



Adam and Eve Sin

Genesis 3


Fifth- and sixth-graders are discovering their world isn't fair. Right actions aren't always rewarded and wrong actions aren't always punished. They'll begin to evaluate the moral standards they've been taught and question why parents and other adults hold the moral standards they do. Use this lesson to help kids see that morality is far beyond what the adults in their lives tell them to do or not to do. *God* doesn't want us to sin.



► **Bible Point**
God doesn't want us to sin.

Key Verse
"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Preteens will identify the barriers of sin in their lives and decide on ways to avoid sin this week.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	A Great Void <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Try to get to food by following strict rules.	4 large trash bags, plate of pretzels and carrot sticks, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	Place the plate of snack items in the center of the room.
2 Bible Exploration	Wall of Sin <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Build a wall, and try to communicate through it.	2 large plastic tablecloths, tape, paper, markers, timer	Tape the tablecloths together and hang them from the ceiling to make a wall.
	Sin Perspectives <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Explore the first sin from different perspectives, and see the results of sin in history.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens Teacher Pack: "History of Sin" poster 	Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Life Dirt <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create drawings of people and cover them in dirt.	Bible Buzz, masking tape, paper, pens, a marker	Write "God's Glory" on a sheet of paper.
	Break the Barrier! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Consider the effects of sin in our lives and barriers between God and us.	Bible Buzz, CD player, pens Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Buzz, markers, glue sticks	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Adam and Eve Sin

Genesis 3

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Adam and Eve Choose to Disobey God

The first thing we read about is the crafty serpent used by Satan to deceive the first humans. The serpent’s first question demonstrated his craftiness. He must’ve known what God had really commanded about the fruit of a particular tree in the Garden of Eden, but asking the question made Eve begin to reconsider. The serpent, knowing he’d made Eve question God, proceeded to take his deception further, suggesting that God didn’t have Eve’s best interests in mind. Eve took the bait and ate the fruit—and Adam ate after her.

Adam and Eve “Hide” From God

As always, temptation promised more than the sin delivered. Adam and Eve didn’t become “like God,” but instead faced the reality that they’d disobeyed God. Suddenly their nakedness, which had been natural when all was good, seemed wrong. They decided to hide from God.

God was angry. The beings he had created and provided for so bountifully had turned against him. They’d refused to trust him. But God came looking for them, knowing well what had happened. Here God showed his character and established an important pattern: When people sin and turn against God, God seeks them out and draws them to himself. God loves his people—no matter what.

Adam and Eve Leave the Garden

God’s constant love for us doesn’t mean we can avoid the consequences of sin. The rest of this passage relates the consequences of Adam and Eve’s sin, which from that point on fell upon all humanity. However, the banishing of Adam and Eve from the garden wasn’t so much for punishment as for their

protection. Now that they’d sinned, sin would be part of them as long as they lived. Should they eat of the tree of life in the garden, they would live forever under the power of sin. Only physical death could save them from such a life. And God had a plan to save them from spiritual death, a plan that likely is hinted at in Genesis 3:15: Jesus would come and experience death, but he would defeat Satan forever!

The Jesus Connection

When have you battled with sin, and what was the outcome? God seeks us and loves us even when we betray him, and he gives us forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus’ sacrifice. God has given us an example to follow and a source of strength and support—in Jesus. Jesus can help us be faithful to God. Ask Jesus to help you resist sin and faithfully follow God’s laws. You can write your prayer here.





A Great Void Supplies

4 large trash bags
plate of pretzels and
carrot sticks
paper plates
antibacterial gel
(optional)

A Great Void Easy Prep

Place the plate of snack
items in the center of
the room.

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

1 GETTING STARTED

A Great Void

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Have kids form four groups, and give each group a trash bag. Have groups move to different corners of the room and touch the wall with their feet and hands at the same time. Ask them to hold this position until you give them the okay to begin moving again.

Say: **There's been a huge earthquake. The floor has suddenly collapsed into the depths of the earth. You're clinging to one of the last standing walls, and all you have is the floating transport, which actually looks a lot like a trash bag. Your food stash, which happens to be some pretzels and carrots, is trapped on the last piece of floor in the middle of the room. Your group needs to figure out together how you'll get to the food stash. If any of your feet or hands let go of the wall without touching the transport, you'll fall. Once you're all on your transport, you must keep your hands and feet on the transport at all times, or you'll fall into oblivion. Any questions?**

Take any questions that may be raised, and then cue groups to begin. Have groups stop after three minutes, and give food to everyone that would like to eat some, having kids clean their hands first.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

As kids eat, lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like trying to get to the food stash?
- What seemed fair or unfair about the rules to get the food?
- Tell about an experience you've had where you had to follow rules to get a prize or a good result.

Say: **Rules can be difficult to follow. Sometimes they may seem fair, and other times they may seem unfair. But they're everywhere in our lives. The rules in our game kept us from imaginary harm, and the rules in our lives often keep us from very *real* harm. That's why ► GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO SIN. *Sin* means to do wrong, and that often includes breaking important rules. God wants us to stay away from sin because sin can bring us close to harm and away from God. Today we'll learn more about what sin does our in our lives and ways to avoid it.**



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Wall of Sin

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids form pairs, and then distribute paper and washable markers.

Say: **With your partners, brainstorm as many examples of sin—wrongdoing—as you can. Write the examples on your papers. You'll have two minutes. Ready? Go!**

Allow time.

Say: **Now you can tape your papers to our "wall" here.** Point to the tablecloth wall. Once pairs have finished taping sins to the wall, invite willing pairs to share with the rest of the group why they wrote the examples they did.

When pairs have shared, ask the entire group:

- **What do the examples of sin on our wall have in common?**
- **What makes sin so hard to avoid?**

After kids have shared, have partners from each pair stand on opposite sides of the tablecloth wall. Kids can stand behind each other on either side of the wall if needed.

Say: **Your task is to communicate with your partner on the other side of the wall about what you had for breakfast today. But you can't talk or move. I'll give you 30 seconds to communicate with your partner. You'll all be trying to communicate at the same time. When I call time, have a seat on one side of the wall, and we'll talk about what we've done.**

Keep track of the time as you guide pairs through the activity.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

When everyone is seated, lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What made communicating with your partner on the other side of the wall possible or impossible?**
- **Our wall is covered with examples of sin. In what ways does sin put up a wall between us and God?**

Say: ► **GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO SIN; when we do, sin creates a barrier for communicating with God. The key to understanding how the barrier gets created is understanding why we sin. Let's spend some time tackling that question.**



Wall of Sin Supplies

2 large plastic tablecloths
tape
paper
markers
timer

Wall of Sin Easy Prep

Tape the tablecloths together and hang them from the ceiling to make a wall.





Sin Perspectives Supplies

Bibles
Bible Buzz
pens
Teacher Pack
“History of Sin” poster

Sin Perspectives Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 3
pages from each Bible
Buzz student book.

Sin Perspectives

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz page. Have kids from trios, and give each trio a Bible.

Say: **Sin became a problem for all humanity when the first people ever created committed the first sin. We can learn about the first sin in the book of Genesis in the Bible. Open your Bibles to Genesis chapter three. Allow time.**

Say: **Now find the “Sin Perspectives” section on your Bible Buzz page, and invite a willing member of your group to read the different passages listed. Then you can work together to answer the questions and write your answers on the lines provided. You'll have 15 minutes to get through all four sections. Allow time.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Among Eve, Adam, and the serpent, who do you relate to most? Explain.**
- **Do you think Adam and Eve's punishment was what they deserved? Explain.**
- **Ever since this first sin, all humans have had trouble with sin. What do you think we can do about that?**

Hold up the “History of Sin” poster. Invite several willing children to choose examples from the poster and explain how they show sin.

Ask:

- **What emotions do these images bring out in you? Why?**
- **What might be different about these images if sin hadn't happened?**

Say: **God doesn't want us to sin, but everyone sins—ever since the very first people, Adam and Eve, sinned. However, God wants to be with us and have a loving friendship with us. So God sent Jesus to solve the sin problem. Jesus took the punishment for all our sins. We simply can believe in him and have a growing friendship with him. Jesus tears down the barrier between us and God.** Invite kids to tear down the tablecloth wall.



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Life Dirt

What You'll Do

Give each child a piece of masking tape, and make sure everyone has a pen.

Say: **On your piece of tape, draw a simple picture of a perfect person.** Allow a few minutes to do this, and encourage kids to be creative with their representations of a perfect person.

God made the world and everything in it—including us. But God made us in a special way. God made us in his own image. That means out of all God created, he made us to be the most like him. So when he made the first humans, they were perfect in the beginning. But then sin came into our world through Adam and Eve and muddied things up. Let's see what that looks like.

Hunt for the dirtiest places in the room, and stick your tape figures on those dirty or dusty places over and over. Move around the room and pick up as much dirt on your tape as you can. Allow two minutes. Then bring kids back together with their tape figures.

Find the Key Verse, Romans 3:23, on your Bible Buzz page. Invite a willing child to read it aloud: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Hold up the paper with the words "God's Glory" written on it. Say: **Now, try to stick your person to this paper. Once you've tried, sit down with everyone in a circle.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What caused your tape to be less sticky?**
- **Why do you think sin makes us fall short of God's glory?**
- **What makes the sin in our lives like the dirt and filth on our tape people?**
- **Similar to how the tape couldn't stick to the "God's Glory" paper, how can sin make it difficult or even impossible for us to stick close to God?**

Say: **God is perfect, pure, and clean, and he's full of glory. But our sin is like grime, dirt, and damage in our lives. Adam and Eve were separated from God when they sinned because their sin made a mess of what God had designed to be perfect. That's why ► GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO SIN.**



Life Dirt Supplies

Bible Buzz
masking tape
paper
pens
a marker

Life Dirt Easy Prep

Write "God's Glory" on a sheet of paper.





Break the Barrier! Supplies

Bible Buzz

CD player

pens

Teacher Pack

CD: "Your Word in My Heart" (Psalm 119:11) (track 5)

We have to be clean from our murky sin before we can experience God's pure glory. That's why God sent his Son, Jesus, to take on the consequences of our sin. When we accept Jesus as a friend, he'll clean us up so that we can be in the presence of the pure and holy God.

Break the Barrier!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids find the "My Barriers" section on their Bible Buzz page.

Say: **Make this time personal. Look into your life. First, I'd like you to think about your perception of God. Look at the first blank section on your page. Take a moment to draw a picture of God that represents your perception of God.**

Give kids a few minutes to draw their pictures. When they've finished, invite willing kids to share their views of God.

When kids have shared, thank them for their drawings.

Say: **Let's go deeper. I'd like you to consider for a moment the things that you've done to create a barrier between you and God. Consider for a moment the sins you've committed. For example, you may struggle with respecting others or telling lies. I'd like you to think about those things for a few minutes.**

Give kids a few minutes to think quietly. Then have them draw on the right-hand section of their Bible Buzz page a symbolic picture of one of the sins they thought of.

Play "Your Word in My Heart" (Psalm 119:11) (track 5 on the CD) while kids are working. As kids are finishing, have them fold their Bible Buzz page down the center along the snake so they can only see the side with the barrier to God they drew.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What makes your sin barrier like Adam and Eve's? What makes it different?**
- **What emotions or consequences of your sin create a barrier between you and God?**

Say: **It doesn't matter how big the barrier feels. And it doesn't matter how many barriers you've created between you and God. God wants to forgive you because God loves the people he created. Remember, God still cared for Adam and Eve after they sinned. And later, God sent Jesus to take the consequences of every person's sins. ► GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO SIN, but he loves us too much to let it create a permanent barrier between us and God. Let's think of ways to obey God by avoiding sin this week.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how we can avoid sin this week since ► GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO SIN.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Buzz page and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Ask a friend or family member to pray for you as you strive to avoid sin this week.**
- **Talk to God about sins you're struggling with, and ask for help in changing your behavior.**
- **When someone tries to get you to do something you know is wrong, tell that person "no."**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.** Allow time.

Say: **► GOD DOESN'T WANT US TO SIN, and as you avoid sin in following through on our Daily Challenges this week, you'll be obeying God.**



Daily Challenges Supplies

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Bible Buzz



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

Bible Buzz markers
glue sticks

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about why God doesn't want us to sin. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Have kids find the "My Barriers" section on their Bible Buzz page.

Say: **Draw a cross over the top of your drawing in the box on the right. Then take your tape figure and use a glue stick to make the tape sticky again. As you draw a cross and renew the stickiness of your tape to represent Jesus breaking down the barrier between God and you, thank God for his forgiveness and for help in avoiding sin. Allow time. Place your newly sticky tape in the square.**

Pray: **God, thank you for your forgiveness and that you've removed the barrier our sin has caused between us and you. Help us to show our thanks by obeying you. In Jesus' name, amen.**