

## **TEACHING THE LESSON**

### **Introduction**

Say: "In the last lesson we saw how God saved Noah from the flood by the ark. The grace of God worked through Noah's faith. Noah's part was to listen to God's Word and obey it. This is practical faith. Today we are going to study what happened after the flood.

"Read the introduction in your book and Genesis 9:8-17. (Allow five minutes for reading.)

"I want you to imagine you were Noah, his wife, or his children. What would you think would be your feelings after the flood? What would you think about yourself, the



people and things that had been destroyed and about God? Would you think you had been saved by your good works or because of God's grace?

"All of us have seen a rainbow. Do you regard it as a natural or supernatural phenomenon? Who can describe to us how a rainbow is formed? What do people in your village believe about the rainbow? How many colours are in a rainbow?

"In what way(s) do you think God's covenant with Noah was a blessing to all men? What is a covenant? Do you believe that every rainbow you see is God's sign that he will never again destroy the earth by water?

### **Examination**

Say: "We can guess the state of Noah's feelings after the flood. He must have been afraid. Would the flood come again? Was it safe to leave the ark? It was not the ark which saved him. It was God.

"God knew all Noah's fears and came to remove them. God removed those fears by making a covenant with him. A covenant is more than a promise. It is an agreement that says what each side will do.

"God gave Noah the rainbow promise as a sign that he would not destroy the earth by water again. This promise was not only for Noah. It was for all mankind. God would show mercy to man. That mercy is seen most clearly in what he has done for man through Christ. We are not told clearly what Noah was expected to do in the agreement, but we can know that he was to have faith in the promise."

### **Application**

Say: "Do you have any 'arks' in your life that you are afraid to leave? Someone please read the application section



to us from your book. It is not the 'arks' that save us. It is God. God can tell us when to go in and when to come out. We must trust the promises of God.

"There are hundreds of promises to believers in the New Testament. Some are forgiveness of sin, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the kingdom of God, eternal life and Christ's coming back a second time. Here are others: 'I can do all things in him who strengthens me' (Philippians 4:13). 'My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4:19). 'I will never fail you nor forsake you' (Hebrews 13:5). 'He cares about you' (1 Peter 5:7). Read also Matthew 6:31-32 and Romans 8:28. With all these promises, should we still have fears in this life?"

Have the students repeat the memory verse until they can say it without help. Call attention to the Things To Do in their books.

### **Prayer Suggestions**

1. Pray that the students will understand God's love for them, although they are sinners. God wants to save, not destroy.
2. Pray that they will trust the promises of God. God is faithful.
3. Pray that they will know where their security is in life. It is in God and not in any things which they might want to cling to.

## **CHAPTER THIRTEEN**

### **THE TOWER OF BABEL**

#### **PREPARING TO TEACH**

**Background Scripture:** Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:5-12;  
1 Corinthians 12:12-13

**Verses in Today's Lesson:** Genesis 11:1-9

#### **Memory Verse**

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

**Lesson Aim:** To help students learn of the judgement of God on man's disobedience and pride.

**Teaching Aids:** Take (or draw) a picture of the building of the tower of Babel.

#### **Background Study**

The climax of men's sins is in Genesis 11 when men built the tower of Babel to try to reach heaven and make a name for themselves. God came down and scattered the people and confused their language. This was God's judgement on the sin, ambition and pride of men.

The motive of building the tower was wrong. It was an act of human self-sufficiency and rebellion against God. It was in opposition to God. God had given men the command to fill the earth and develop its resources.

Judgement, however, is not the end of God's dealings with man. There is always the grace of God working in and

through the judgement. God had a plan for dealing with this universal human problem of sin. This plan was not seen at the beginning. Only as men wrestled with the demand for obedience, with sin and disobedience, was the plan and purpose of God revealed to them.

It was part of God's purpose that we should not live alone but in fellowship with others. This purpose goes back to the creation time. God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18). That is why God created a woman. It was in a family relationship that man was going to learn his first lesson of love and duty toward others. The church is a bigger family.

In the New Testament, the Church is a Christian community started by Jesus himself. The book of Acts tells of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Christian community assembled in Jerusalem at Pentecost. By that one Spirit they were all baptized into one body - Jews and Greeks, slaves and free - and all were of one Spirit. God is not against the unity of men. He is against unity in opposition to himself. He is for that unity which is for the purpose of worshipping him and serving others.

## TEACHING THE LESSON

### Introduction

Say: "A group of senior students were asked what they wanted to become in future. One said, 'I want to become the chief engineer of an airline.' Another said, 'I want to become the attorney general of my country.' Another said, 'I want to become the superintendent of police.' Still another said, 'I want to become the minister of agriculture.' " Ask: "What about you? What would you like to become?"



Say: "Let us divide into groups to discuss the following questions:

1. What can we conclude from the wishes of these students?
2. What do you think a Christian's wish for the future should be?
3. What does the Bible say about people who make plans without God? (Read Psalms 127:1.)
4. Read Genesis 11:1-9. What similarities do you see between the students mentioned above and the builders of the tower of Babel?"

Show your picture of the building of the tower and ask, "In what ways are you like the builders of the tower?" (Do not require answers.)

### **Examination**

Say: "Each of us is involved in some type of building. It is not necessarily a house. We are building our lives. In Matthew 7:24-27 Jesus gave the parable of two men who were involved in building houses. One built his house on rock and the other on sand. Jesus was talking about building our lives. Those who obey God are building on rock. Those who disobey him are building on sand. Which way are you building your life?

"In the heart of most men there is a desire to be great. They want to become chief engineer, attorney general, superintendent of police, or minister of agriculture. None of these things is bad in itself. We can use them to serve others and to bring glory to God. They are bad only when we use them to become great. They are bad when we want them more than we want God's plan for our lives. Sin is anything that is against the will of God."



## **Application**

Say: "Someone please read the application section of your book to us." Ask: "What three important points come out clearly in this material?" The answers are: 1. We don't understand Babel because we don't realize the seriousness of our sins in the eyes of God. 2. Doing what we want (or building 'towers') is more pleasing to us sometimes than doing the will of God. 3. We want to do things to cause others to praise us.

Say: "It is these three attitudes that are the root of many failures in this life. Jesus was the most successful man who ever lived. Why? It was because he resisted the temptation to sin and to pride, he did not seek to please men and his aim was to please God. He did not seek to become great. He wanted to serve others.

"What are your aims in life? Will you ask God to work his plan in your life, or are you building a 'tower'?"

Teach the memory verse.

## **Prayer Suggestions**

1. Pray that the students will understand that God's forgiveness is through the blood of Jesus.
2. Pray that they will understand the serious consequences of sin and pride.
3. Pray that they will ask God to work out his plan in their lives.