

LESSON AIM: To explain what sin is and God's special plan to rescue us from sin.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:6-8

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- 1) Who were the first people God created?
- 2) What was the one rule God gave them in the garden?
- 3) What happened that caused them to be kicked out of the garden?
- 4) Review last week's memory verse; have students explain it in their own words.

INTRODUCTION:

***This is a very important lesson, so please be "prayed up" for today! Be prepared to pray with children to receive Christ. You might want to review the section in your guidebook on "Leading a Child to Christ".**

- Last week we learned that *sin* separates us from God.
- Ask the students, "what is sin?" (*Anything that we think, say, or do that is displeasing to God*)
- Get suggestions from the students of what sin is. Then challenge them... "So what if I steal just a little pencil? What if I don't tell the whole truth, just part of it? Etc. etc. . ."
- Did someone have to teach you how to be mean, or NOT to share with others? No! We automatically do that; we were born knowing how to sin!
- God is Love, but He is also **Holy**. Sin separates us from God because of His holiness. (Have the students picture a pair of brand new bright white shoes. Would you put those beautiful shoes on and go for a run in the mud? No way! God is like that pure white, and sin is like that dirty mud. The two cannot mix!)
- Without God's rescue plan we are forever cut off from God, spiritually dead in trespasses and sin and we are blinded and manipulated by Satan.

LESSON:

When Adam and Eve sinned they had to leave the garden. Because of their sin they could no longer talk and fellowship with God. Sin can be a big lie or a little lie. It can be stealing one baseball card or stealing someone's bicycle. It can be willfully thinking a wrong thought. It can be being disrespectful or disobedient to your mom, dad or teachers. God has certain rules (or laws) and He says in His Word, the Bible, that if we have broken one, we have broken them all. (***James 2:10***)

God loves us but our sin separates us from Him. The very best that we have to offer God will not save us. My sin creates a huge cavern between myself and God. We have a better chance of diving off the pier at the beach and swimming to Hawaii than we do trying to get to heaven without ever sinning. The Bible tells us that every single one of us have sinned and deserve God's judgment. But that was not God's original plan, he loves us and knew that we couldn't rescue or save ourselves.

God requires absolute obedience. We can't make up our own rules, we must obey His. All of us are born sinners. We don't become sinners when we sin; our sin only *proves* that we are sinners! The fact that no one has to teach us how to lie or to be selfish proves that we are sinners. But even though we are sinners, God doesn't give up on us - He still loves us and wants to be our friend! In order for us to once again have a friendship with God like the special relationship that existed in the garden, God would have to come up with a special rescue plan, a plan that would save us from our sin and our separation from God.

Let me help you understand with a story. Picture in your mind a very cold and snowy night. You are inside by the fire where it is nice and warm and dry, but outside it is dangerously cold. Just as you are enjoying your hot chocolate by the fireplace, you hear a loud BANG at the window. You look but you don't see anything, but then you hear it again, BANG! And then you see it... it's a little bird that is freezing cold and is trying to get in to the warm room and out of the snow, but it doesn't see the glass and keeps ramming itself into the window. It tries again and again, BANG.... BANG.... BANG! And now it is starting to bleed and is hurting because it can't get in. You try to motion it away and tell it that it can't get through because of the glass, but of course the bird doesn't understand you. You feel terrible watching this little bird trying so hard and you think, "If only I was a bird, I could tell this bird that it can't get through the glass and that there is another way to get warm and find shelter!"

And that is exactly what God had to. He couldn't communicate with us because of our sin, but if He could become a human he could tell us the rescue plan we needed to hear! The angels were shocked when they learned what the plan would be: God would send His only Son to planet Earth to become a man. God's Son, whose name would be Jesus, would live a perfect life, that is, He would never sin, not even a little. He would go around helping and healing people and then when He was thirty-three years old would lay down His life for us. Jesus laid down His life by dying on a cross. It was a cruel and horrible way to die, but he died in our place. He paid the price for our sin and disobedience. What was that price? Death. (*"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus"* Romans 6:23). Why did Jesus have to die? So that you could be God's friend forever and never again be separated from Him.

Right now, Jesus can come into your life and forgive your sins, if you want Him to. He wants to save us, but He will only do it if we ask Him. When we ask it is important that we tell Him that we are sinners and that we have broken His laws. But the Bible tells us that when we confess our sin He will forgive us, as if it never happened! The Bible also tells us that when we invite Him in to be in charge of our lives, He will never leave us or forsake us!

(Give your students an opportunity to receive Jesus - Please see special section in your notebook: "Leading a child to Christ.")

MEMORY VERSE:

(Even year):

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

(Odd year):

"While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

