

God's Grace in the Garden

Bible Lesson: Genesis 2–3

PREPARATION

Objective

Students will realize that God created all people to worship and glorify him.

Outcomes

1. Students will recognize God as the master creator of all things, including them.
2. Students will understand how sin keeps people from fulfilling their God-given purpose, knowing and worshiping him.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 45:22 “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.”

Directions

1. Prepare an area for the egg toss game.
2. Review verses for the “Bible Drill Challenge.” Consider how you will relate each to today’s theme.
3. Review the “Key Word Wheel” poster. Integrate these words as you notice them in any and all sections of today’s lesson.
4. Read the Bible story references. Pray that God will guide you as you teach and apply this lesson to your unique group of students.



PREPARATION: 20 min.

TEACHING: 35 min.

Materials

- Bibles
- “Key Word Wheel” poster (Introduction p. 6)
- one egg for every two students (several extra eggs)
- outdoor area or large, washable inside area (with tarp cover) for egg toss game
- paper towels
- two small prizes for the winning pair for egg toss
- an orange for every group of three to four students
- paring knife (for teacher use only)
- paper plates
- paper towels or wet wipes

TEACHING (CORE)

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY: EGG TOSS

Directions

1. Welcome students to your Bible lesson.
2. Explain that you will begin your lesson today with an egg toss challenge. Say, *“This egg toss will help us understand something important about God and his purpose in the Bible. Do you remember what his purpose is?”* Listen for students to answer that God would be known and worshiped by all the peoples of earth.
3. Instruct students to find a partner. Help the process, if necessary.
4. Instruct students in the egg toss. Say, *“The object of the game is to be the last pair with a whole, unbroken egg.”* Students will begin by standing in two lines, with partners facing each other. Move the lines until they are about six feet apart. Direct partners to kneel.
5. Give each student on one side a raw egg. On your cue, students gently toss their eggs to their partners. The partner must catch the egg.
6. As teams drop and break their eggs, they are “out.” Remaining students in each pair take one step backwards, kneel, and wait for your cue. Continue this pattern until only one pair remains.
7. The last team with a whole egg wins. Offer the winners a prize. Invite students to clean up after themselves.
8. Discuss this activity with students. Ask, *“Can you put the eggs back together again?”* (no) *“The broken eggs are like people. We all have a problem called “sin.” Sin is the wrong things we think, say, or do which break God’s laws and dishonor him. Just like these eggs cannot be repaired, we cannot fix our own sin problem.”*
9. Continue, *“This is part of the story of the Bible: that people have a problem that needs fixing. We will learn more about it together.”*

BIBLE DRILL CHALLENGE

Isaiah 45:22 “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.”

Directions

1. Give each student a Bible. Invite students to participate in a Bible drill. Say, *“Since the Bible has such an important purpose, we want to get more acquainted with the Bible itself. Today, and over the next several weeks, we will practice finding verses and stories in the Bible that help us understand God’s purpose.”* (Optional: *“We will also be practicing to challenge our parents to a Bible Drill Challenge on the last week of our quarter.”*)
2. Instruct students to hold their Bibles in a ready position, Bibles closed and set on their heads. Invite students to work in pairs if they are less familiar with their Bibles. Let students warm up for a speed competition by first looking for each item below, one at a time. As you name the item, adding theme-related questions or comments, students will lower their

Materials

- one egg for every two students (several extras eggs)
- outdoor area or large, washable inside area (with tarp cover) for egg toss game
- paper towels or wet wipes
- two small prizes for the winning pair

Materials

- Bibles

Bibles and quickly try to find what you have named. Say, “Ready, begin” after introducing each item.

Table of Contents – ask, “*What is the Purpose of the Bible?*” (To make God known.)

Old Testament

New Testament

Book of Genesis (The beginning of God’s story.)

Book of Revelation (The end of God’s story.)

Any verse with the word, “Jesus” in it.

Any verse with the word, “nation” in it. (Try some of the Psalms.)

Malachi 1:11 (Review last week’s verse.)

Isaiah 45:22 – Read it aloud: “*Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.*”

3. Explain this Bible verse, starting at the end, and working toward the beginning. Say, “*I am God and there is no other.*” Ask, “*How does this fit with God’s purpose? This is the truth about him that he wants all people on earth to know.*”
4. Ask, “*All you ends of the earth ... Where is this? The North Pole? Who is this talking about?*” (everyone on earth) “*God is not concerned about the geography here, he is concerned about the people. God does not want anyone left out.*”
5. Say, “*God says, ‘Turn to me and be saved.’ What do people need to be saved from?*” (from their sin, eternity without God, punishment) “*They need to be brought close to God, again, and not separated from him.*” Say, “*How did this separation begin? It began at the beginning of the story of the Bible. This is what our Bible lesson is about today.*”

BIBLE LESSON: CREATION

Directions

1. Ask, “*Who is the main character of the Bible?*” (God) Ask, “*How do we know?*” Instruct students to look up the first verse of the Bible, Genesis 1:1. Read, “*In the beginning, God ...*” Then say, “*He’s right there in the first verse of the Bible. He is the main character.*”
2. “*In the first few chapters of the book of Genesis, we read how God created the earth. He made everything good. He made people in his image.*” Read Genesis 1:27 aloud together: “*“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Adam and Eve had everything they needed. They had just a few simple rules to live by.*” Read Genesis 2:16-17 aloud together: “*And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat of any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.’”* Then say, “*They had a wonderful life.*”
3. “*Best of all, they were close to God, and they knew him. Each day they visited with him. They enjoyed his company. They honored and worshipped him as God. It was natural, since this is why they were created.*”

Materials

- Bibles

4. *“In Genesis 3, we read about a big problem.”* Ask, *“What happened?”*
Listen for student responses. Discover that Eve was tempted to eat fruit from the one forbidden tree. *“She and Adam chose to go their own way and eat the fruit. They discovered they were naked. They were ashamed. They suddenly understood sin. And they hid. They separated themselves from God. Ever since then people have been sinning, like Adam and Eve.”*
5. Say, *“The middle of God’s story is what he did to fix this sin problem for each person on earth, and bring all people to himself again. God did not want us to live forever with sin, separated from him.”*
6. Ask, *“What is God’s purpose for us?”* (to know him and worship him)
“Through Jesus, God made a way for our sin to be forgiven and for us to walk in closeness with God again.” Invite a student to read Romans 6:23 aloud: *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
7. Review today’s memory verse. Remind students we are created for worship.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY AND PRAYER: INCREDIBLE DESIGNER

Directions

1. Say, *“The story of the Bible is that God wants all people to know him and honor him. The Bible is one tool that God uses to reveal himself ... to make himself known.”*
2. *“Creation itself reflects God. It is another of God’s tools to make himself known. What can people learn about God from nature?”*
3. Divide students into groups of three or four. Give each group an orange. Say, *“Often, when we look at a piece of art, it teaches us about the artist. What does this piece of creation teach us about God?”*
4. Instruct students to study the outside of the orange. Ask, *“What do you notice about the design of this orange?”* Listen for student answers. Discover the breathable skin, the fragrance, etc.
5. Then slice oranges in round pinwheel slices. Study the orange again. Invite students to taste the orange, also. Ask, *“What do you notice about the design of this orange, now?”* Guide students to discover that the orange reveals order, design, and complexity. Notice the plan for ongoing life (seeds) and nourishment for people and animals (taste, food value). Finally, ask, *“What does this item teach you about God, the one who created it?”* Discuss student ideas together.
6. Discover that all creation reveals the work of an incredible designer: God!

IN CLOSING ...

Close in prayer, thanking God for helping you and the students in your group know God. Honor him with sentence praise prayers for being wonderful, powerful, and creative.

Materials

- an orange for every three-four students
- paring knife (for teacher use only)
- paper plates
- paper towels
- adult helpers



PRAYER ACTIVITY: WHERE DO THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW GOD LIVE?

Directions

1. Invite students to open their Bibles to Psalm 145. Read through verses 3-17. Together, list on a paper or erasable board, any words that describe God (great, worthy, mighty, glorious, powerful, good, righteous, gracious, etc.).
2. *"In a perfect world, all people would worship God. He deserves more love than all of us could give him today. Some people give no love to God. What keeps people from loving God?"* Discuss various answers together. (They do not know about God; they know something about God, but reject him; they love things more, etc.)
3. Refer to the completed list. Ask, *"Can people glorify God if they have never heard about him ... his greatness, might, power, goodness, etc?"* Stop and consider student responses. *"No. There are thousands and thousands of groups in the world, each with different language, culture, and customs. Although there may be Christians in their country, many groups of people still have not been reached with the message about God and his plan for them to know him. They can't worship him."*
4. *"Let's see where most of these groups live."* Show Infobyte #4.
5. Point out the 10/40 Window on the globe or map.
6. Ask, *"What kinds of things may need to happen for these groups to hear about God?"* Allow responses. Spend time in prayer for people in the 10/40 Window. Include action steps that students suggested.



PREPARATION: 5 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- Bibles
- chalkboard, dry erase board, or large piece of white chart paper
- chalk, dry erase marker, or marker
- globe or world map
- pens, pencils, or markers
- Infobyte #4, "The 10/40 Window" (IB)
- TV/ DVD player