

Classical Subjects Creatively Taught™

GOD'S

GREAT

covenant

A Bible Course
for Children

Old
Testament **1**

Genesis to Ruth

Claire A. Larsen



God's Great Covenant, Old Testament 1
A Bible Course for Children

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*To my father, Glenn L. Arnold,
who taught me about the awesomeness of God
and in whose godly footsteps I am proud to follow.
Thanks for all your love and support through the years.*

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Introduction

THEME: God has a story.

Everyone loves a story. Snuggled beside your mother on the sofa, you say, “Mommy, tell me a story.” Not only does everyone love to *hear* stories, but everyone *has* a story. You have a story. Maybe your mother has told you the story about how you became a part of your family. Every day new things happen to you that become part of the story of your life.

The Bible tells you God’s story. It has many parts, but from beginning to end it’s one story. In this story God made a promise, saying, “I will be your God, and you will be My people.” Through the ages God appeared to Noah, Abraham, Jacob, and then Moses. He promised to be with them, to protect them, and to bless them. Sometimes it seemed like God was silent. Maybe He had forgotten about them and the promise He had made. But God hadn’t forgotten. Sometimes God’s people were stubborn and disobeyed Him. Maybe God would change His mind about the promise He had made. But God didn’t change His mind. Most of all, God was always faithful.

In His story God tells you about Himself. God is a spirit and doesn’t have a body like you do. God is eternal. That means God never had a beginning, and He will never end. God wasn’t created. He just always was. That’s hard to imagine because you were born at a moment in time.

God never changes. From day to day He’s always the same. God, who created the world so many centuries ago, is the same God who cares for you today. You are always changing. You grow taller and learn new things. You lose your baby teeth and new teeth grow in their place. God doesn’t have to learn new things because He knows everything. Everything about God is always the same. Because God never changes, you can be sure that what He says won’t change. He’ll never forget His promises.



God is infinite. That means God is very, very big and great. There are no limits to what God knows, what He can do, or where He is. God is everywhere. There are no limits to His holiness, love, and power.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and put two people in this world – Adam and Eve. God wanted these people to love and worship only Him. When Adam and Eve decided to disobey God, a terrible thing happened. Sin came into the world. (Sin is doing what God says not to do and not doing what God says to do.) God wanted Adam and Eve to obey Him because if they obeyed Him, they would be content and life would go well for them. Instead Adam and Eve wanted their own way. So the beautiful world that God created became a place of sin and sadness.

God was not surprised that Adam and Eve sinned. He knew they would sin, and He had a plan. The plan would make it possible for people who were separated from God because of their sin to once again be close to God.

In *God's Great Covenant, OT 1* you will learn about this promise God made. You will learn how much God loved His people, and how He faithfully kept His promise to be their God. Since this is God's story, God is the main character. This book has five sections, each one talking about one part of who God is, but throughout the whole story, God's power, promises, redemption, provision, and faithfulness will be shown over and over again.

God's Great Covenant, OT 1 will take you on an exciting journey with God, the Promise-Keeper. And ... the journey starts now.

Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

Even though Jesus Christ is not mentioned by name in the Old Testament, the Old Testament teaches you many things about Him. Sometimes God gives you a picture in the Old Testament of what Jesus is like. These pictures are called *types*. A *type* is a picture that is like Jesus while at the same time being different than Jesus. The difference is that Jesus is much greater and more excellent than the Old Testament picture. Sometimes you can see Jesus more clearly in the Old Testament after reading more in the New Testament. In these bubbles you will see some of the things that the Old Testament says about Jesus.

Jesus in the OT

God's written story begins in Genesis and continues through the New Testament. Every part of the Old Testament story is important and points us to Jesus, the Savior.

UNIT I

In the Beginning...God's Power

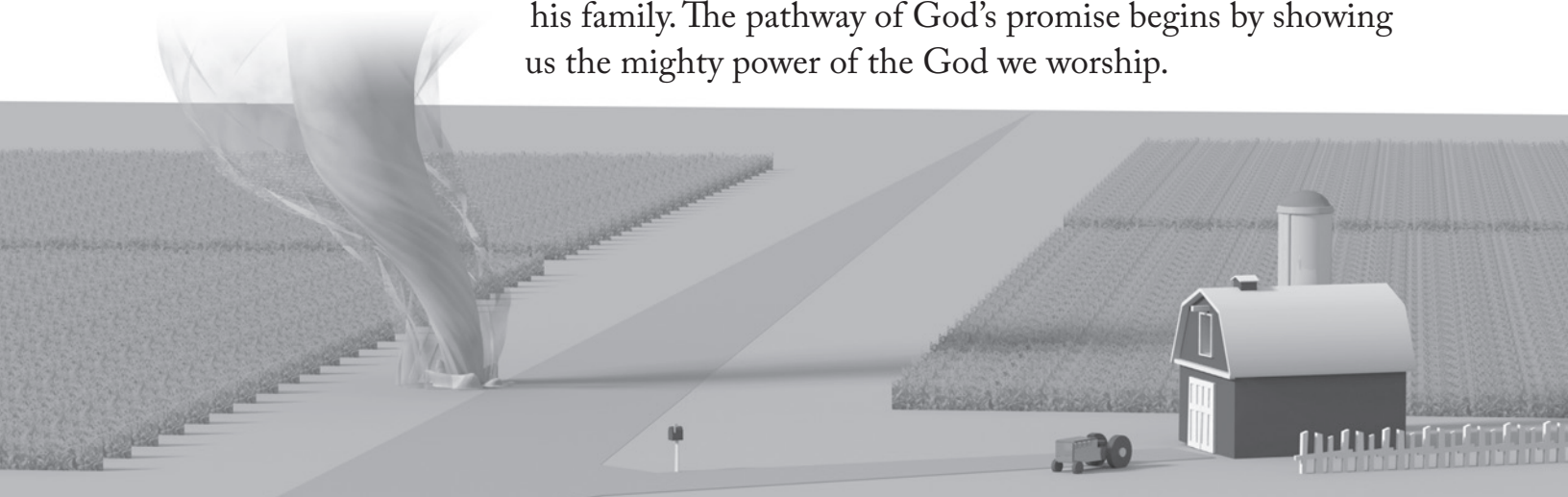
THEME: God is powerful.

A tornado touches the ground and blows apart everything in its path. That's power! The space shuttle revs its giant engines and lifts itself high into the sky. That's power! These things seem powerful to you, but God is many, many times more powerful than a tornado or a space shuttle. God is omnipotent. That means God is all-powerful. Nothing, absolutely nothing, is more powerful than God.

The Bible says that in the beginning nothing existed but God. God was all alone, but He was not lonely. God is one God, but He exists in three persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This is called the Trinity. Within the Trinity God has love and companionship.

God decided to create the universe and everything in it, including the world you live in. God is so powerful that all He had to do was speak and whatever He said happened. In six days God created the whole world just by speaking words. This is just one way that God showed how powerful He was. But God is powerful in other ways, too.

In Unit I you will learn what God's power looks like. When God spoke, things were created. God created mankind from the dust of the earth and made him in the image of God. When sin came into the world, God put His powerful plan of redemption into place. Then when mankind continued to disobey God, God used the powerful forces of nature to destroy sinful men, while miraculously saving Noah and his family. The pathway of God's promise begins by showing us the mighty power of the God we worship.



chapter 1

creation of the world

LESSON SCOPE: Genesis 1

READ TO ME: Genesis 1

THEME: God creates by the power of His words.

MEMORY VERSE:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

KEY FACTS:

God Created...

Day 1	Light	Day 4	Sun, Moon
Day 2	Sky, Waters	Day 5	Fish, Birds
Day 3	Earth, Seas, Plants	Day 6	Animals, People

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

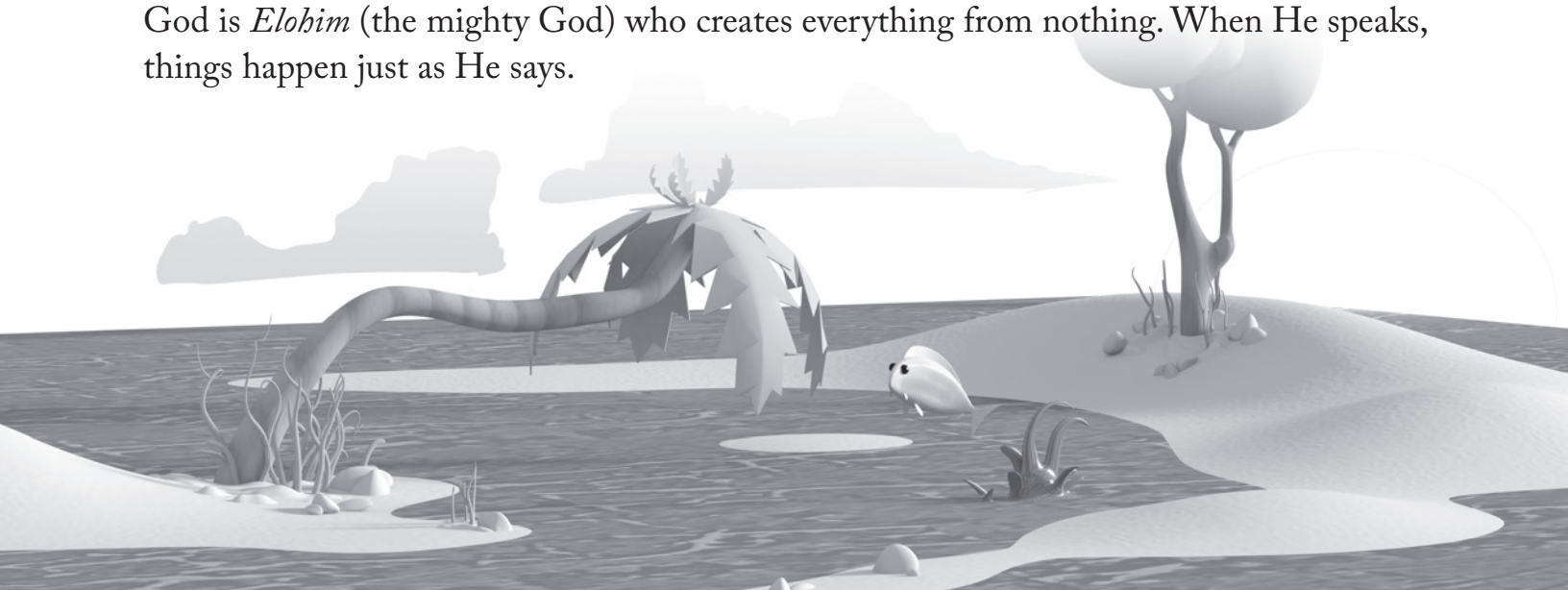
Ex nihilo = A Latin word that means “out of nothing”

Genesis = A Greek word that means “beginning”

Elohim = A plural Hebrew name for God that means “mighty, strong, and majestic”

WHO IS GOD?

God is *Elohim* (the mighty God) who creates everything from nothing. When He speaks, things happen just as He says.



creation of the world

Look around you. What do you see? You see a tree with a gray squirrel running up its trunk. You roll on the grass and it tickles your face. You see blue sky overhead. You hear someone calling you and know it's time for dinner. The world is a wonderful place to live.

Once there was no world. Nothing existed. The Bible says that in the beginning God began with nothing and then created the heavens and the earth and everything that lives on the earth. The Latin words *ex nihilo* mean “out of nothing.” That's how God created everything. God spoke and it happened. In six days He created the whole world.

God tells us the story of creation in the book of Genesis. The word *genesis* is a Greek word that means “beginning”. In Genesis we read about the beginning of the world and the beginning of God's love for His people that He created. But let's get back to the story of creation.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. On the first day God spoke and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. He called the light Day and the darkness Night. There was evening and morning on this first day of creation. On the second day God spoke again. This time God took the watery deep and created the sky above and the waters under the sky. Again, God saw that His work was good, and the day ended. On the third day God spoke and the dry ground separated from the water on the earth. He called the dry ground Earth and the waters Seas. He also made all the grass, plants, and trees that grow on the earth. God saw what He had made and said it was good.

Jesus in the OT

In the beginning, Jesus Christ, Son of God, created the world. How do you know that? The New Testament tells you so (Colossians 1:16).



Do you see some ways in which each day of creation is alike? On each day God spoke and what He said happened. God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Whatever God said happened just as He said it should. On each day God saw that what He had made was good, and He gave each part of creation a name. God is so powerful that His words cause things to happen. The Hebrew word that our Bible translates “God” is *Elohim*. *Elohim* is a plural word that means “might, strength, and majesty.” Even though God is one God, the Hebrews used a plural word to describe God in order to emphasize how vast, strong, and majestic God is.

Let’s finish the creation story. On the fourth day God created the sun, moon, and stars to give light to the earth and to rule the day and night. On the fifth day God made big sea creatures, all the fish in the seas, and all the birds. On the sixth day God created all the land creatures. Each animal, bird, and sea creature was made after its own kind and was told to fill the earth, sky, and sea.

Then God said, “Let us make man after our image.” People are different from everything else in creation because people are made in God’s image. An image is a reflection. When you look in a mirror, you see your image or reflection. It looks just like you but it’s just a reflection of you. In the same way God made you to be a reflection of what He is like. You were made to look like God in the way that you show love, patience, kindness, and justice to others. Being made in God’s image also means that you have a mind that can think and a soul that should worship God.

God saw everything that He had made and said it was very good. Then God rested on the seventh day from all His work, not because He was tired (because God never gets tired), but because He was finished with His work and was very pleased with all He had created.

Review Worksheets

A. MEMORY VERSE:

“In the beginning God created the _____ and the _____” (Genesis 1:1).

B. KEY FACTS: Fill in the spaces.

God Created...

Day 1		Day 4	
Day 2		Day 5	
Day 3		Day 6	

C. STORY FACTS:

1. Each day of creation has the same three parts:

1st: God _____ and what He said happened.

2nd: God said that what He had created was _____.

3rd: God _____ what He created.

2. God created each animal, bird, and fish after its own _____.

3. God tells us the story of creation in the book of _____.

4. God called the light _____, and the darkness _____.

5. God created man in the _____ of God.

6. The Latin word *ex nihilo* means “out of _____.”

7. God’s name *Elohim* means “_____, _____, and _____.”

8. The first book of the Bible is called _____. It is a Greek word that means “_____.”

D. FINISH THE SENTENCES: Circle the right answer.

1. The creation of man was different from the creation of the animals because _____.
 - a. man was created on a different day than the animals
 - b. man was created in the image of God
 - c. God did not think the creation of man was good
2. God rested on the seventh day because _____.
 - a. He was tired from all the work He had done
 - b. He couldn't think of anything else to create
 - c. He had finished His work and was pleased with it

E. CHOOSE THE RIGHT DAY: On what day did God create these things?
Put Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, Day 5, or Day 6 beside the words.

_____ Flowers	_____ Robin	_____ Shark
_____ Moon	_____ Zebra	_____ Oceans
_____ Mountains	_____ Vegetables	_____ Clouds

F. WHO IS GOD?

God is _____ (the mighty God) who creates everything from _____.

When He speaks, things happen just as He _____.

G. THINK ABOUT THIS...

God created man in His own image. That means you are to look like God in the way you act and talk. What are some ways that you can look like God in the way you act towards other people?

Chapter Quiz

A. MEMORY VERSE:

“In the _____ God created the _____ and the _____”
(Genesis ____:____).

B. KEY FACTS:

God Created...

Day 1		Day 4	
Day 2		Day 5	
Day 3		Day 6	

C. STORY FACTS:

1. God created man in the _____ of God.
2. God created all the fish, birds, and animals after their own _____.
3. On the seventh day God _____ from all His _____.

D. THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Draw a line to match these words with their meanings.

Greek word <i>Genesis</i>	Means “out of nothing”
Hebrew word <i>Elohim</i>	Means “beginning”
Latin words <i>ex nihilo</i>	Means “strong, mighty, and majestic”

E. WHO IS GOD?

God is _____ (the mighty God) who creates everything from _____.

When He _____, things happen just as He says.

chapter 2

creation of man

LESSON SCOPE: Genesis 1-2

READ TO ME: Genesis 2

THEME: God creates man to be a reflection of His nature.

MEMORY VERSE:

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:27).

KEY FACTS:

God Created Mankind

Step 1	God created man in His image from the dust of the earth.
Step 2	God breathed life into man, and man became a living soul.
Step 3	Adam named the animals and saw he was alone.
Step 4	God created woman from Adam’s rib while he was asleep.
Step 5	Adam thanked God for the woman God gave him.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Having God’s image = Being created to be a reflection of God
 To glorify God = To honor God by loving, obeying, and reflecting Him
 LORD (Jehovah) = A proper name for God that tells us that He wants to be near to us, to talk with us, and to love us

WHO IS GOD?

God is Jehovah who is near to us. He loves us, wants to talk with us, and wants to be close to us.



creation of man

Pick up a mirror and look into it. What do you see? You see yourself. What you see looks just like you, even to the bump on your chin that you got yesterday on the playground. Actually, though, what you see is not really you. It looks like you, but it's only a reflection of you. It's your image.

Genesis 1 says that God created mankind in His image. You were created to look like God in the way you act and think. Another way to say this is that you were created to glorify God. To glorify means “to give great honor and praise to” or “to worship.” When you act in ways that reflect what God looks like you give honor to God who made you. In the beginning, man reflected God perfectly. Everything he did was loving and good.

After God created man He gave him some instructions. God told man to have children and fill the earth with people. God gave man authority to care for the fish, birds, and animals, and then He told man to rule the earth well. God gave man the green plants to eat for food.

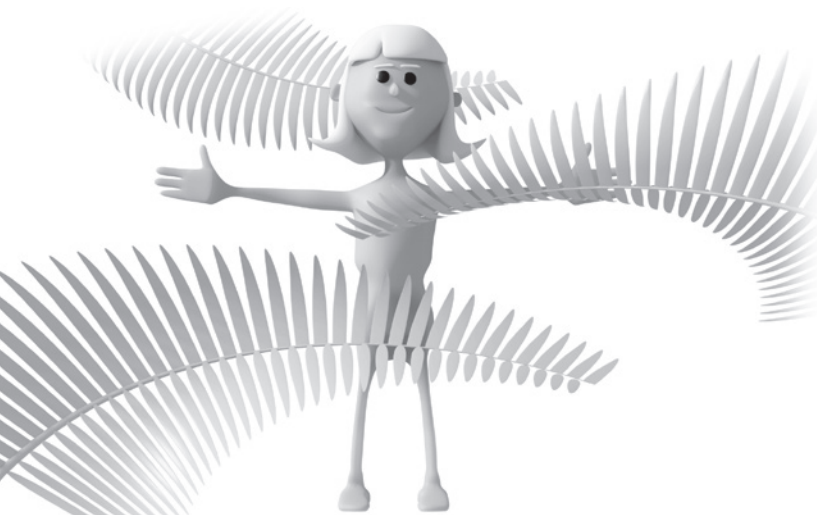
In Genesis 2 the Bible gives you more information about how God made man. Did you notice that God has a new name in Genesis 2? Our Bible uses the word “LORD” and adds it to the word “God” (*Elohim*) to give God the name “LORD God.” Our English word LORD comes from the Hebrew word Yahweh, and is translated “Jehovah.” Jehovah and LORD mean the same thing. Jehovah is the proper name for the God you worship. God uses His name Jehovah when He wants

to tell you that He is near to you and wants to talk with you and that He loves you very much.

So, how did God create man? God made man from the dust of the earth. Then God breathed into man the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

Jesus in the OT

You were created in the image of God in order to reflect Him. Jesus, who is the image of the invisible God, was made a man (who could be seen) to show you what God is like.



God gave Adam a soul that would never die. God put man in a beautiful garden named Eden where every tree was pleasant to look at, and good food was everywhere. God said that man could eat from every tree except one – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

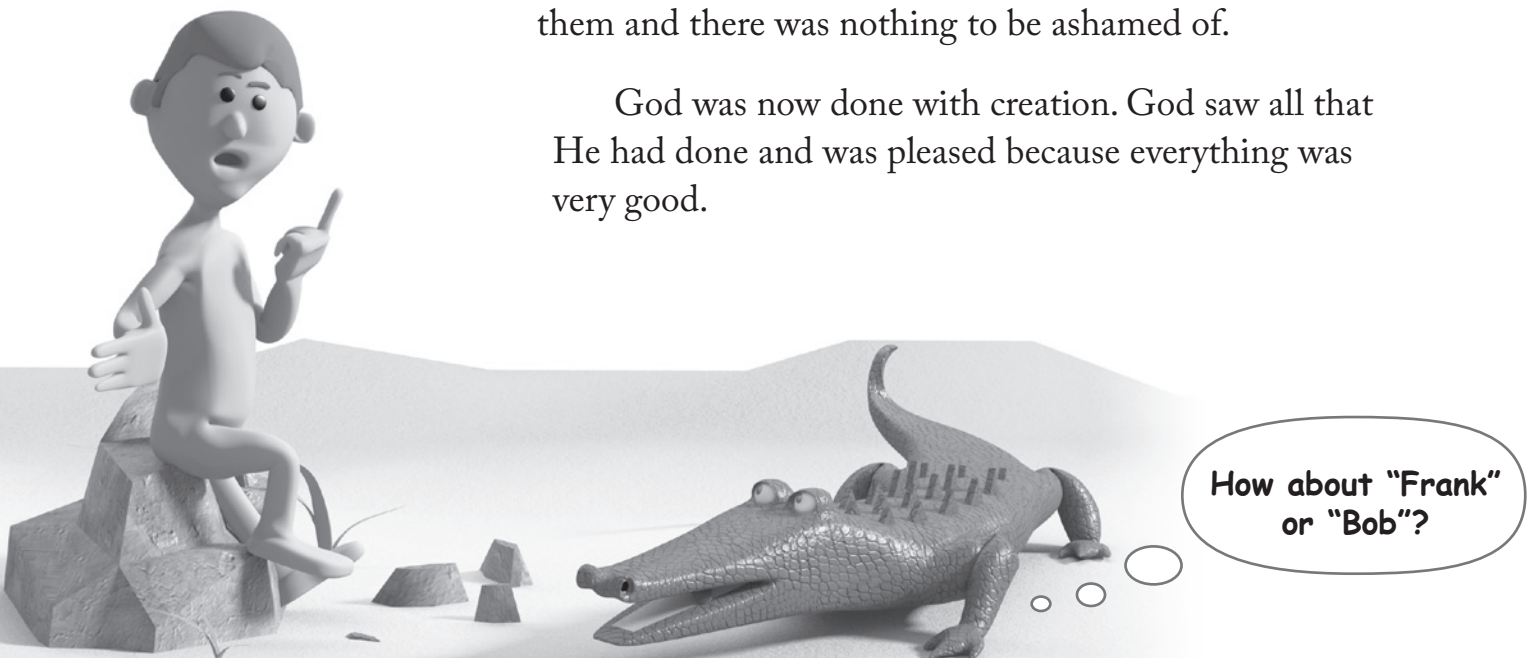
Then God did something unusual. He brought all the animals to the man whose name was Adam and told him to give them names. Adam took his time and gave each animal just the right name. Afterwards Adam noticed something important. Every animal came in pairs, male and female. But Adam looked around and there was nobody like him. He was the only person in the garden.

God already knew that Adam needed a helper so God caused Adam to fall asleep. While he was asleep, God took one of Adam's ribs and created another person. When Adam woke up, what a surprise! There was a beautiful woman standing in front of him. Adam was so excited that he sang a little song,

“Bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh,
She shall be called Woman because she was taken from Man.”

God then performed the first marriage. When God united Adam and the woman in marriage, He made a declaration that defined what marriage was. God said that a man should leave his father and mother and create a new family with his wife. God said that the husband and wife should be one flesh. They should be joined together so closely it would be as though they were one person. Adam and the woman were naked and were not ashamed because there was no sin in them and there was nothing to be ashamed of.

God was now done with creation. God saw all that He had done and was pleased because everything was very good.



Review Worksheets

A. MEMORY VERSE:

“So God created man in His own _____; in the _____ of _____ He created him; _____ and _____ He created them” (Genesis 1:27).

B. KEY FACTS:

God Created Mankind

Step 1	God created man in His _____ from the _____ of the earth.
Step 2	God breathed the _____ of life into man, and man became a living _____.
Step 3	Adam named the _____ and saw he was _____.
Step 4	God created _____ from Adam's _____ while he was asleep.
Step 5	Adam thanked God for the _____ God gave him.

C. STORY FACTS:

- After God created man, He gave him these instructions:
 - Have _____ and fill the earth with _____.
 - Take care of the _____, _____, and _____.
 - _____ the earth well.
- Being a living soul means you have a soul that will _____.
- Adam called the person that God created to be his helper “Woman” because she was _____ from man.
- Having God's image means to _____.
- To glorify God means to honor God by a) _____, b) _____, and c) _____ Him.

D. WHAT'S RIGHT? WHAT'S WRONG?

Circle "YES" if the sentence is correct. Circle "NO" if the sentence is not correct.

1. The first words of Adam's song were "Rib of my rib." YES NO
2. In the beginning man was perfect and did not sin. YES NO
3. Adam and the woman were not ashamed because they were wearing clothes that God made for them. YES NO
4. God said that the man and woman should be one flesh. YES NO
5. The name of the garden was Eden. YES NO
6. God said a man should always live with his parents. YES NO

E. PUT THE STORY BOXES IN ORDER:

_____ Adam named all the animals.	_____ God created woman from Adam's rib.
_____ God created man from the dust of the earth.	_____ Adam saw that he was all alone. He was the only person in the garden.

F. WHO IS GOD?

God is _____ who is near to us. He _____ us, wants to talk with us, and wants to be _____ to us.

G. THINK ABOUT THIS...

God loves you and wants you to talk to Him. What kind of things do you talk to God about? How does it make a difference when you pray about things that concern you?

Chapter Quiz

A. MEMORY VERSE:

“So God created man in His own _____; in the _____ of _____ He created him; _____ and _____ He created them” (Genesis _____ : _____).

B. KEY FACTS:

God Created Mankind

Step 1	God created man in His _____ from the _____ of the earth.
Step 2	God breathed the _____ of life into man, and man became a _____.
Step 3	Adam named the _____ and saw he was _____.
Step 4	God created _____ from Adam's _____ while he was asleep.
Step 5	Adam thanked God for the _____ God gave him.

C. STORY FACTS:

1. To glorify God means that you should honor God by _____, _____ and _____ Him.
2. God breathed life into man and gave him a soul that would not _____.
3. God told man that he should _____ the world well.
4. God said that Adam and the woman should become _____.

D. WHO IS GOD?

God is _____ who is near to us. He _____ us, wants to _____ with us, and wants to be _____ to us.

chapter 3

The Fall

LESSON SCOPE: Genesis 3

READ TO ME: Genesis 3

THEME: God has a powerful plan when mankind sins.

MEMORY VERSE:

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15).

KEY FACTS:

Sin's Consequences

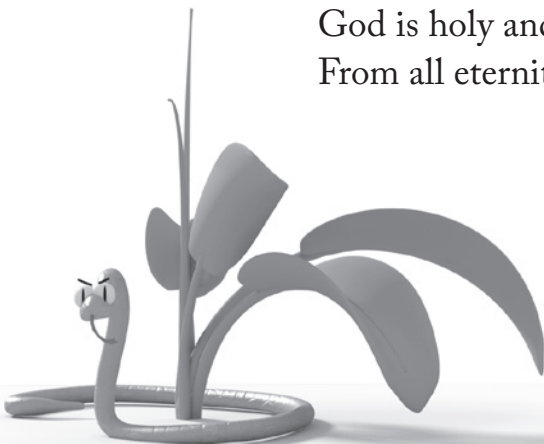
Serpent	Crawl on his belly	Crushed by woman's Seed
Woman	Pain in having children	Under authority of husband
Adam	Thorns, thistles, hard work	Return to dust (die)

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Redemption = Paying for man's sin through a Savior
 Savior = Jesus, who died for the sin of His people
 Eve = Means “mother of all living”
 Two trees = Tree of knowledge of good and evil; tree of life

WHO IS GOD?

God is holy and must punish sin. God is also merciful and forgives sin. From all eternity God had a plan of redemption for sinful mankind.



The Fall

Rules, rules, rules. Sometimes it seems like life is full of rules. In the Garden of Eden there was just one rule – don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Eden was a beautiful place to live. All the animals were tame. Leafy trees and colorful plants were everywhere. Every evening God talked with Adam and the woman as they walked in the garden. Adam and the woman loved each other and were content. Then evil entered the perfect garden.

Satan entered as the serpent and appeared to the woman. He asked, "Did God say not to eat from every tree in the garden?" The woman answered, "We can eat from every tree except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If we eat from it or even touch it, God says we will die."

Jesus in the OT

Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by Satan. How was His temptation like Eve's? How was it different?

"You won't die," the serpent said. "See how tasty the fruit looks. Go ahead. Eat some. Besides, if you eat this fruit, you will be wise like God. If God really loved you, He would let you eat from this tree."

The woman saw how delicious the fruit was and how it would make her wise. She wanted to eat it. Why would God keep something from her that she wanted so much? Maybe God didn't love her after all. She picked a piece of fruit from the tree and gobbled it down. Oh, how good it tasted!

The woman gave some fruit to Adam. Adam hesitated. He knew it was wrong to eat it, but if he had to choose between obeying God and being with the woman, he would choose the woman. He, too, ate the fruit.



Immediately their eyes were opened. They knew they were naked. They sewed together large fig leaves to make clothes. Then they heard the voice of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden. They knew God would be angry. For the first time they were guilty, ashamed, and afraid.

Adam blamed the woman, and the woman blamed the serpent. God, who knows everything, knew exactly what had happened and gave severe consequences to all of them. God told the serpent, “You are cursed. You will crawl on your belly in the dust.” He told the woman, “You will have pain when you have your children, and your husband will rule over you.” To Adam God said, “The ground will grow thorns and thistles, and you will work hard to raise the food you need to eat. And, eventually, you will die and return to the dust from which you were created.”

Jesus in the OT

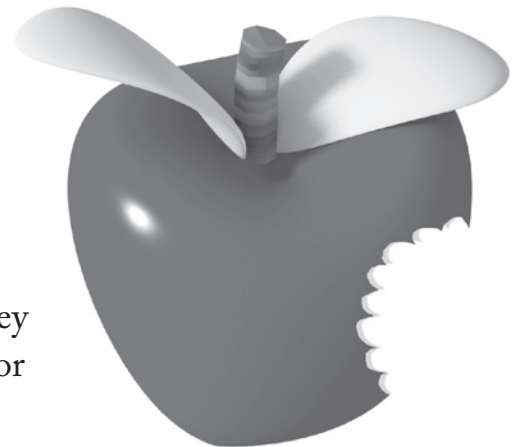
Jesus is the Seed of the woman. Satan struck Jesus’ heel when evil men crucified Jesus, but it was not a fatal wound. Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus will finally crush Satan’s head when He returns some day in glory.

It sounded hopeless, but God had a plan. He said to the serpent, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

What does that mean? God was saying that all through history Satan would be the enemy of the children born to the woman. The good news is that God had a plan to save His people from their sin—the Plan of Redemption. He would send a Savior. Though evil men would kill Him, this Savior would rise from the dead, and Satan’s power would ultimately be crushed. In Genesis 3:15, God promised for the first time to send a Savior.

Adam named the woman Eve which means “mother of all living.”

God did not want Adam and Eve to eat of the tree of life and live in this sinful condition forever. He made clothes of animal skins and sent them out of the garden. God put two angels with flaming swords at the entrance of the garden to guard the tree of life. Sadly Adam and Eve left the beautiful garden and went into a harsh land. What began as good and perfect was now spoiled by sin. Yet as they went they took with them the promise that someday a Savior would come.



Review Worksheets

A. MEMORY VERSE:

“And I will put _____ between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your _____, and you shall bruise His _____”
(Genesis 3:15).

B. KEY FACTS:

Sin's Consequences

Serpent	Crawl on his _____	Crushed by woman's _____
Woman	Pain in having _____	Under authority of _____
Adam	_____, _____, hard work	Return to _____

C. STORY FACTS:

- Name two special trees in the Garden of Eden: _____ and _____.
- What lie did the serpent tell Eve? _____
- The woman wanted to eat the fruit because it looked _____ and would make her _____.
- After Adam and Eve ate the fruit, how did they feel? _____, _____, and _____.
- Adam and Eve made clothes from _____.
God made them clothes from _____.
- The name Eve means “_____ of all _____.”
- Redemption means paying for man's sin through a _____.
- When Adam and Eve left the garden, God put two _____ with _____ at the entrance.

D. WHAT WAS THE CONSEQUENCE?

Draw a line from the consequence to the one who received the consequence.

Crawl on his belly

SERPENT

Pain when having children

Thorns and thistles

EVE

Return to dust and die

Under husband's authority

ADAM

Crushed by woman's seed

E. WHAT IS GOD'S GOOD NEWS?

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

God had a plan – the Plan of Redemption.

1. God would send the _____.
2. Wicked men would _____.
3. The Savior would rise from the _____.
4. Satan's power would ultimately be _____.

**F. WHO IS GOD?**

God is _____ and must punish _____. God is also _____ and forgives sin. From all eternity God had a _____ of _____ for sinful mankind.

G. THINK ABOUT THIS...

Does God always give you everything you want? Why not? What would happen if God always gave you everything that looked good to you?

Chapter Quiz

A. MEMORY VERSE:

“And I will put enmity between _____ and the _____, and between your _____ and her _____; He shall bruise your _____, and you shall bruise His _____” (Genesis 3:15).

B. KEY FACTS:

Sin's Consequences

Serpent	Crawl on his _____	Crushed by woman's _____
Woman	Pain in having _____	Under authority of _____
Adam	_____, _____, hard work	Return to _____

C. STORY FACTS:

- The name Eve means “_____ of all _____.”
- Adam and Eve were ashamed because they were _____.
God made them clothes from _____.
- God has a plan for sinful man called the Plan of _____.
- God protected the garden by putting two _____ with
flaming _____ at the entrance.
- Redemption means paying for _____ through a _____.

D. WHO IS GOD?

God is _____ and must punish sin. God is also _____ and forgives sin. From all eternity God had a _____ of _____ for sinful mankind.