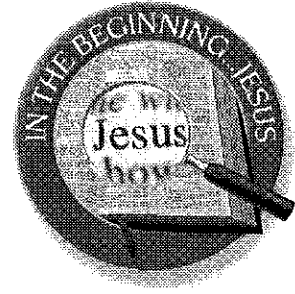


In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 4

The Fall, the Curse, and the Promise

Themes:

- God created man and woman in His image and likeness.
- The man and woman were to love, trust, and obey God as their good, loving Sovereign Ruler.
- The man and the woman wanted to be independent from God and disobeyed His command—that is sin.
- God is right to punish sin with death.
- God had a plan for solving the problem of sin and death.

Scripture:

Genesis 1:27; 2:18-23; 3:1-19, 24

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 53:4 (and review verse 3)

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible.
- Resource Packet:
 - GOD—MAN visual (from Lesson 3).
 - WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? visuals 1-3.
 - ELEPHANT—Lightly tape this picture in the blank space of the WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? visual #1 from above.
 - SILHOUETTE OF WOMAN.
 - I WILL TRUST GOD TO DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT.
 - I WILL DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT.
 - JESUS IS THE KEY (from previous lessons).
 - SIN HEART.
 - DEATH.
 - WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? Activity Sheet—Make one copy for each child.
 - Bible Clue Cards #4 and #5.
- Magnifying glass (for use in reading the clue cards).
- Container of windshield washer fluid.
- Drinking glass.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster (from previous lessons).

- Tape.

Pre-Class Preparation:

Arrange for an adult to help with the window washer fluid illustration.

Pre-Lesson Activity:

Before the lesson, give a copy of the **WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? Activity Sheet** to each child. Have the children complete the sheet before the lesson. This will take approximately five minutes.

Lesson

Explain to the children that you had them work on the **WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? Activity Sheet** today because you wanted them to have some practice before beginning today's lesson.

Display the first **WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?** visual depicting **GOD'S IMAGE BEARER** and ask: *What's wrong with this picture?* Remove the elephant from the picture and ask: *Does this fix what's wrong with this picture? Why not?* [Allow the children to give a few responses.]

Display the **GOD—MAN** visual that was constructed in the previous lesson. Point to the words **MAN: GOD'S IMAGE BEARER** and the silhouette of the man. Explain that there is something missing.

Have the children turn to **Genesis 1:27**:

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Display the **WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?** visual again. What needs to be added to this picture to complete it? [A woman needs to be added to the picture.] Tape the **SILHOUETTE OF WOMAN** to the picture. Why did God want to create a woman for the man? Why wasn't the picture "complete" without her?

Choose children to read **Genesis 2:18, 21-22**:

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib

that the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Why did God create the woman? [To be a helper for the man.]

Explain that God made for the man a creature like himself—a woman. Just like the man, she would also be God's image bearer, but she would have a different job than the man. She would not be the manager. She would be the man's helper as he worked as God's manager. Her name was Eve.

The man and woman were made in God's image so that they could have a very special relationship with God. They were made like God so that they could love, trust, and obey God as their good and loving Sovereign Ruler.

Display the second **WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?** visual depicting the woman in the garden eating the fruit from the tree. Ask the children: *What is wrong with this picture?* [Allow the children to give a few responses.]

Read **Genesis 3:1-5**:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'? And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Ask: *Who is this serpent and where must he have come from?* [The serpent is Satan. God created everything, including Satan.] *Is the serpent the Sovereign Ruler and can he decide what is true and right?* [No. He is a creature. God is the Sovereign Ruler.]

Did the woman know what God's command was? [Yes.] *Did she know what would happen if she disobeyed?* [Yes.]

What did the serpent say about God's command? [He said that God was lying.] *The serpent was saying that what God said was not true, and God's command was not right.*

Explain that the serpent was putting an idea in the woman's mind: "God wants to keep something good from you, so He lied to you. Who should decide what is true and right for you? Should you trust God to decide, or would it be better if you decide for yourself?"

Display the third **WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?** visual depicting the heart with the word "MAN" on the throne. Ask the children what is wrong with this picture. [The word "GOD" should be on the throne and not the word "MAN."] Explain that this was what the serpent was trying to get the woman to believe—that she should be the ruler of her own life, not God. **Display** the two signs: **I WILL TRUST GOD TO DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT** and **I WILL DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT**. What did the woman choose?

Select a child to read **Genesis 3:6**:

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Display the two signs: **I WILL TRUST GOD TO DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT** and **I WILL DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT** side by side against your chest. What choice did both the man and the woman make? Make the following comments and then throw the **I WILL TRUST GOD TO DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT** sign down on the floor:

The man and the woman were no longer happy being God's image bearers. They wanted to trade places with God. They wanted to BE God! They each thought something like, "It will be better for me if I decide what is true and right! I don't need God to tell me what to do. I'll be happier if I decide things for myself!"

Why shouldn't they be able to make their own decisions about what is best for them?

Illustration: Display the container of windshield washer fluid. Comment on the pretty color. Point out that it reminds you of the color of one of your favorite drinks. Open the lid and smell the contents. Remark that you wonder how it tastes. Next, read the warning label on the container. Have the other adult tempt you as follows:

You don't need to pay attention to that label. They just put it there so that you won't drink up all that sugar—it's got a lot of sugar in it. It will give you a lot of quick energy! Drink up! It's okay. It won't hurt you.

Pour the washer fluid into the glass. Bring the glass up to your mouth as if you are about to drink the fluid. Then stop and ask the class: *What's wrong with this picture?* [Allow the children to give a few responses.] Display the window washer fluid again. Point to the warning label and ask: Who printed the warning label on this container? [The maker of the washing fluid.] Do they know what ingredients are in this fluid? Should I trust that they are true and right in their warning? Or, should I decide this for

myself? Why not? What will really make me happier?

Point out that the above illustration shows how foolish it would be not to trust the maker of the window washer fluid with the warning label. Even more so, it was foolish of the man and woman not to trust their sovereign, good, and loving Creator for what was true and right for their happiness.

Ask: So did the man and woman's decision make them wise like God? Was it a good choice? Did it make them happier?

Read **Genesis 3:7**:

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Ask: What was the first thing that their decision made them realize? How smart they had become? How much like God they now were? No! They saw now that they were naked, and they were ashamed. They felt they had to "cover-up." But their problems had just begun.

Choose children to read **Genesis 3:8-13**. After the children have finished reading, ask the following:

Why were the man and woman trying to hide from their Creator? Would you want to hide from someone you love most of all? Someone that you had a perfect relationship with? What did this show about how the man and woman had changed?

Display the **I WILL DECIDE WHAT IS TRUE AND RIGHT** sign again. Point out that there is a special word in the Bible describing this heart condition. Can the children guess the word? **Display** the **SIN HEART**. Remove the red heart from the poster board and replace it with the **SIN HEART**. Adam and Eve had now become sinners.

When God questioned Adam and Eve after they had sinned against Him, did they take responsibility for their disobedience? [No. They each tried to blame another.] What was God's response? Is disobedience to God a big deal? Or will He now let the man and woman decide what is true and right, saying something like, "Okay, you guys were right, and I was wrong. Let's be friends again"?

Display Bible Clue Card #4. Choose a child to come up and place the card behind the red paper in the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual to reveal:

*Scripture: Genesis 3:19, 24
Clue under Window # 6*

Read **Genesis 3:19, 24**:

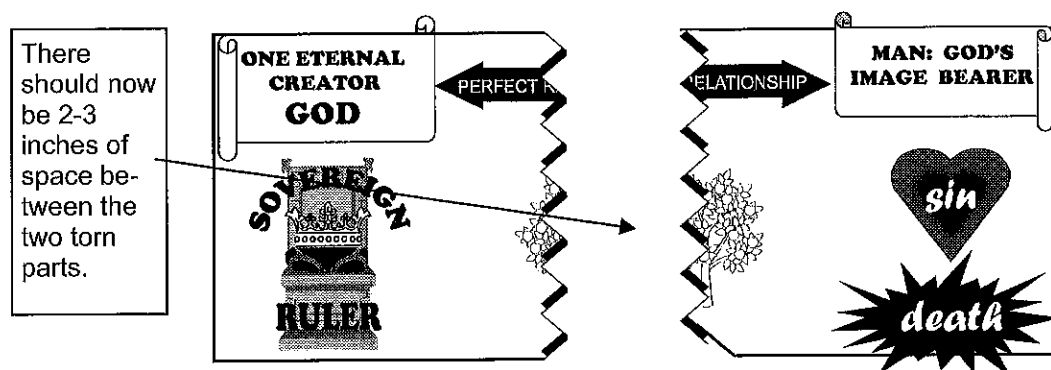
By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust and to dust you shall return.

He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Open Window #6 on the poster to reveal: **PUNISHMENT FOR SIN—DEATH.**

Display the **GOD—MAN** visual. Emphasize that God was not kidding when He gave His command to the man and woman not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God always tells the truth, and He is always right in what He commands. He told them that they would die—and now they would die! They thought they would become so wise, but they became fools. They thought they would be happier being independent from God. Tear the poster board down the middle. Tape the two pieces to the wall, separated by two to three inches, and tape the **DEATH** sign underneath the **SIN HEART**.

The torn visual should now look like this:



Ask: *Is this the end of the story? Is it all over for the man and the woman? Or does the story go on?*

Point out that hidden in God's punishment on the serpent, the man, and the woman is a very special clue.

Display Bible Clue Card #5. Choose a child to come up and insert it in the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual to reveal:

*Scripture: Genesis 3:15
Clue under Window # 22*

Have the children read the text to themselves. Can they guess what the clue under the

window might be? Open Window #22 to reveal the picture of the heel and the serpent's head. At this point do not go into an explanation of this clue. Simply comment that the story of the Bible isn't over yet—it's just beginning because this one clue will change everything!

Note: Before the next lesson, remove the tape and glue the visuals in place on the **GOD—MAN** visual.

Application

- ❑ **WORKBOOK**—Have the children turn to Lesson 4 in their workbooks. Have them write today's two clues on the notebook. Have them look at the opposite page titled: Before & After. Have the children read through the phrases in the "Before" box. What does this refer to? [What things were like before the man and woman's disobedience to God.] Using the "Before" box as a guide, have the children write answers in the "After" box referring to the way things became after Adam and Eve's disobedience (**Genesis 3:15-19**). Did the man and woman think this would be the end result of eating the forbidden fruit? What kind of thinking and desire led them to do such a foolish thing? Read and discuss **Romans 1:21-22**. *What three-letter word does the Bible often use to describe disobedience to God? [Sin.] What was now put out of their reach because of their sin? (See **Genesis 3:24**.) Because of their sin, will they be able to live with God and enjoy Him forever? If life is living with and enjoying God forever, what is death? [Being apart from God and suffering forever.]*
- ❑ Point out that death was not the only punishment of man's disobedience. Read portions of **Genesis 3:14-19** and, as simply as possible, explain some of the other effects of the serpent's deceit and the humans' disobedience. Ask: *How does what happened in the garden of Eden affect your own life? Do you see the "after" effects of sin? What kinds of things do you see in the world and in your life that show you that the story from the Bible is true? Does the visual of the heart with the throne and the word "MAN" on it describe something that is true of you and me also? (Do I put ME on the throne?) How might the clue of the heel and the serpent's head be something that will be a good thing? Is the heel in the picture an animal heel? Whose heel might it be?*
- ❑ Show the children the third **WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?** visual again. Read and discuss **Romans 1:21-23a**. How did the man and woman try to trade places with God? In what way were they dishonoring God? Use the following illustration: Suppose your mom makes a batch of chocolate chip cookies. She takes them out of the oven and they look and smell SO GOOD! But she warns, "You have to wait until they cool to eat

them. They will burn your tongue." If you disobey her, what are you saying about who she is and what she is like? Something like, *She's not telling me the truth. She doesn't know what's best for me. She doesn't want me to have any fun. She's being mean. She doesn't know as much as I do.* Would these kinds of thoughts and feelings honor your mother? How is disobedience to God dishonoring to God?

- Ask: *Why is disobedience to God—sin—such a big deal? It was only one little sin! Why couldn't God just say something like, "So you made a mistake. I'll just ignore it, and we'll pretend that it never happened"?* Read **Psalm 119:89, 160**. *When God gives a command, is it right and true? If He were to go back and change it, could He be trusted? Why not? Why is this important to know?* Explain that God had given His image bearers His true and right command. To go back on His word would have made God a liar. God is right and everything He says is right—He is righteous! Read **Habakkuk 1:13a**. Explain that God is holy—He is completely separate from sin and wrong. He will not look on disobedience and say, "That's okay." *Do you feel that your own sin has separated you from a perfect relationship with God?*
- Ask: *Have you ever been in a situation where you were tempted to disobey God—tempted to do something that you knew God had commanded you not to do? (You may want to give the children an example from your childhood.) Was it something that seemed like it would make you happy at the time? Afterward, did it make you happy? Or did it seem foolish and stupid? Did you feel like "hiding" from God as the man and woman did? Were they able to hide from God? Why not? How did they try to hide their shame? (See **Genesis 3:7**.) Will this work? Why not? How did the man's and woman's disobedience to God change their relationship with God? Who had changed? God, or the man and woman? Was this just a problem for Adam and Eve, or is it also your problem? Because we have the WHOLE Bible, do we now know what God did in order to solve our sin problem?*

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