

Parenting with **PURPOSE**



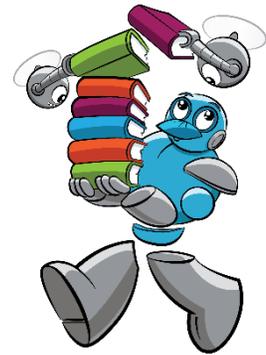
Unit 3.1: Image of God

God created us in His image. This means that we think, feel, make choices and are creative like God. We are completely unique and special part of God's creation.

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:26

Lesson Objectives:

- Recognize that people are set apart from the rest of God's creation because we are made in God's image and likeness.
- Realize that man has the ability to think, make decisions and express emotions and feelings.
- Believe that God gives man the choice to love and have a relationship with Him.



Talk about it:

- Being made in God's image means that we can have a relationship with God. What are some ways that you can get to know God better?
- How could it help you in your daily life to remember that God made every person unique?
- What do you think God sees when He looks at you?
- How did God make you one-of-a-kind? What is unique about you?
- How can you serve God with your unique personality and abilities?

Encouragement for you:

In Genesis 1:26, we find out that God made us in His image. We can uniquely reflect Him because we are made in His image! This week as you face challenging situations, think about how you can reflect God to those around you, including your child!

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: Talents

What You'll Need:
Nothing

STEP 1: Ask, "What is something that you are good at?" Encourage kids to think of things such as sports or subjects at school.

STEP 2: After everyone has responded, ask the following questions:

- Could an elephant ever be good at any of those things? A bird? Why not?
- Why can't animals possess these skills?
- What sets us apart from other creatures?
- What makes us different as individuals?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Because God made us in His image, we are different from the rest of creation. Each of us is a unique creation made in God's image. (Psalm 139: 14)
- We have emotions. We can love, share joy and feel sorrow. We can also relate to others with our emotions and learn to love them like God loves them. (1 John 4:7-8)
- We can think and reason and communicate. We can share what we are thinking and we can interact with others with our speech to glorify Him. (Colossians 4:6)
- Because we are made in God's image, we have the responsibility to care for the earth God created. (Genesis 1:26)

STEP 4: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that man is made in the image of God

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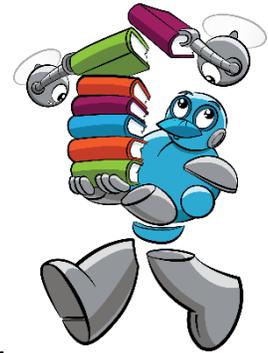
Unit 3.2: Satan

God created Satan as the head angel, but Satan decided he wanted to be God. He became God's enemy and does all he can to stop God's plan. But God is in control and at the end will punish Satan in hell forever.

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:1

Lesson Objectives:

- Know that Satan is a liar and destroyer who desires to destroy God's plan and turn man against God.
- Take courage in the middle of difficulty that Satan will one day be defeated and punished forever in hell.
- Know that Satan is not nearly as powerful as God and that we can resist Stan and his temptations.



Talk about it:

- Who is all-powerful, God or Satan? How can remembering this help you?
- How did Satan deceive (lie or trick) Adam and Eve?
- What are some of the lies that Satan might want you to believe?
- God has defeated Satan. What will happen to Satan in the future?
- What can you do if you are wondering if something is truth or a lie?

Encouragement for you:

This week the kids are learning about how Satan is crafty and cunning, like Genesis 3:1 tells us, but also not nearly as powerful as God. This is a good reminder to us as well. We need to be vigilant and wary of the behavior that can erode our faith, but we can also trust in God who is the only being who is all-powerful. How can you stay vigilant and trust in God's power this week?

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: “I will...”

What You’ll Need:
Nothing

STEP 1: Have everyone sit in a circle. Explain that each person will have five seconds to complete the phrase I will ... when someone points to them. (Give examples such as, “I will brush my teeth before bed tonight.” “I will eat cereal for breakfast tomorrow.”)

STEP 2: Point to one person in the circle. After he or she has answered, point to someone else. Continue the activity for two minutes.

STEP 3: Ask the following questions:

- Why did you answer as you did?
- How do you know what you will do?
- What would the rest of you have done if a supervillain had come in here and said an “I will” statement about doing something bad?

STEP 4: Share these key concepts:

- Satan was once a beautiful angel created by God.
- Satan developed a sin of pride. He made five I will ... statements of pride that revealed his sin and his desire to be like God. (Isaiah 14:13-14)
- Satan and the angels who followed him were kicked out of heaven.
- Satan will try to do everything he can to stop God’s plan to save man from sin. He disguises himself as an angel of light and tries to make bad things look good to cause us to sin. (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- Satan is also like a roaring lion. He tries to cause us to sin and turn from God and His plan for us. (1 Peter 5:8)
- We can only overcome Satan’s lies and temptation if we know the truth of God’s Word. (John 17:17)
- We must use God’s Word and His armor to protect us from Satan’s schemes. (Ephesians 6:10, 11)
- God will one day defeat Satan and cast him into hell forever. (Revelation 20:10)

STEP 5: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of knowing who Satan is and how we can overcome his temptations.

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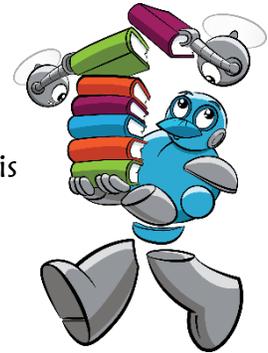
Unit 3.3: The Fall

God gave Adam and Eve one rule – don't eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Satan tempted them to eat the fruit. When they did, they became sinners separated from God and their sin has been passed down to every person who has ever lived.

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:6

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand that Satan tempted Eve with a lie and that both Adam and Eve chose to sin by disobeying God.
- Believe that since Adam and Eve brought sin into the world, now every person born after them shares this sinful nature and is in need of a Savior.
- Feel hope that God has begun the restoration of all things through Jesus.



Talk about it:

- What do you think about the consequence of Adam and Eve's sin?
- Sin is anything that we think, say or do that disobeys God. Can you think of some examples?
- Does everyone sin or just some people? How would you explain your answer to someone?
- Sin always begins with disobedience. What are some sins that you struggle with?
- When you are tempted to sin what could you do?

Encouragement for you:

In Genesis 3:6, we hear about how sin entered the world when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. Through Jesus Christ, we have a way to repentance and forgiveness that Adam and Eve did not. As you come across times this week where you are confronted with your own sin or the sins of others, remember that you can choose to repent and trust in the forgiveness that God gives!

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: One Rule

What You'll Need:
Nothing

STEP 1: Have everyone sit down and tell them there is only one rule to follow. At your signal, you will play the quiet game, where everyone has to stay quiet — the challenge is there is to be no noise of any kind from anyone.

STEP 2: Give a signal. See how long kids can go before someone breaks the rule.

STEP 3: Once the rule has been broken (or after one minute), ask the following questions:

- What was the hardest part about following the one rule?
- How did you feel during that time?
- What could be a consequence for this rule after it were broken?
- What if we said the quiet game was going to last for an hour, could you do it?

STEP 4: Share these key concepts:

- God created a perfect world with no sin, death, or pain. He made Adam and Eve in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). They could think, feel, and make their own choices.
- Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful paradise known as the garden of Eden (Genesis 2: 8). They were to tend the garden.
- God gave them only one rule: They were not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:15-16).
- Satan, God's enemy, wanted to destroy God's plan and ruin His friendship with man. He tempted Eve and lied to her by telling her that the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil would make her be like God (Genesis 3:4-5).
- Eve chose to eat of the fruit, and she gave it to Adam, who ate it too. Immediately they sinned and their perfect fellowship with a holy and pure God was broken (Genesis 3:6-7).
- Since then, every person who has been born after Adam and Eve (except Jesus) has been born a sinner (Romans 5:12).

STEP 5: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the fall of man.

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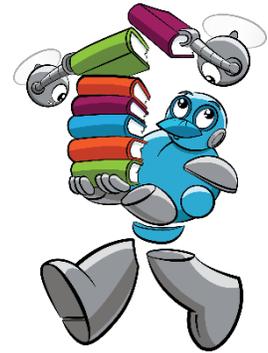
Unit 3.4: Sin and Suffering

When Adam and Eve sinned, their one sin had a consequence that has affected every person who has ever lived. The consequence was that sin, pain, suffering and death entered the world.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:12

Lesson Objectives:

- Know that Adam and Eve's sin brought pain and suffering.
- Realize the greatest effects of sin is a broken relationship with God and death.
- Apply God's promise of hope in one area in which they are struggling.



Talk about it:

- What was a consequence that God gave to Adam and Eve for their disobedience?
- What kind of suffering might someone your age experience?
- James says we are supposed to react to trials with joy. What does that mean?
- God promises good can come out of tough times. Can you think of a time where that's been true for your or someone you know?

Encouragement for you:

This week the kids are learning about sin and suffering in the world. Through this heavy topic comes the hope that we can turn to God when we are confronted with sin or with suffering. Romans 5:12 tells us that all people have sinned and that means that nobody is unique in their deep need of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness He offers. How can you turn to God this week when you are confronted with sin and suffering?

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: Kid Problems

What You'll Need:

Balloons (10 or more), large garbage bag

PREP: Blow up the balloons and put them in the garbage bag so that they are contained and don't pop.

STEP 1: Ask for a volunteer to stand in the front of your space. Explain that today you will be talking about sin and suffering and how as kids they have to deal with those things too. Point to the volunteer in the middle and say, "This volunteer is going to be an example of what it can feel like when we face difficult things."

STEP 2: Brainstorm about situations or circumstances where kids their age might face suffering or struggles. As you come up with ideas, throw (gently) one balloon at the person in the middle for every idea suggested. The amount of balloons should seem overwhelming.

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Sometimes wrong things happen and you can feel helpless to do anything about it.
- Sometimes it hurts to think of others who are suffering.
- Sometimes it is hard to find joy in the middle of suffering.
- One of the greatest consequences for Adam and Eve was a broken relationship with God. They would no longer have a perfect connection with Him in the garden (Genesis 3:22-24). The second consequence was death. Their bodies would grow old and they would eventually die (Genesis 3:19).
- Their sin affects us still. We are all born sinners (Romans 5:12), and we face sickness, hunger and pain. However, we are not alone. We can have hope in our struggles, knowing that if we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we can know God will make things right (Romans 4:3-5, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

STEP 4: Share key concepts:

- God is with us if we have trusted Him as our Savior. He promises to never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).
- God will one day make all things right (Revelation 21:1-4).

STEP 5: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand why there is sin and suffering in the world.

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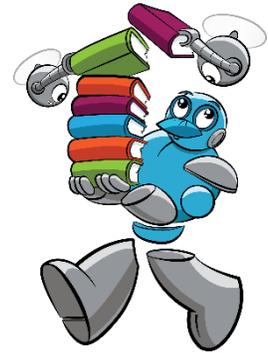
Unit 3.5: Jesus Christ

We are sinners who deserve death. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. Jesus Christ came to earth and died in our place so that we could trust in Him and have eternal life.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:19

Lesson Objectives:

- Believe they are sinners and need a Savior – there is nothing they can do on their own to save themselves.
- Recognize that Jesus Christ is the only perfect sacrifice who already paid for the punishment they deserve.
- Believe that Jesus is God's Son, lived a perfect life, died in their place and rose again three days later.



Talk about it:

- How would you explain why Jesus came to earth as a man?
- Jesus was both fully man and fully God. He lived a perfect life and never sinned. Why does this make Him an acceptable sacrifice for our sins?
- If you were walking along a rocky cliff and see a dangerous part of the path, what would you do?
- What about a friend that is trying to handle difficult life challenges without knowing anything about Jesus? What would you say to him or her?

Encouragement for you:

Sometimes our mistakes can leave us feeling defeated. However, Romans 5:19 shares some important news with us. We share in Christ's righteousness, no matter what our sins have been, because our righteousness is in Christ. Our personal story is not defined by our mistakes but by what Christ has done for us!

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: That's Impossible!

What You'll Need:
Nothing

STEP 1: Ask kids to try several of the following tasks:

- Lick your elbow.
- Twitch your nose.
- Wiggle your ears.
- Make your eyebrows go up and down one at a time.
- Sit crossed legged on the floor and try to stand without using your hands.

(Listen for kids to comment "that's impossible" or "I can't do this!")

STEP 2: After they have tried to complete the tasks, discuss the following questions:

1. What made these tasks so hard?
2. How did you feel trying to complete the tasks?

STEP 3: Tell them about any frustrated comments they made while trying to complete the activities. Explain that even though these were silly tasks that are impossible for many people, there is something far more serious that is impossible for all men to do.

Share these concepts:

- Because Adam and Eve sinned, everyone who has been born since then were born sinners, including all of us.
- Because we are all sinners, we need help. It is impossible to be right with God on our own.
- After Adam and Eve sinned, God set a plan into action to save everyone who asked to be saved.

STEP 4: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of knowing who Jesus Christ is and believing that He is the only way we can be saved.

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Unit 3.6: The Lord's Return

Life can be difficult. But the problems are easier to bear when we know that something good is coming. Jesus Christ has promised that He will return to take us to heaven to be with Him.

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand that Scripture tells us about the Lord's return.
- Believe that Jesus will keep His promises to return for those who trust in Him.
- Take comfort in the hope of Christ's return.



Talk about it:

- How would you explain hope?
- God never breaks His promises and He has promised to come back and take us to heaven. What do you think about this?
- There are a lot of distractions in this world. How do you think we can focus on the promised hope of a future with God forever in heaven?

Encouragement for you:

The verses of 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 give us a teaser of what it will look like when Jesus returns. This important point in history can be hard to visualize, but the promise that it gives us is that we will be with God forever, and that is something to hold onto today, or anytime things are tough!

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: Momentous Events

What You'll Need:
Nothing

STEP 1: Ask kids to share their favorite family activities they do to celebrate the following events:

- Christmas
- Birthdays

STEP 2: After kids have shared, ask the following questions:

- Why do we look forward to special events like birthdays or holidays?
- How do you feel as the event gets closer?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We all have things we look forward to and it's fun to anticipate those events.
- Jesus promised an event for those who have trusted in Him as Savior. This event will mean the end of life as we know it and open up a brand new beginning with a never-ending life.

STEP 4: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of the Lord's return for those who have trusted Him.

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Unit 3.7: Eternity

Every person has a choice to make about their eternity (forever). The first choice is to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and spend eternity with Him. The second choice is to choose to reject God's gift of salvation and spend forever separated from God and everything that is good.

Memory Verse: Psalm 102:25-27

Lesson Objectives:

- Believe that our lives continue after we die.
- Understand each person has a choice to make about their eternity.
- Choose to accept Jesus as Savior.
- Praise God that if they have accepted Jesus as Savior, nothing can ever take away their eternity without God.



Talk about it:

- What are the two places where we can spend eternity and how would you describe them?
- If you are a believer, why are you looking forward to living forever with Jesus? What excites you? What comforts you?
- Our life here on earth is very short compared to eternity and there's lots of stuff we have to do, like sleeping or brushing our teeth. With the free time you have, how can you use it for God?

Encouragement for you:

When we think of how far time stretches, with the history of the past, the chaos of the present and the uncertainty of the future, it can seem overwhelming. However, Psalm 102:25-27 gives us an important truth to hold onto: God is not bound by time and He knows it all. The same God who loves us sees all of time and promises us an eternity with Him. Let this truth give you peace in the middle of today's chaos!

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: Average Lifespans

What You'll Need:
Nothing

STEP 1: Have kids guess the average lifespan of the following creatures. For each guess, answer “high” or “low” depending on the guesses. The average age of each animal, according to the Internet, is in parentheses. Average Lifespans:

- Male housefly (28 days)
- Wild African elephant (56 years)
- Giant tortoise (100 years)
- Humpback whale (45-50 years)

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- God is eternal. He had no beginning and He has no end.
- God created all things and one day the heavens, earth, plants, and animals will die or end.
- We are created in Gods’ image. Even though our bodies may grow old and pass on because of sickness or injury, who we are, our souls, will live forever.
- We have the choice to make as to where we will spend eternity.

STEP 3: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of knowing where we will be for eternity.

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Unit 3.8: Redemption Review

This unit has been about the story of God's redemption of His people and it encompasses our hope as we currently live in a broken world. Humanity was made in God's image, but chose sin over God when Satan tempted Adam and Eve. This brought sin and suffering which changed people and the world. Jesus came to earth as God's way for the forgiveness of sin and restoration of God's relationship with people. He will come back to complete this restoration and usher in a perfect eternity.

Memory Verses: Genesis 1:26, Genesis 3:1, Genesis 3:6, Romans 5:12, Romans 5:19, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Psalm 102:25-27

Lesson Objectives:

- Recognize that God has a perfect plan from the beginning to reconcile us to Him.
- Realize God's desire and love for mankind.
- Apply the truths of God's redemption to their lives.
- Thank God for His redemptive plan.



Talk about it:

- How are you a unique part of God's creation?
- How can we know if something is true or a lie from Satan?
- Do you need to tell God about a sin you are having a hard time not doing? If so, what is it?
- What was the consequence of Adam and Eve's disobedience?
- If you have already accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, take a minute to thank God for saving you. If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, talk to a parent, guardian or leader. Write down which of those things you did.
- What do you think would be great about being with Jesus forever?

Encouragement for you:

The kids have spent the past weeks learning about Redemption. This topic can lead us to a new gratitude for our value in God's eyes. God redeeming His creation through an act of great love and sacrifice gives us a new sense of significance and meaning. How can it help you this week to remember that you are valued by God?

T&T Announcements

Family Activity: Plans

What You'll Need:
Computer with internet

PREP: Search online for an image of a large Lego® set. Be prepared to show the image to your class.

STEP 1: Show the image of the Lego set to the class. Ask: “If you were to build this Lego set, what are the steps you would need to take in order to build it?”

STEP 2: Have kids brainstorm how they would build the set. Make sure one of the kids mentions that they would need to follow the instruction plans in the box.

STEP 3: Ask the following questions:

- Why are plans important?
- What would happen if you tried to build the set on your own without follow the plans?

STEP 4: Share these key concepts:

- God has a plan for each of us. He wants us to have a perfect relationship (friendship) with Him.
- Satan tried to destroy God’s plan. But God is more powerful than Satan, and God’s plan for our salvation is offered to every person.
- We can choose to follow God’s plan to be saved from our sin. But the choice is up to each one of us. God doesn’t force anyone to follow His plan.

STEP 5: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of God’s redemption on mankind.