

All Have Sinned

TEXT Genesis 3:1-6

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Genesis 3:1-24; Isaiah 55:7

OBJECTIVE The students will understand that everyone has sinned and must repent and ask forgiveness for the things they have done wrong. They will be able to identify behavior which is sin.

MEMORY VERSE For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. — Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and come short Come short of the
 glo-ry of God. For all have sinned - For all have sinned
 and come short of the glory of God.

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

FOR ALL — move open hand, left to right
 HAVE SINNED — make fists with index finger pointing to each other and then to self
 AND COME SHORT — shake head “no”
 OF THE GLORY — hold left palm out facing up, right finger tips touch left palm, raise right hand wiggling fingers
 OF GOD — point up

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Use puzzle picture (see Patterns). Glue to a flannel backing. Cut out the puzzle pieces and place them together on a flannel board, one at a time, as the students say each part of the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Show a picture of a child misbehaving. Ask the question: What is the child doing? What makes him do this?

Progression of events:

1. God’s creation was perfect.
2. The serpent tempted Eve to sin. She yielded, and gave of the fruit to Adam also.
3. Because of their disobedience, sin came into the world.
4. Identify behavior which is sin: lying, stealing, cheating, disobeying, etc.

Climax: Since that time, every person is born with sin in his heart. Use the black page of the Wordless Book.

Conclusion: The sins that we commit reflect the darkness of sin with which everyone is born.

Response: Have each student identify behavior which is sin, and conclude that each of us has committed some of these sins.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

SIN: The Hebrew word *hatta'th* means “missing” and the Greek, *hamartia*, “missing the mark.” Other Hebrew and Greek words are translated as “transgression, impiety, depravity,” and “violation of the law.”

God endowed man with the power of choice and man sins when he chooses to transgress or violate the Law of God; he misses the mark God intended and made possible for him. The first sin in the universe was an act of free will in which the creature deliberately, and with perfect understanding, chose to corrupt the holy, godly character with which God had endowed him.

Children bear a resemblance to their parents. Therefore all mankind, as children of Adam and Eve, bear a resemblance to them in that all have sinned (Romans 5:12). And all come under the penalty of death, but "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

God was looking for love and fellowship from man, His creation. In order for there to be real love there must be a choice: a choice to give love or not to give love. That is why God took the risk of giving man a choice to disobey.

Sin in its most basic form is choosing to love the world, flesh or devil instead of loving God. That is why the greatest commandment is to love God, because it is the very purpose for which we were created. Mark 12:28-30

SPECIAL UNIT INSTRUCTIONS

Use the black page of the Wordless Book to stress the spiritual need of the children. Tell them that the dark page reminds you of sin, or things that are wrong. When it is dark, we stumble and cannot find our way. When we are in the darkness of sin, without God's help, we cannot find Him. Sin separates us from God who is holy. God cannot allow sin where He is.

All of us have sinned (Romans 3:23). Help your children recognize what sin is by explaining some of the sins common to their age level, such as lying, disobedience, etc. Then explain that God has said sin must be punished. The punishment is eternal death — to be separated from God forever. If we have sin in our hearts, we cannot go to Heaven where He is. God knows there is nothing we can do to get rid of our own sins, but He loves us and made a way for us to have our sins taken away.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Re-enact the Bible story with puppets. Make or buy a stuffed or plastic snake and have him hang from the tree, two other puppets to portray Adam and Eve, and a voice taped representing God's voice.

For each student, make a simple garden background with holes approximately 1¼" in diameter cut at the

base so finger puppets can be used (see Patterns). Provide finger puppets to represent Adam and Eve (see Patterns). You may wish to let students draw in their own serpent. Allow them to act out the scene in the Garden as you tell it.

Use a sock puppet to briefly rehearse the temptation in the Garden. Then bring out that the devil probably will not tempt us to eat a certain fruit, but he will tempt us to do something else we know is wrong. Use the same puppet to portray several temptations common to the age group you are addressing: disobedience, selfishness, lying, etc.

Give each child a piece of construction paper and two eight-inch pieces of string. Have crayons available. (Felt markers may also work, but test to make sure they do not bleed through to the reverse side of the paper.) Tell children they are to make a mask with a face on both sides, one side beautiful and the other as ugly as possible. The two-faced mask is to remind children that Satan masquerades as an angel of light, and that he will try to make sin appear good and beautiful.

QUESTIONS

What is sin?
How can we get rid of sin in our hearts?
What are some things we might do that God would consider to be sin?
How do we feel when we do wrong things?
How does God feel?
Does God hear us when we say "I'm sorry"?
How do you know He hears?

PRE-SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Bring a large heart. Ask your students to help you name some of the things which would make sin spots in that heart. As they mention things, stick dark spots on with double stick tape. Help them realize that everyone has sinned, but be sure they understand that these sin spots can be removed.

Parallel darkness with sin (blindfold or hands over eyes) and light with forgiveness (remove hands or blindfold).

REVIEW IDEAS

Write the following equation on a chalkboard or large poster: Adam and Eve plus Disobedience equals Sin. Use this equation to talk briefly about how Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sinned. Bring out how everyone is born in sin as a result. A telephone will ring — pre-recorded on cassette tape. Answer the phone, and have a conversation with a child in the second or third grade. This child describes a problem — cheating, lying, stealing or some other sin. In conversation tell

him about Jesus, explaining that all have sinned. Make clear that Jesus must come into our hearts and remove the sin.

The child's voice should be pre-recorded. Use "pause" button while you respond. A short wrap-up probably would be required, perhaps using some questions to ascertain whether the students fully understood.

Briefly darken your entire department. Ask the students whether they like it better when it is dark or when it is light. Point out that we can't play games in the dark, read a book, see something beautiful, etc. Darkness can be scary. Bring out that God doesn't like darkness, and He doesn't want darkness in our hearts.

Ask several teachers and/or students to recount one time they did something wrong, to illustrate the point that we all have sinned. Be sure to conclude by saying that God has forgiven these sins, and that all sin needs to be forgiven.

Bring a large picture or model of a wild horse. Talk about how that horse needs to be broken (have his will conquered and made to be obedient to instructions) before he would be of any use to his owner. Compare this to our need to let Jesus take control of our life and conquer our stubborn will.

COORDINATING SONGS

- "Oh How He Loves You and Me"
- "Amazing Grace"
- "When the Lord Saved Me" — Singspiration, Inc. 1963
- "Oh Be Careful" — Sing with Marcy, Zondervan, 1957
- "My Sins Are Blotted Out, I Know"

SUPPORT MATERIAL

- Garden of Eden — (2' by 3' Bible Mural, 8 pictures that fit together to form poster), Concordia
- "A Garden and a Promise" — Arch Book, Concordia

NOTES

