

TEACHER'S HANDBOOK



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INTRODUCTION

This Bible Study curriculum has been designed to be used as an outline for teaching an introductory course to the Bible. Each lesson has been written in a way that provides the teacher with the content needed to lead someone through the Bible while also allowing plenty of room for the teacher to expound.

Our objective in creating this curriculum is to provide believers of all levels of faith with a tool that they can use to teach a 30 to 40 minute Bible study with minimal preparation time. Our hope is that you find this curriculum easy to use and effective in bringing the gospel to those you've been called to reach.

Objectives:

- » To introduce people to Jesus Christ
- » To introduce people to the Bible
- » To direct people toward obeying the Gospel message

Tools Needed for Teacher:

- » Bible Study Chart
- » Teacher's Handbook
- » Bible

Tools Needed for Student:

- » Bible
- » Something to take notes

Teaching Tips:

- » Commit to beginning and ending each lesson with prayer.
- » Remember to review previous lesson with your student.
- » Encourage your student to further their discipleship at a local church.

LESSON 3

CREATION AND THE GARDEN OF EDEN

DAYS OF CREATION
CREATION OF MAN
THE GARDEN OF EDEN
SIN BRINGS DEATH
A THREAD OF HOPE

CHART 1 - DAYS OF CREATION

We learn from the very first verse of the Bible that God created the whole world.

» READ: Genesis 1:1

God created everything we see and know. How did He do this? We learn from reading the creation account given in the first chapter of Genesis that He created the waters, the dry land, the plants, all of space, sea creatures, flying creatures, and all land animals by speaking them into existence. God's words have the power to create!

Here's a layout of all that God created over the span of seven days:

» Day 1: Light - Genesis 1:3-5

SIDE NOTE: There are different perspectives on what is meant by 'light' on Day One. This cannot represent the light of the sun since the sun was not created until Day Four. The light spoken of in Day One could quite possibly represent God's presence breaking through the darkness that surrounded the unformed earth.

» Day 2: Firmament Dividing Upper and Lower Waters - Genesis 1:6-8

SIDE NOTE: The word 'firmament' represents the curve of the sky.

- » Day 3: Seas, Dry Land, and Plant Life Genesis 1:9-13
- » Day 4: Sun, Moon, and Stars Genesis 1:14-19
- » Day 5: Sea Creatures and Flying Creatures Genesis 1:20-23
- » Day 6: Land Animals and Man Genesis 1:24-31

The Lord spent six days creating and reflecting on the fact that all He had made 'was good.' After the six days, we're told that God set aside a seventh day specifically for rest.

» Day 7: God Rested - Genesis 2:1-3

CHART 2 - CREATION OF MAN

All of creation was made by God simply speaking it into existence. He said, "Let there be..." and there was. However, there is one creation God did not speak into existence. That creature was Man.

Q. Do you know how God made Man?

A. READ: Genesis 2:7

We see in the creation account that human beings are a special type of creature. We are not like or equivalent to the trees or animals. We are made in the 'image of God' and His breath or spirit is what gives us life.

» Genesis 1:26-27 "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

God made us in His own image and gave us authority over all of creation. We have the image and breath of God in our DNA and that makes us especially significant to God.

Throughout His Word, God continuously reminds us of how important we are to Him in light of the rest of creation. He created us with value, for a godly purpose, and to experience His perfect love.

- » Matthew 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air...Are you not of more value than they?"
- » Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..."
- » Psalm 139:13-14 "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."
- » Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

CHART 3 - THE GARDEN OF EDEN

When God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, He placed them in a garden in the land of Eden. The word 'Eden' means delight or enjoyment. Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden to tend to the garden and to enjoy the presence of each other and God.

The Garden of Eden was a place where everything was provided for Adam and Eve, including fellowship with God. God only gave them one commandment to obey so they could continue to live in the garden.

» READ: Genesis 2:16-17

Although they knew God's command and what was right, it wasn't long before they fell into temptation and disobeyed God.

» READ: Genesis 3:1-6

This was the first sin of mankind.

- Q. Do you know what the word sin means?
- A. Sin means 'to miss the mark' or 'to do wrong'

Notice the role the serpent (the devil) plays in influencing us to sin.

» READ: 1 John 2:15-17

The three areas the devil uses to lead humans into disobedience toward God are:

- 1. The Lust of the Flesh the desire to feel: "the tree was good for food"
- 2. The Lust of the Eyes the desire to have: "it was pleasant to the eyes"
- 3. The Pride of Life the desire to be: "a tree desirable to make one wise"

All three of these temptation areas can be found in the Eden account and should be reminders to us of how the enemy works against us.

CHART 4 - SIN BRINGS DEATH

We read earlier that God said, "For in the day that you eat of it (tree of knowledge of good and evil) you shall surely die." So what happened to Adam and Eve after they ate of the forbidden tree? Did they immediately die? Not exactly.

Adam and Eve did not immediately die physically, but they did die spiritually. God banished them from the Garden of Eden and from His direct presence. No longer would they be in constant fellowship with God.

» Genesis 3:24 "So He drove out the man, and He placed cherubim (angels) at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life."

God is the source of all life, whether physical or spiritual. When we sin, it separates us from the source of life. Sin separates us from God which leaves us spiritually dead. Not only did they immediately die spiritually, but they also set in motion the process of physical death.

- » Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."
- » Hebrews 9:27 "...it is appointed for men to die once..."

Sin caused three consequences:

- It gave man's earthly dominion and authority over to Satan.
 Corinthians 4:3-4 "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose mind the god (*ruler*) of this age (*world*) has blinded..."
- 2. It brought an eventual physical death upon the earth and its inhabitants.

 1 Corinthians 15:22 "For as in Adam all die..."
- 3. It separated humanity from the presence of God. Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you."

CHART 5 - A THREAD OF HOPE

The most amazing part of the Eden account is that this is only the beginning, not the end. Adam led mankind into a place of hopelessness and separation from God, but God was not satisfied with those results.

The rest of the Bible is the story of redemption and hope. God made man because He is a God of love and wants His love to be shared between Himself and man. Because of His great love, God had a plan to restore man's relationship with Him.

The whole plan of redemption started just as soon as the first sin occurred. While it looked like humanity would fall into the hands of the serpent and sin, note what the Lord says to the serpent in Genesis 3:15.

» READ: Genesis 3:15

This is saying that God will make an enemy for the serpent from the seed of a woman. This enemy would be born from a woman and eventually save humanity from their sinful state.

The Lord told the serpent that the serpent will bruise this Savior's heel, but He will bruise the serpent's head. This is speaking of a future Savior who would suffer, but conquer in the end.

The Savior born of a woman would turn out to be Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus was born from a woman named Mary. He was beaten, tortured, and murdered to pay the price for our sins. He died so humanity wouldn't have to. After all this, He was resurrected from the dead, demonstrating His victory over sin and the serpent.

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