

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus paid the price for our sin!

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will review all of the days of Creation and be given an opportunity to accept Jesus' free gift of forgiveness and salvation.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 1, John 3:16

INTRO:

If you read Genesis chapters 1-3, it reads like a complete story – and not a very happy one in the end. First, God makes the world. In six days He forms our entire planet out of nothing, creating a self-sustaining ecosystem capable of maintaining life. He created a man and a woman in His own image, and He shares this beautiful creation with them. He holds nothing back from them except the fruit of the forbidden tree, and wouldn't you know it? The man and the woman disobey God. God's perfect plan of creation is ruined. The man and the woman are kicked out of paradise, and they are hopelessly separated from their Creator. The end.

Of course, that's not really the end. It's only the beginning of a much larger story, one that is still going on today. God didn't give up on Creation. The Earth continues to spin; the sun, moon and stars continue to shine; and while many species of plants and animals are sadly no longer with us, we are still here, tasked with caring for God's Creation.

But that's not our only purpose. That's not even our main purpose. We were made to have a relationship with God. We were created, like Adam and Eve, so we could know God personally.

But how is that possible? Last week, we read that Adam and Eve disobeyed God. They were kicked out of paradise, cursed to work the Earth with their hands and told that one day, they would die. How can we possibly have a relationship with God if we are sinners?

We can have a relationship with God because while we were still sinners, God had a plan to save us.

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READ JOHN 3:16

MAIN POINT:

From the very beginning, God knew there was only one way to save His Creation. He knew He had to sacrifice His only Son. Once sin entered the world, once we are born into sin, there is nothing we can do ourselves to be saved. Unless God did something for us, we would be doomed.

Jesus is the only man who never sinned. He was both God and man. Because Jesus died for us, we can have eternal life in a new paradise called heaven. We can have a personal relationship with God, just like our first ancestors. God will send the Holy Spirit to live in your heart, and when you leave this world behind, you will live forever with Jesus in paradise.

DRIVE IT HOME:

In the beginning, God made a beautiful world. He separated light from darkness on the first day. He separated the waters from the skies on the second day. He brought forth land on the third day and covered it with life, planting grass, flowers, trees, shrubs, all sorts of plant life.

God made the sun, moon, and stars on the fourth day so that we could have light day and night, and so that we could mark the passage of time. On the fifth day, God made birds and fish, filling the skies and seas with life. On the sixth day, He made all the animals, from the giant elephant to our beloved house pets.

Finally He made a man and a woman in His image. He made people who, unlike animals, had the free will to choose to love and obey Him or turn away. He could not have made us any other way, because you can't truly love someone if you don't have free will. And even though Adam and Eve rejected God's command and ate the forbidden fruit, God did not stop loving them.

It was never a question, whether or not God would save us. He loves us so much, He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins once and for all. The only question to be asked is one we must answer. Do you believe that God made you? Do you believe that He sent Jesus to die for you? Do you want to receive Jesus as your Savior?

Look around at the wonders of Creation this week. Look at the sky. Look at the land. Look at the animals. God did all of this so we would see how great He is. It's a love letter made new every day to a lost world. God wants to give you new life. He wants to give you paradise.

God made the world, and He made you. He sent Jesus to die for your sins. What more could He do to make you love Him in return?

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CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for everything Jesus has done for us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen