



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

Sin separates us from God.

THE BIBLE

Adam and Eve Sinned: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-15, 22-23 (1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:10-12)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Earthquake Jumps
- **ACTIVITY** | Left, Right, Middle
- **QUESTION** | Share about a time when you messed up as a kid.
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Tricky Kook-Aid
- **THE BIG IDEA** | Sin separates us from God.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-15, 22-23
- **ACTIVITY** | Target Practice
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Helium Balloon
- **SCRIPTURE** | 1 John 1:9
- **RESPONSE** | Disappearing Paper Sin
- **MUSIC** | Worship Time
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Romans 3:23; Psalm 139:14

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - What was God's command to Adam and Eve?
 - Why do you think they were tempted to disobey?
 - Have you ever been tempted to disobey God? What happened?
 - What are some consequences of our sin?
 - What is the only answer for our sin?
 - How does it make you feel knowing Jesus can forgive your sins?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 103:10-12
- **ACTIVITY** | Make a Compass
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Romans 3:23; Psalm 139:14



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Sin separates us from God.

THE BIBLE

Adam and Eve Sinned: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-15, 22-23 (1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:10-12)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Earthquake Jumps

- Welcome back! We're so glad you're here today. During this series, we've been celebrating the awesome planet God created.
- There are so many beautiful parts of Earth, but one big and scary thing that happens sometimes on this planet is an earthquake. The plates of the earth shift, which create a great rumbling, shaking, and huge cracks in the earth's surface.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Stretch out two long jump ropes about six inches apart. Kids will jump from one side to the other. After everyone has completed that, kids can yell "earthquake" and then you will move the ropes farther apart. Allow everyone to try to jump across. Move the ropes farther and repeat. If someone can't jump across, they will sit out. Continue until the ropes are so far apart that no one can jump across.*
- The crack from our earthquake ended up too far for you to jump across. You were separated from the other side. Today, we are going to talk about the things that cause us to be separated from God.

ACTIVITY | Left, Right, Middle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Lay a long strip of tape down on the floor to act as a dividing line. Have the kids line up one behind the other on the tape line. Call out "Left" or "Right" and tell them to hop to either the left or the right side of the line when you call it out. When you call out "Middle," they have to jump on the line. You can call out the commands quickly and try to trick them. If someone moves when they*

aren't supposed to, fails to move when they are supposed to, or if they go to the wrong side, they're out. Keep playing until one kid is left.

- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Depending on their abilities, a child with special needs may need some assistance determining left from right. See your weekly instructions for ideas to help them.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Divide your group of students into smaller groups and put a preteen in charge of each one. Instead of playing this game as one big group, play it simultaneously as several smaller groups.
- **Was it easy to follow all of the instructions?** You had to listen carefully and think quickly or you messed up. Today, we're talking about how we all mess up and what God wants us to do.

QUESTION | Share about a time when you messed up as a kid.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids about a time when you made a mistake or got in trouble as a kid, and what you learned from it.
- We all make mistakes. As you can see, I have made my share of mistakes, too. It makes God sad when we do things He doesn't want us to do. We're going to learn more about that today, and what God does about it.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

OBJECT LESSON | Tricky Kool-Aid

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare some Kool-Aid with salt instead of sugar, then prepare some Kool-Aid the right way. Make a show of adding the salt to the Kool-Aid instead of the sugar. You might say something like, "I've got some Kool-Aid mix, some water, some salt — oh boy, where did that come from? I'd better not add that by mistake." Then add it so your kids can see, but pretend you haven't noticed. Set out some cups. Pour the salty Kool-Aid first and let volunteers or kids give it a taste. Alternatively, you could set up a brief sketch where you pretend to play a trick on one of your volunteers by giving them salty Kool-Aid. The kids should all be in on it with you while the volunteer pretends to be tricked into drinking the salty Kool-Aid. Then make a regular batch of Kool-Aid with sugar and pass out some cups.
- You guys look thirsty today. **Does anyone want a drink of Kool-Aid?** No? What's wrong? You don't like it?
- **FOR PRETEENS:** See your weekly instructions for details about how to play this game with jelly beans from the game Bean Boozled.
- **This Kool-Aid looked fine from the outside, didn't it?** You couldn't tell anything was wrong with it just by looking at it, but it didn't taste good at all! Gross.
- If you hadn't seen me put the salt in that first batch of Kool-Aid, you might have been tricked into drinking it, too. We're going to learn today from a story in the Bible about when Adam and Eve got tricked, too. They saw something that looked good, but it wasn't at all!

THE BIG IDEA | Sin separates us from God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
- Ask the kids to give you a drumroll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.

- Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections).
- Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
- Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a "hunt" for it. When it's found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week's Big Idea: **Sin separates us from God.**

BIBLE STORY | Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-15, 22-23

- God created Adam and Eve and gave them a beautiful garden to live in. There was just one thing He asked them not to do. Let's listen and see what that was and what choice they made.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- Adam and Eve were in a beautiful garden called the Garden of Eden. **Have you ever been in a beautiful garden?**
- **If you close your eyes right now and imagine what a beautiful garden might look like, what do you see?** You might see roses and bright colored flowers, and big lush trees. You might see a waterfall. You might see animals and butterflies. **What does it sound like?** You might hear birds singing. You might hear the wind blowing through the leaves of a tree. **What does it feel like?** You might feel a gentle breeze. You might feel the warmth of the sun on your face. If you can imagine this beautiful garden, how do you think Adam and Eve felt when they were actually in the perfect garden?
- Everything was beautiful and perfect. And they had a perfect relationship with God. **What was the one thing God told Adam and Eve not to do?** He told them not to eat of the fruit from one specific tree in the garden.
- But someone tricked them into eating from the tree. **Who talked them into trying the fruit?** The serpent, or snake.
- **What kinds of things did he say to get them to eat the fruit?** He tried to convince them it wasn't that bad, God didn't really mean it, and God was keeping something good from them.
- **Was the serpent saying true things?** No, he was lying to them to trick them and get them to disobey God, and they gave in to the temptation.
- **After they ate the fruit, what did Adam and Eve do when they heard God walking through the garden?** They hid because they were ashamed.
- The serpent tricked Adam and Eve into eating the fruit by telling them things that weren't true. But they knew what they were doing was wrong. When we know the right thing to do and we don't do it, that is called sin. Adam and Eve's wrong choice brought sin into the world.
- **Do people still sin today?** Yes, we all sin. **What are some examples?** Sin is anything we do that God doesn't want us to do. It could be lying, disobeying our parents, hitting or kicking, stealing a toy from someone, or being mean to someone. Sin is also not doing something God wants us to do. If you know God wants you to help someone and you don't help them, that could be sin, too.
- When we disobey, we are given consequences. God gave Adam and Eve consequences because of the choice they made to eat the fruit. **What was one of the biggest consequences from verse 23?**
- Adam and Eve could no longer live in the Garden of Eden. Their sin was going to separate them from Him.
- But God loved people too much to remain separated from them. He had a plan to send His Son,

Jesus, to rescue us from sin. He even mentioned Him in Genesis 3:15, where He promised that, one day, Jesus would destroy all evil! This happened when Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

- We can thank God for sending Jesus so we don't have to be separated from Him. All we have to do is ask Jesus to forgive our sins, and He will do it! Then we can have a relationship with Him.

ACTIVITY | Target Practice

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use tape to make five concentric circles on the floor. Use a marker to write a point value on five notecards (5 points, 10 points, 15 points, 25 points, 50 points). Tape the cards into the circles, starting with the smaller value card on the outside circle, adding the next highest values to the other circles. Tape a starting line approximately ten feet away from the circles. Have the kids line up at the starting line and toss bean bags toward the circles. If they can get their beanbag into the middle circle with the highest value, they win.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** To connect this even closer to the Greek word for sin, which means to "miss the mark," get a [foam dart archery set](#). On a dry erase board, draw your target with the concentric circles and point values. Then have preteens take turns shooting at the target with the archery sets.
- If we think about sin, it's like missing the target. We know what God expects us to do and we don't do it. That sin separates us from God, and only Jesus can rescue us.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Helium Balloon

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Attach a sign that says "God" to the ceiling above you. Prepare five notecards with words representing sins: stealing, lying, cheating, hitting, disobeying parents. Attach the paper clips and notecards to the string on a helium balloon with a weight at the bottom. As you put each notecard on the balloon, ask the kids how that sin can keep us from God and from living the life He wants us to live. When you're done attaching them, show the kids how the balloon is weighted down by the sin. Then cut the string above the notecards and the weight, and let them watch it float up to the ceiling.
- God is our creator and loves us very much. He is holy, which means He never sins or messes up. He is perfect. This sign represents God and His holiness.
- This balloon represents us. We're not perfect. We all sin, like we've been talking about today.
- Our sin keeps us from being able to get to God. It separates us from Him.
- I'll read the cards that give some examples of sins we might have in our lives. **How do each of these keep us from God and keep us from living the life He wants us to live?**
- The Bible tells us that Jesus came to take the consequence for our sin. He made a way for us to be forgiven. The only way to fix the separation is to ask Him for forgiveness. When He forgives us, He takes away our sin and makes a way for us to be with God.

SCRIPTURE | I John 1:9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse and read it with the students.
- **What does it mean to confess our sin? We tell God what we did and that we are sorry.**
- What does God promise to do when we admit our sin to Him? Forgive us and cleanse us.

- Nothing else can fix our sin problem. We can't just try our hardest to be good. We will never be able to be good enough to be perfect and have a relationship with God without Jesus' help. But He will always forgive us any time we ask, and when we have Jesus' forgiveness, He wipes our sins away and brings us into a relationship with God.

RESPONSE | Disappearing Paper Sin

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get some dissolving magic paper) or washable markers with small pieces of paper, and bowls of water. Ask kids to think about a sin they know they've done and feel sorry about. Have them write it on the paper. Play quiet music and allow them to have a few minutes to pray and ask God to forgive them for their sin. After they have prayed, have them drop their piece of paper into the bowl of water. The paper or the words will dissolve.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Kids with special needs have often taught us more about prayer than we have taught them. They seem to naturally know it's okay to pray short prayers using simple words. Assist them in this activity by writing their words down on the magic paper, if needed.
- The word 'repentance' is a big word that means we feel sorry about something. When we sin, we can have repentance and tell God we're sorry. He will always forgive us.

MUSIC | Worship Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson, we like "This is Amazing Grace" by Bethel and "You Forgive Me" by Group Publishing.
- When you're worshipping today, think about this: We were separated from God because of our sin, but Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven.

MEMORY VERSES | Romans 3:23; Psalm 139:14

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What was God's command to Adam and Eve?** (To not eat the fruit from the specific tree in the Garden of Eden.)
- **Why do you think they were tempted to disobey?**
- **Have you ever been tempted to disobey God? What happened?**
- **What are some consequences of our sin?**
- **What is the only answer for our sin?** (God's forgiveness through Jesus.)
- **How does it make you feel knowing Jesus can forgive your sins?**

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 103:10-12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in the Bible and read it!

- **What does verse 10 say God has not done?** (*Treated us like we deserve.*)
- **What do we deserve because of our sin?**
- **How does verse 12 remind you of the paper in the bowl activity?**

ACTIVITY | Make a Compass

- To navigate Earth, many people use compasses so they can tell which way is north and which is south, which is east and which is west. We're going to make a simple compass to remind us to follow God's direction and remind us that He takes our sin as far as the east is from the west.
- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOU:** *Set out enough paper, pens, magnets, and paperclips for every kid in each small group. Set out one bowl of water for each group.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Show a completed sample of a compass before the child begins. Provide hand-over-hand assistance for this child, if needed.*
- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR LEADERS:** *Give each kid a piece of paper and have them cut out a circle the size of their palm and draw arrows labeling north, south, east, and west. Attach a paperclip into the middle by poking a hole and sliding part of the paperclip through. Help the kids magnetize their paperclips by rubbing the magnet on the paperclip several times in the same direction. Then have them lift up the magnet after rubbing in one direction and restart. Set the circle with the paperclip in a bowl of water. The compass should turn so that the "north" is facing north.*
- God gives us direction for how we should act and the choices we should make. He gives us the Holy Spirit and the Bible to help us.
- When we mess up, He is gracious enough to forgive us and to take our sins far away. What an awesome God!

MEMORY VERSES | Romans 3:23; Psalm 139:14

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.*