

# TEACHER'S MATERIALS

ואת כל רמשי האדמה לסינתה וירא אלהים כי טוב  
ויאמר אלהים נעשה אדם בצלמנו כדמותנו ויהיו  
צורת הים ובעוף השמים ובבהמה ובכל הארץ  
ובכל הרמש הרמש על הארץ ויברא אלהים את  
האדם בצלמו בעלם אלהים ברא אתו זכר ונקבה  
ברא אתם ויברך אתם אלהים ויאמר להם אנד  
פרי ורבו ומלאו את הארץ וכבשלה ורדו בה  
הים ובעוף השמים ובכל ליה הרמש על הארץ  
ויאמר אלהים הנה נתתי לכם את כל הארץ  
ירע אשר על פני כל הארץ ואת כל הארץ  
בו פרי עץ זרע זרע לכם יהיה לאכלה ואת  
הארץ וככל עוף השמים וככל הרמש על הארץ  
אשר בו נתתי ליה את כל ירקה לעשב ויהי  
כן וירא אלהים את כל אשר עשה ונהם מאד  
ויהי ערב ויהי בקר יום השני  
ויכלו השמים והארץ וככל צבאם ויהי ביום  
השביעי מלאכתו אשר עשה ויהי שבת השביעי  
מכל מלאכתו אשר עשה ויהי שבת אלהים את יום  
השביעי ויקדש אתו כי בו אכלתו מלאכתו  
אשר ברא אלהים לעשות  
אלה תולדות השמים והארץ ביום  
עשות יהיה אלהים ארץ וים וכל יחול העדה  
טרם יהיה בארץ וכל העדה טרם יצמח  
כי לא המטיה יהיה ארץ על הארץ ואדם אין  
לעבד את האדמה וכלה מן הארץ והשקה  
את כל פני האדמה ויהיה אלהים את האדם  
עפר מן האדמה באפיו נשמת לויים ויהי  
האדם לנפיש ליה ויהי אלהים גן בעדן  
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ויטוב למאכל והזויים בתור הגן ועץ הדעת  
טוב ורע ויהי מעדן השקפות את הגן ומשם  
יפרד והיה בעקרא אשם עם האזור פישין  
הוא הפסל כל ארץ חלוייה אשר יום הזהב  
וזהב הזהב יום הגדליו ואבן השלם  
ויטוב השני גיוון הוא הסובב את כל ארץ  
כישור הנחה הישביעי וזהב הוא התכר  
קדם וזהב והנהר הרביעי הוא פרת ויקול  
יהיה ויהיה את האדם וינחה בגן לעבדה  
וכי ירדה ויהי יהיה אלהים על האדם לאמר  
מיה עין הגן אכל האכל מעין הדעת טוב ורע  
לא תאכל ממנו כי ביום אכרה מלך ביה המות

Classical Subjects Creatively Taught

# Bible FOR CHILDREN



**Book 1**  
The Pathway of  
God's Promise  
*Genesis to Ruth*

Claire A. Larsen

... ויהי רביעי ביום  
... כלים ויעש אלהים  
... יום השם אשר מתולד לרש  
... מעל ברקיע ויהי כן ויקרא א  
... ויהי ערב ויהי בקר יום ימי  
... ויאמר אלהים יקוו השמים  
... מקום אור והראה היבשה  
... כיבשה ארץ וכלמקור המים  
... אלהים כי טוב ויאמר אלה  
... וישא לעשב מזרע זרע עץ פ  
... אשר ירעו בו כלמנה וירא א  
... ערב ויהי בקר יום שלישי  
... ויאמר אלהים יהי מארת בר  
... בין הים ובין הליה והי כל  
... וישם והי למאורת ברקיע  
הארץ ויהי כן ויעש אלה  
הנוריים את המאור הנר  
המאור הקטן למשעלת ה  
ויהי אתם אלהים ברקיע  
הארץ ולמשל בים וכל  
... בין הושר וירא אלהים  
... בקר יום רביעי  
... ויאמר אלהים ישרצו  
... יעוף יעוף על הארץ על  
... ויברא אלהים את הת  
הויה הרשיעה אשר על  
... כל עוף כנף כלמנה וירא  
... אתם אלהים לאמר פרו  
... בים והעוף ירב באר  
... יום לחמישי  
... ויאמר אלהים הוצא  
... בהמה רמש ולויה אר  
... אלהים את ליה הארץ

*Bible for Children, Book One:  
Teacher's Materials*

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# Introduction

**THEME:** God has a story.

**1** 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.

**2** 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.

**4** 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.

**5** 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.

**7** He says won’t change! He’ll never forget His promises.



## Notes to Teachers and Parents:

**1** God knew that we would love stories because He created us that way. The Bible is the story of God’s dealings with mankind, whom He created in His image. God’s story is true – not myth or fiction – and His truth is written primarily in story form so we can understand it better. Through this story, we learn who God is, who mankind is, how the world came to be the way it is, and how God worked through history to bring redemption to His people. God is the primary character in the story. For that reason, each chapter in this text gives us a nugget of truth about who God is. (Note to Parents: If you have never talked to your child about how he or she came to be in your family, take this as an opportunity to do so. Also, talk to your child about what the story of his/her life looks like at this point in time.)

**2** The story of the Bible spans several millennia. From Genesis to Revelation, much human history occurred. However, God never changed, and the way God interacted with mankind never changed. Adam’s sin alienated mankind from God, and nothing man could do could resolve that problem. It was only by God’s grace through faith that anyone could have sin forgiven and be in a relationship with God. In other words, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, and all others in the Old Testament who trusted in God were brought to faith in God, not by their works, but by the grace of God giving them the gift of faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). The themes of grace and faith are introduced in the Old Testament in seedlike form. We see them with greater clarity and beauty as God’s story unfolds.

**3** The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question #4 gives this definition of God: “God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.” God

is a spirit. That means He does not have a physical body like mankind does. Through the incarnation, Jesus became a man without losing any of His divinity. Jesus is God in the flesh. God is “infinite, eternal, and unchangeable.” These are God’s incommunicable attributes – the ways in which we can’t be like God. The six qualities of wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth are God’s communicable attributes – the ways in which we are supposed to reflect God. The three incommunicable attributes define each of the communicable attributes. For example, God is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His wisdom; He is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His power, etc. Our reflection of God is limited by our humanness (we are not infinite, eternal, and unchangeable like God) and by our sin (sin distorts our ability to reflect God perfectly – more about this in Chapter 2).

**4** We are eternal in that we have souls that will never die. Unlike God, who had no beginning, every person is born into the world at a definite point in time. God is eternal in that He has no beginning and no end (see Psalm 90:2).

**5** See James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8.

**6** See I Peter 5:7.

**7** The immutability (unchangeableness) of God is one of our greatest comforts. This quality of God assures us that God is totally dependable, and that we can be certain that everything He was and said in the past will remain the same in the present and the future.

**8** See Job 11:7-9.

**9** God’s infiniteness means there are no limits to God. God knows everything. He is omniscient (all-knowing). Nothing can be hidden from His knowledge (Romans 11:33-36; Psalm 139:1-12). God is omnipotent (all-powerful). He can do all

### Catechism for Children Questions: The following questions apply to the introduction.

#9 What is God?  
*God is a Spirit and has not a body like men.*

#11 Can you see God?  
*No; I cannot see God, but He always sees me.*

#10 Where is God?  
*God is everywhere.*

#12 Does God know all things?  
*Yes; nothing can be hid from God.*

His holy will (Luke 1:37). God is present everywhere. He is omnipresent. Although God is invisible to us, He can see us and is present with us all the time (Proverbs 15:3). God is infinite in all His character qualities (Ephesians 3:14-21) and is perfect in His holiness.

**10** The Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #14 defines sin this way: “Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.” “Want of conformity” means not being or doing what God requires. “Transgression” means breaking one of God’s laws. Sin can be behavioral (words, actions, or reactions) or motivational (heart sin). “Heart sin” refers to the reason or motivation behind our sin. If we respond from selfishness or from a fear of the consequences, we have sinned even if the outward behavior looks good. If we want to be truly righteous, we must do the right thing by faith for the glory of God (see I John 3:4).

**11** When we do what’s right, we’re content, God blesses us, and life goes well. (This is a biblical principle, not a biblical promise. Sometimes in this broken world we suffer hardship even when we do the right thing.) Obeying God keeps us within the circle of God’s blessing; disobeying God removes us from this circle and puts us in danger. We may experience the natural consequences of our actions and the loving discipline of our heavenly Father. “Life going well” does not mean that there’s no suffering or trouble, but that God will bless us in the midst of our suffering (Proverbs 2; Jeremiah 17:5-10).

**12** Within the Trinity, God formulated the Plan of Redemption before the world was created (Ephesians 1:4-8).

**13** God’s promise is called God’s covenant. It begins in Genesis 3:15 when God says that the seed of the woman (Jesus Christ) will crush the serpent’s head. God

says, “I will be your God, and you will be My people.” As we follow the pathway of God’s promise, we will see how God showed His grace to individuals (Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, etc.) and kept the race from destroying itself through sin. God created a people through whom the Savior would come. God promised to have a relationship with His people, and He faithfully kept His promise even when His people were unfaithful to Him.

**14** This text is written from a theocentric perspective (*theos* meaning God and *centros* meaning center). “Theocentric” means “having God at the center.” Throughout the Old Testament, the main character is God, loving and judging His people and moving history toward its culminating event – the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The stories of the Old Testament are not about good men doing good things. In fact, the heroes of the Bible were sinful men who disobeyed God. It was by God’s grace that these men recognized their sin, came to repentance, and experienced God’s forgiveness. It was by God’s grace that they trusted God.

**15** God is consistent in who He is and how He interacts with His people. To separate God’s qualities and actions (power, promises, redemption, provision, and faithfulness) into units is artificial. God is always and completely all of these things. However, for the purpose of organization and learning, *The Pathway of God’s Promise* has been divided into five themes that interweave throughout the narrative. For instance, in the midst of giving promises to the patriarchs, God was faithful, or through the redemption of His people from Egypt God demonstrated His power and provision.

**8** 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.

**9** 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.

**10** 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.

**11** In *The Pathway of God’s Promise* 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.

*The Pathway of God’s Promise* 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.

Catechism for Children Questions (cont.)

#13 Can God do all things?

Yes; God can do all His holy will.

#35 What is sin? *Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.*

#36 What is meant by “want of conformity”?  
*Not being or doing what God requires.*

#37 What is meant by “transgression”?  
*Doing what God forbids.*



# UNIT I

## In the BEGINNING...GOD'S POWER

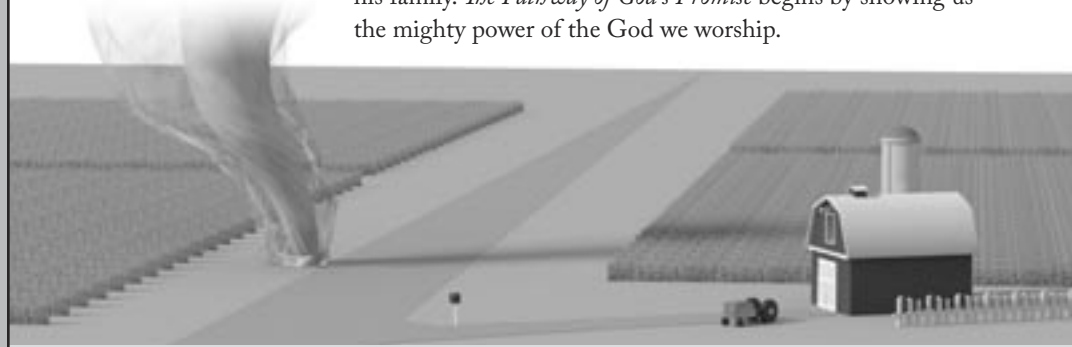
**THEME:** God is powerful.

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. **1**

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. **2**

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. **3**

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.



### Catechism for Children Questions:

The following questions apply to the Unit 1 introduction.

- #6 Are there more gods than one?  
*There is only one God.*
- #7 In how many persons does this one God exist?  
*In three persons.*
- #8 What are they?  
*The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

### Notes to Teachers and Parents:

- 1** Psalm 66 and Psalm 69 are two passages that describe the awesomeness and totality of God's power. Jesus exhibited power over demons, nature, sickness, and death during His years on earth (see Matthew 8-9).
- 2** The Trinity is a mystery to us. How God can be one God but have three distinct persons challenges our finite understanding! Yet Scripture describes God as a Trinity, so we believe it. Because God is a Trinity, God has love, communication, and companionship within Himself. God did not create the world and mankind to complete some deficiency in Him. God is complete within Himself.
- 3** God is faithful in all His words. Everything He says and promises comes to pass in God's own time and in God's own way (see 1 Kings 8:54-58).

### Notes:

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## creation of the world

**L**ook 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. **1**

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. **2**

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. **3**

### 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).



### Notes to Teachers and Parents:

**1** There is a difference between how God creates and how we create. We create because we are made in the image of God, but every time we create, we begin with something. God, on the other hand, began with nothing (*ex nihilo*) and created everything simply by speaking it into existence. His word had the power to cause things to happen. In the same way, God's words (Scripture) have power today. By God's Word, God recreates sinners who want to flee from Him into people who love and serve Him. God's words have power for us today to change us.

**2** In Genesis God tells us about the beginning of the universe, life, the Sabbath, mankind, marriage, family, sin, death, redemption, faith, nations, covenant, sacrifice, and God's people – concepts that we read about throughout the rest of Scripture. The Bible plants "seeds" of theological truth in Genesis that bloom little by little into a full flower by the end of the New Testament. Many of these concepts are shown in their fullness through the life and death of Jesus and are explained in greater detail in the New Testament epistles. Throughout the text's narrative you will see unique "bubbles" that highlight Old Testament verses or events that point us to Jesus. Appendix G, "Jesus Christ in the Old Testament," gives further information about the ideas presented in these "bubbles."

**3** This text is not the place to delve into the creation-science theories. However, Genesis 1 gives us these undeniable facts: a) God was in the beginning and was alone; b) God created everything that exists from nothing; c) God created in six separate days, and at the end of each day, that part of creation was complete; d) each day of creation has the same elements (not always in the same order) – God spoke and what He said happened, God named what He had made, and God pronounced what He made as "good"; e) every creature was created after its own kind; and f) mankind was different from the rest of creation because he was made in the image of God. God made the world, filled the world with plants and animals, and then put man in the world to rule it and care for it.

## Notes to Teachers and Parents:

**4** *Elohim* is a plural word that can be understood as singular when referring to God as the One Supreme God. (*El* is the singular form of the word.) In Hebrew, *elohim* is a common noun that can be used to denote all “gods” in contrast to man. When used to name the God we worship, the plural form is meant to convey might, strength, and majesty, and is designed to communicate the greatness and transcendence of God, the Creator. The singular form, “*El*”, is often combined with other words to form additional names of God (e.g., *El Shaddai*).

**5** In Chapter 2 we discuss being made in the image of God in greater detail.

**6** Although the two creation accounts seem to conflict with each other, there is no conflict. Instead, each one has a different purpose and emphasis (Genesis 1:1–2:3 and Genesis 2:4–2:25). The first account describes the systematic process by which God created the world and all that is in it. The second account zeroes in on the specific creation of man and man’s relationship to God and the world around him. Understanding this description of the unique and lofty status of man makes it sadder and more tragic to see the depths to which sin causes man to fall. Chapter 2 sets up the situation and the characters, Adam and Eve, to prepare us for the story of the Fall which occurs in Genesis 3. Knowing the details of how man was created from the dust of the earth yet made in God’s image helps us better understand the occasion and consequences of the Fall.

**7** The Hebrew word for rest is *shabbat* from which our word “Sabbath” comes. This word means “to cease,” so Sabbath came to mean “a time to rest or cease from work.” God rested, not because He was tired (because God never gets tired), but because His work was done and He was pleased with what He had accomplished. By contrast, people do get tired, so the Sabbath was created for man as a time of renewal, refreshment, and worship.

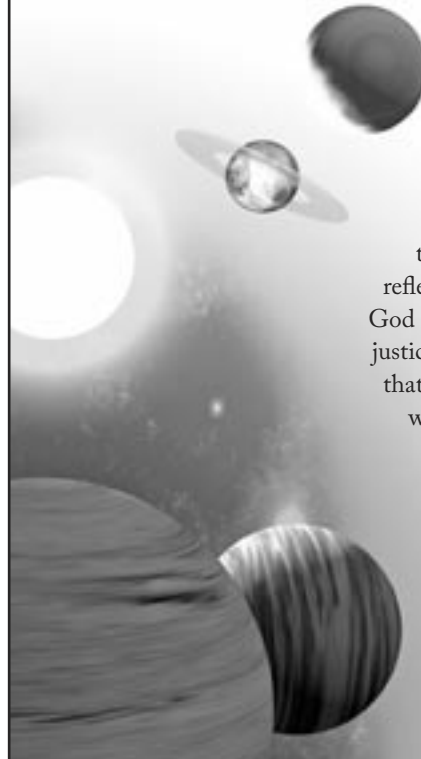
Do you see some ways in which each day of creation is alike? On each day God spoke and what He said happened. God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Whatever God said happened just as He said it should. On each day God saw that what He had made was good, and He gave each part of creation a name. God is so

**4** 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. **5**

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. **6** **7**











## Catechism for Children Questions:

The following questions apply to Chapter 2.

- #3 Why did God make you and all things?  
*For His own glory.*
- #4 How can you glorify God?  
*By loving Him and doing what He commands.*
- #5 Why ought you to glorify God?  
*Because He made me and takes care of me.*
- #20 Who were our first parents?  
*Adam and Eve.*
- #21 Of what were our first parents made?  
*God made the body of Adam out of the ground and formed Eve from the body of Adam.*
- #22 What did God give Adam and Eve besides bodies?  
*He gave them souls that could never die.*
- #23 Have you a soul as well as a body?  
*Yes; I have a soul that can never die.*
- #24 How do you know that you have a soul?  
*Because I can think about God and the world to come.*
- #25 In what condition did God make Adam and Eve?  
*He made them holy and happy.*

### Notes:

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## 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

**1** 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.

**2** 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.

**3** 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.

**4** 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.

### Notes to Teachers and Parents:

**1** Using a mirror is a simple way to explain what being made in God's image means. God created us to be reflections of Him – to show by our actions, words, and thoughts what God is like – and as we reflect Him we glorify God. Sinners do not reflect the nature of God well. When sin entered the world (see chapter 3), the image of God became distorted by sin. Yet, sinful man is still created in the image of God. As Christians, God is restoring us to reflect the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). This is a process, and we will never reflect the image of Christ perfectly until we are with Him in glory.

**2** God created us to glorify Him in everything we do (see 1 Corinthians 10:31). When we reflect God to others, they see a picture, though flawed, of what God is like, and God is honored. Before sin entered the world, man was able to reflect God perfectly because he was perfect. Since the Fall, the reflection is tainted by sin even when we strive by God's grace to do our best to reflect Him.

**3** In Genesis 1:28 God gave man instructions as to how he should rule over the creation as God's vice regent. God gave man authority to care for the world while taking advantage of the creation to sustain himself (i.e., having all the green plants for food). We are still called by God to be good stewards of the earth.

**4** In Genesis 2, God is called "the LORD" or "Jehovah." In the original Hebrew, Jehovah was written by four letters YHWH. It was a name too sacred to speak out loud. By adding vowel sounds, the name became "Yahweh," and Yahweh eventually became transliterated in English to be "Jehovah." Jehovah is the proper name of the God we worship in contrast to *Elohim*, which is a common word for "God" or "gods." Jehovah is the name that God uses when He makes and keeps promises with His people. This is the name that brings God near to mankind (God's immanence) and is contrasted to God's qualities of eternity, infiniteness, and unchangeableness, which make God different from man (God's transcendence). As we proceed through the Old Testament, we will learn more about who Jehovah is.



## Notes to Teachers and Parents:

**5** Man is different from animals because he has a soul that will live forever. In the context of God's one rule to man (see footnote 6), we understand that "you will surely die" has a spiritual meaning. When man sinned, he did not immediately die physically, but he became a creature whose body gradually deteriorated and eventually died. He also died spiritually because he was alienated from God by his sin. Yet his soul would continue to live forever. This will be discussed further in chapter 3.

**6** God gave man only one rule – not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God withheld nothing else from man, and everything else in creation was designed for man's use and pleasure. God said that disobeying His one rule had severe consequences ("You will surely die").

**7** One reason God asked Adam to name the animals was for Adam to realize that he was alone and that there was no other human being in creation to be with him. Once the woman was created and Adam awoke, he immediately saw the connection between them. Adam called the new creature Woman (*ishba* – Hebrew word for woman) because she was taken from Man (*ish* – Hebrew word for man).

**8** The husband and wife relationship is the primary human relationship. A man and a woman should leave their families of origin physically and emotionally and become a new family. After his relationship with God, a husband's first loyalty is to his wife and vice versa. Couples must always remember that the "one-flesh" marital relationship has a priority over the parental relationship. Children will eventually grow up and create their own families, but the husband and wife are united together until the death of one breaks the covenant vow that makes them married for life.

**9** The man and woman had nothing to be ashamed of because there was no sin in them. They were morally flawless. This statement gives a preview of the tragedy that is to come in chapter 3 when sin enters the world.

**5** God gave Adam a soul that would never die.<sup>1</sup> God put man in a beautiful garden named Eden where every tree was pleasant to look at, and good food was everywhere.

**6** God said that man could eat from every tree except one – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.<sup>1</sup>

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.

**7** 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.<sup>1</sup>

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

**8** so closely it would be as though they were one person.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup>

**9**

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











## Notes to Teachers and Parents:

**1** We must always emphasize both God's holiness and God's mercy. Because God is holy He must punish sin and can't ignore it. Because God is also merciful, He has a way to forgive sinful men. God was not surprised by Adam and Eve's sin. He had a plan to save men from their sin – a plan made before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:3-3: Revelation 13:8).

## Catechism for Children Questions:

The following questions apply to Chapter 3.

- #38 What was the sin of our first parents?  
*Eating the forbidden fruit.*
- #39 Who tempted them to this sin?  
*The devil tempted Eve, and she gave the fruit to Adam.*
- #40 What befell our first parents when they had sinned?  
*Instead of being holy and happy, they became sinful and miserable.*
- #42 What effect had the sin of Adam on all mankind?  
*All mankind are born in a state of sin and misery.*
- #43 What is that sinful nature which we inherit from Adam called?  
*Original sin.*

## Notes:

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## 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

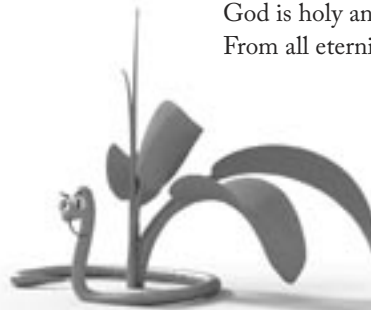
Serpent	Crawl on his belly	Crushed by woman's Seed
Woman	Pain in having children	Under authority of husband
Adam	Thorns, thistles, hard work	Return to dust (die)

### THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Redemption = Paying for man's sin through a Savior  
Savior = Jesus, who died for the sin of His people  
Eve = 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. **1**  
From all eternity God had a plan of redemption for sinful mankind.



## The Fall

**R**ules, 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.

**2**

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."

**3**

### 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." **4**



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! **5**

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! **6**

### Notes to Teachers and Parents:

**2** Before sin entered the world there was perfect harmony between God and mankind, man and woman, mankind and creation. The entrance of sin changed all these relationships and resulted in brokenness, strife, and lack of intimacy.

**3** The serpent's strategy was first to ask a question that would cause doubt in the woman's mind about what God had said. In her response, the woman added to God's command because in His command to Adam (Genesis 2:15-17) God did not say that touching the fruit would constitute disobedience (Genesis 2:15-17).

**4** In his strategy, Satan moved from causing doubt to outright lying. Satan blatantly contradicted God when he told the woman, "You will not surely die." Then Satan proceeded to put God's character and motives into question. Satan wanted the woman to question God's goodness and love. He did this by appealing to her physical appetite.

**5** Eve believed the lie: "There is something that I must have to be happy and God isn't giving it to me. If God really loved me, He would give this to me." This is the same lie that we believe when we question God's love and then disobey Him.

**6** Although Eve was deceived by the serpent's words, Adam was not. Adam understood clearly that eating the fruit was disobedience. He knew that Eve's choice would result in her separation from God and in her eventual death. In eating the fruit, Adam was choosing a relationship with the woman over a relationship with God. (Note: The fact that Eve was deceived by the serpent does not take away her responsibility for her sin [see 1 Timothy 2:13-14].)

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## Notes to Teachers and Parents:

**7** Adam and Eve did not immediately die physically after eating the fruit. However, because of their sin they would eventually experience physical death. Adam and Eve did immediately die spiritually because their sin alienated them from God. No longer could they be in the garden. No longer would God walk with them and fellowship with them in the same way as He did in the garden. This alienation could not be remedied without a Savior who would pay the penalty for sin and make reconciliation with God possible (see Romans 5, particularly verse 20).

**8** The woman's Seed is Jesus Christ. The serpent will "bruise His heel" by bringing to pass the crucifixion of Jesus. The woman's Seed (Jesus) will "bruise his head" by rising from the dead. Jesus' resurrection was the ultimate victory that destroyed Satan's power. Bruising a heel is painful, but bruising a head is a mortal blow (Romans 16:20; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28).

**9** God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins instead of fig leaves to signify that life would have to be sacrificed in order for sinful man to be "covered." Animals had to die in order for their shame to be covered. This shows the seriousness of sin. This sets the stage for the sacrificial system God gives to Israel in Leviticus. It also is a symbol of Jesus' death, which would cover our sin permanently.

**10** When God sent Adam and Eve from the garden, He demonstrated His holiness and His mercy. He showed His holiness because He was punishing them for their disobedience. He showed His mercy because He was preventing them from eating of the tree of life. If they had eaten from the tree of life, they would have lived forever in their sinful state and could not have been reconciled to God to live forever with Him in eternity.

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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."

**7**

### 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."

**8**

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.





**Notes to Teachers and Parents:**

**11** God always hears our prayers, but God does not always give us exactly what we want. Just like Eve, sometimes we want something that God has forbidden or that for some reason He does not think is best for us. We believe we must have this in order to be happy. Sometimes we want this more than we want to please God. When this happens, our desire has become an idol. If God always gave us everything we wanted just because we asked for it, then God would be encouraging us to be selfish. He would no longer be God, but simply a vehicle through which we get our desires met. Sometimes God does not give us what we want because He wants us to trust and obey Him even when we don't get what we want. However, we can be certain of this: God only does good to us. If God does not give us what we want, we can be sure that we do not need it to be content because God gives us what we need in every situation.

**Notes:**

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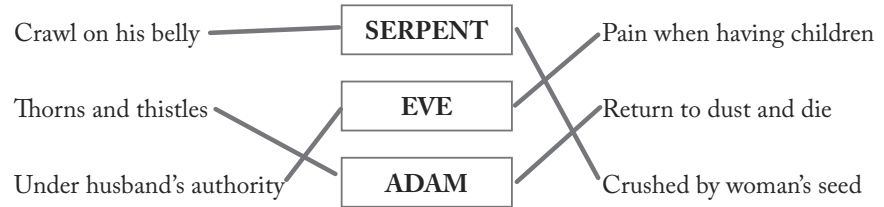
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**D. WHAT WAS THE CONSEQUENCE?**

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



**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 **Savior**.
2. Wicked men would **kill** **Him**.
3. The Savior would rise from the **dead**.
4. Satan's power would ultimately be **crushed**.



**F. 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.

**G. THINK ABOUT THIS...**

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

