

UNIT 1 | SESSION 2

SIN ENTERED THE WORLD

GENESIS 2-3



CHRIST CONNECTION: Adam and Eve sinned when they rejected God's good plan and disobeyed His command. Sin separates people from God, but God didn't leave them without hope. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live as Adam didn't—perfectly sinless. God the Son came to earth as a man to rescue people from sin.

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

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 104:24

EXPECTED RESPONSE: Shame



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

PLAN the Session

1. Read the Leader Bible Study and review the session plan.
2. Check out the session-by-session training available on Ministry Grid.
3. Pray for yourself, your group, and the other leaders and kids in your ministry.

LEADER Bible Study

The world God created was good. Within His creation humanity had all they could ever need. But this state of paradise would not last forever. Something dark was looming in the shadows, waiting to take hold within the human heart. It would not be long before the man and woman would fall prey to their own desire to be like God.

Sin and shame go hand in hand. Our rebellion against the truth, goodness, and beauty that God has set before us robs us of the peace God created us to have with Him, with others, and within ourselves. Shame is devastating, but it is not the inevitable end for those who are joined to Jesus. Through faith we are no longer condemned because of our sin. We are liberated from the shame that looms over us, and we are invited to take hold of the abundant life God designed us for. As you prepare to explore God's Word with kids this week, read and meditate on Genesis 2–3 and consider the following teaching points.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God. The essence of all sin is rebellion. It is, in a sense, humans saying to God, "I don't need You. I can do this on my own." In our arrogance, pride, and self-reliance we think we can be the masters of our own lives when, in reality, all of creation belongs to God, our Creator and King.

Sin separates us from God. Our defiance toward God disconnects us from our source of life, peace, and truth. Connection to God is the only way to experience true abundance and flourishing. When we insist on living out of our own desires, we forfeit the blessings God has for us.

God promised a way of hope. Thankfully God has not abandoned us to our reckless, hopeless state. In His great love for us, our Creator and Father has provided a pathway toward righteousness. Through faith in Christ, we are set free from the power we have given sin over our lives.

As you teach this week, help kids see the beauty in the work Jesus has done on our behalf to remove the shame that accompanies our sin. Point them to the Author of all life who calls them to lay down their lives for Him so He can give them true life in His kingdom.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



LEARN

20-30 MINUTES

Teach kids how and why we worship



LOVE

25-30 MINUTES

Lead kids to love God by worshiping Him



LIVE

10 MINUTES

Lead kids to live worshipful lives for God



FOR THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



LEARN

Countdown

- ☐ countdown video

Worship through Music

- ☐ "Your Amazing World," "What You're Made For," or other high-energy worship songs of your choosing

Introduction and Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Sin Entered the World" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Group Demonstration

- ☐ working lamp
- ☐ electrical outlet



LOVE

Respond in Worship

- ☐ "My Father's World," "How Marvelous You Are," or other slower worship songs of your choosing
- ☐ offering basket or collection box (optional)



LIVE

Key Passage

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "Countless (Psalm 104:24)" song



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN through Worship

1 COUNTDOWN

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

2 WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC (5–10 min.)

Choose a few high-energy worship songs—such as “Your Amazing World” or “What You’re Made For”—to sing with your group of kids. Lead motions enthusiastically and encourage kids to join you. Between songs, help the kids think through what it means to worship God and why we often use music to help us do so. Take time to talk the kids through any lyrics that might be challenging to understand.

3 INTRODUCTION AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION (3 min.)

SAY “Hi, friends, and welcome back! I’m glad we have another opportunity to read from God’s Word together and respond to Him through worship. Last week we learned that the Bible comes from God and it tells us what is true about Him and ourselves. We heard the story of God creating everything by the power of His word. God simply spoke and plants, animals, and the sun, moon, and stars were created. We began answering our big picture question. **Who is God?** Do you remember the answer? [Allow responses.] **God is our Creator and the King of everything.** What was the last thing God created? [Allow responses.] He made man and woman in His image to show the world what He is like. God placed Adam and Eve in a garden where He provided everything they needed. It sounds like paradise, right? It was! At least, for a little while. Today we will hear the story of how it all went wrong.

Do you have rules at home that you need to follow? Why do the adults in your life have rules for you? [Allow responses.] Do you think it’s because they want to make life difficult for you? Of course not! Parents, grandparents, and teachers give us rules because they want what is best for us. Is it always easy to follow rules? Nope! But often rules are there for our protection and for our good, and it is right for us to trust those people God has placed in authority over us. In our story, we will find that Adam and Eve ultimately did not trust that God wanted what was best for them. They tried to take matters into their own hands. Their disobedience landed them in a heap of trouble, and they found themselves experiencing shame.

What is shame? [Allow responses.] Shame is a sense of embarrassment or pain that comes when we do something wrong. Have you ever felt ashamed of something you have done? [Allow responses.] Adam and Eve certainly did. Let’s turn in our Bibles to Genesis 2 and hear more from God’s Word.”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

4 TELL THE BIBLE STORY (10 min.)

Open your Bible to Genesis 2–3. Tell the Bible story using the script provided, or flesh out the “Kids Sermon Outline” in the margin to teach a more in depth message. You may choose to play the Bible story video “Sin Entered the World.” Use bold text to retell or review the story.

SIN ENTERED THE WORLD

“After God made Adam, He placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. God commanded him, ‘You can eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.’”

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

Eve said, “We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But God said we must not eat the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. He said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.’”

“No! You will certainly not die,” the serpent said. “In fact, God knows that when you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Eve saw that the fruit looked good and she wanted to be wise like God, so she took some of the fruit and ate it. She gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he ate it too. As soon as they ate the fruit, their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked. They made clothes for themselves by sewing together fig leaves.

In the evening, Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden, so they hid. God called out to Adam, “Where are you?”

Adam replied, “I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.” God asked Adam, “Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

Adam immediately blamed Eve and said, “She gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

Eve blamed the serpent and said, “He deceived me, and I ate.” God cursed the serpent by making him crawl on his belly. Adam and Eve also had consequences for their disobedience. Life would be hard and painful, all because of sin. The ultimate consequence for humanity’s disobedience to God is death. But God promised that one of the woman’s descendants would destroy the serpent.

God was merciful to Adam and Eve. He made clothes for them out of animal skins before He sent them out of the garden. God put angels and a sword of fire at the entrance of the garden to guard the way to the tree of life.”

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE

Adam and Eve disobeyed God (Gen. 3:1-6): Adam and Eve chose to eat the fruit that God instructed them not to.

Sin separates us from God (Gen. 3:7-9): Adam and Eve hid from God when they realized what they had done.

God promised a way of hope (Gen. 3:21-24): Even though Adam and Eve were forced to leave the garden, God still had a plan.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with God, but they gave that up when they listened to the crafty serpent rather than God. Adam and Eve sinned when they rejected God’s good plan and disobeyed His command. Sin is when we act, speak, or think in a way that goes against God and His commands. What is the consequence of sin? [Allow responses.] Sin separates people from God. When we turn away from God, we become disconnected from Him and we feel ashamed of what we have done. Remember, shame is a feeling of embarrassment or pain about our sin. But shame is not the only consequence of sin. Because of our sin, we deserve death.

But God didn’t leave us without hope. God sent His Son, Jesus, to live as Adam didn’t—perfectly sinless. God the Son came to earth as a man to rescue people from sin. Jesus lived the perfect life we could not live, and He died the death we deserve for our sin. When we trust in Him we are forgiven for our sin and He takes away the punishment brought on by our disobedience. Three days after Jesus died He rose from the grave, defeating death once and for all. His resurrection promises that instead of the death we deserve, we will have life forever with God. ”

6 GROUP DEMONSTRATION (5 min.)

Display an unplugged lamp at the front of the room. Ask the kids what a lamp is used for. Try turning it on. Since it is not plugged in, nothing will happen. Ask the kids to tell you what you need to do in order to make the light work. Plug it in and turn it on.

SAY “Why didn’t the light work when it wasn’t plugged in? [Allow responses.] Even though all the parts of the lamp were working properly, when it wasn’t plugged into the outlet it wouldn’t turn on. No matter how nice the lamp looked or how new the bulb was, it will never give off any light unless I plug it in.

Let’s think back to our story. Who can tell us what happened in Genesis 3? [Allow responses.] Adam and Eve were tempted by the sneaky serpent, who twisted God’s words and led them to doubt that God wanted what was best for them. They became convinced that God was holding back good things from them by not allowing them to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God certainly wanted to give His children knowledge and wisdom, but He wanted them to trust Him to provide it. Instead, Adam and Eve took matters into their own hands. Their distrust led to disobeying God, which led to a broken relationship with their Creator and King. Humans were created in God’s image to reflect His character to the world. But sin separates us from God. It disconnects us from Him. So now we are all like this lamp unplugged from the wall. We may look OK on the outside, but we aren’t able to serve the purpose we were created for. We need to get ‘plugged in’ to God again. But how can we do that? [Allow responses.]

God did not leave Adam and Eve, or us, without hope. Though sin brought death, shame, and hopelessness with it, God promised that He would one day send a Rescuer who would restore us to Himself. That Rescuer is Jesus. When we give our lives to Jesus, He reconnects us to God. It’s like a lamp being plugged into the wall so it can once again shine light into the darkness. When we are connected to God, we can better reflect what He is like to the world around us. He helps us live in the way that He planned for us to live. ”



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE with Worship

1 DISCUSSION (10 min.)

Consider forming smaller groups to discuss the following deep questions. Encourage kids to be honest about their feelings and help them learn to process them in healthy ways.

1. What did we discover about God in this passage? Guide the kids to understand that God wants good things for His children. He desires for us to have knowledge and wisdom, but He wants us to rely on Him to provide it. God is trustworthy. He is our Creator and King, and He knows how life works best. Our sin doesn't surprise God, and He has fulfilled His promise to provide a way for us to be near to Him again through faith in Christ.
2. We have talked about how we often experience shame because of our sin. We disobey God, and we know that we have done something wrong. It's often hard to face our own sin, but we can take heart knowing that God already knows about it. He is not surprised when we sin, and He wants us to come to Him to be set free from it. But shame may not be the only response you have as you think about your sin. You may also feel impatient with yourself when you struggle with the same sin over and over. Or you may feel thankful to God for His mercy. Provide a safe place for kids to discuss emotions and remind kids that their feelings are real and valid, even if they don't match what others feel.
3. What are some ways a person might show the emotion of shame? Shame can be very isolating. It causes us to want to hide from God and other people for fear of our sin being revealed. People experiencing shame may become secretive, angry, or sad. Shame is a barrier to a growing relationship with God.
4. Can you think of other times you have felt those feelings? Would anyone like to share their stories? Help kids talk through other situations where they have felt ashamed, impatient, thankful, or another emotion mentioned in the first question. Be prepared with examples from your own life.
5. Why do you think sin and shame go hand in hand? What does this tell us about what God wants for us? Help kids understand that the existence of shame indicates that we have a problem. God designed us to be in communion with Him and receive everything we need from Him. Going our own way proves to be disastrous. God wants something much better for His children. He created us to experience full, authentic life in His presence.

After the kids have had time to discuss, direct their attention back to the main worship leader for the group activity. If you formed smaller groups, you may choose to re-gather as a larger group depending on your ministry context.

2 RESPOND THROUGH PRAYER (3 min.)

Lead the kids through a time of call and response prayer from Psalm 51.

Leader: Be gracious to me, God, according to your faithful love. Blot out my rebellion. Wash away all my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

Kids: God, forgive my sin and let me be close to You.

Leader: For I know my rebellion, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, I have sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

Kids: God, forgive my sin and let me be close to You.

Leader: God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

Kids: God, forgive my sin and let me be close to You.

Leader: Restore the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me by giving me a willing spirit.

Kids: God, forgive my sin and let me be close to You.

All: Amen.

3 GROUP ACTIVITY: SNAKES AND ROYALS (5–10 min.)

| SAY “ Let’s play a game to help us remember one of the truths we have learned today. ”

Choose one kid to be the snake. Explain that she will try to tag other kids, the kings and queens. When she tags one of the kings or queens, they become a snake and then try to tag other players as well. The last king or queen standing wins the round and becomes the first snake in the next round.

| SAY “ Well done, everyone! This was a fun game of tag, but did it remind you of our story in any way? [Allow responses.] God created people to be like royalty. God is our Creator and King over everything, and as His children, He made us to be like Him in many ways and rule over creation with Him. What did God tell the man and woman to do? [Read Genesis 2:15-17.] God told them to work and take care of the garden. He also commanded them to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But what did Adam and Eve do? [Read Genesis 3:1-6.] Satan tempted the man and woman by sowing seeds of doubt in their minds. They knew God and had a relationship with Him, but suddenly they weren’t sure that God wanted what was best for them. They thought maybe they could do a better job of managing their own lives. So, they took the fruit and ate it. Sure enough, their eyes were opened and for the first time since God had formed them from the dust, they felt shame. They realized that what they had done was wrong. What did they do? [Read Genesis 3:8.] They hid from God. But God knew all along what had happened. God knows everything!

God was compassionate toward Adam and Eve, but there were still consequences for their disobedience. Adam and Eve were not allowed to stay in the garden. God would remain near to them, but they would be disconnected from Him. He promised that it would not always be this way. He would send a Rescuer to restore humanity’s relationship with God. And many years later, God kept that promise by sending His own Son to take the ultimate punishment for sin by dying on the cross. ”

4 RESPOND IN WORSHIP (3 min.)

Choose slower worship songs—such as “My Father’s World” or “How Marvelous You Are”—that will help your kids reflect on the concepts they have learned about during this session. Encourage kids to respond however they feel God leading them, whether in prayer, quiet thought, or song.

| SAY “ When we realize that we have sinned against our holy and perfect God, we may be tempted to hide from Him out of shame. But let’s remember the words of Psalm 139. ‘Where can I go to escape your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?’ Instead of hiding, we can be honest. We can repent, or turn away from our sin, and turn back to God. Let’s spend some time now asking God to show us mercy for our sin and worshipping Him with thankfulness for His grace in our lives. ”

As you continue playing music, allow the kids a few minutes to pass an offering basket, bring offerings to a collections box, or collect offerings in another way.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE in Worship

1 KEY PASSAGE (5 min.)

Read Psalm 104:24 and encourage the kids to read along. Display the key passage poster for kids to read. You may also sing the key passage song, “Countless (Psalm 104:24).”

SAY “ How do you think the psalmist felt about God as he wrote these words? **[Allow responses.]** It sounds like he felt amazed by all that God had created. He praised God for His glorious creation and His creativity and wisdom. God certainly is wise, and He knows how life works best. This is why we can trust God and obey what He has said! ”

2 APPLICATION (2 min.)

Spend some time following up with the kids to see if they were able to complete the application challenge from the previous session. (Consider aspects of God’s creation that give you a sense of awe and praise Him.) Encourage each kid for his or her efforts, and remind kids to keep seeking ways to worship God each day.

SAY “ Thanks for participating in our challenge last week. What were some of the things you noticed that gave you a sense of awe of God? **[Allow responses.]** Our weekly challenges help us take what we’re learning from God’s Word and apply it to our daily lives so we can grow in our faith.

This week, pay attention to the moments in your day when you feel a sense of shame about a certain behavior. Be curious about that feeling. What action, thought, or word brought about that feeling? Did that behavior go against God and His commands? Or is it the enemy lying to you about your identity as a child of God? Don’t wallow in feelings of shame. Be honest with God about your sin and ask for His forgiveness. Then pray that God would help you to obey Him so you can experience the blessing that comes with living for Him. ”

3 PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 min.)

SAY “ God, we are amazed by You and Your great love for us. We confess that we have sinned against You and we have often wanted our own way rather than following Your commands. Forgive us for our disobedience and bring us back into Your perfect presence. Remove the shame from us and give us abundant life with You. Amen. ”

Make any announcements from your kids’ ministry before dismissing. If there’s significant time between dismissal and pick-up, consider using the additional activity to keep the kids engaged. You may also substitute the additional activity for the group activity.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

GARBLED MESSAGES

Guide kids to form two teams and line up. Whisper the same message to the two kids at the front of the line for each team. You can make up something silly for the message. For example: “There are fifteen penguins lining up at the back of the classroom.” Explain that the kid who heard your message will change one word before whispering it to the next kid. She will then change one more word of the message before passing it along. The kids at the end of the line will say the message they heard.

SAY “ It was crazy how much the message changed from the front of the line to the end. And everyone changed just one word! Think back to our story. There was a message that got mixed up. God gave instructions to Adam and Eve to not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But when the serpent spoke to Eve, she mixed up God’s words. **[Read Genesis 3:1-3.]** Eve said that God had told them they couldn’t even touch the fruit from the tree. While this was probably a good idea, Eve got God’s words messed up.

Do you think it’s important for us to listen closely to what God tells us to do? Absolutely! Thankfully, we have a way of going back and making sure we’re getting the message right. **[Hold up your Bible.]** We have God’s Word right here written in a language that we can understand. This is why we read and study the Bible every week. We want to know what God’s Word says so we can live our lives by what He has shared. ”