

Teacher Guide  
Fall



Early Elementary  
Year 1

A background image of autumn leaves in shades of green, yellow, and red, with a soft, blurred effect. A large, faint, stylized 'S' logo is overlaid on the background.

# MISSION 2:20



The following contains the first three lessons of the fall semester of year one of Summit Ministries' Sunday School Curriculum.

These samples are created from uncorrected drafts. You may find errors. Please understand they are pre-published proofs.

If you have questions about the material, contact us at [curriculum@summit.org](mailto:curriculum@summit.org) or 719.685.9103.

[summit.org](http://summit.org)

Dear Teachers,

Thank you for teaching! We understand that you are volunteering your time to help children grow in their faith. We also know that it's not enough to simply read Bible stories and expect children to "connect the dots." Children are active, not passive, learners. They learn through discussion, activities, and hands-on interactions. At Summit Ministries, our ultimate goal is to help the next generation of Christians know what they believe and live out their faith in today's post-Christian culture.

**Mission 2:20** was designed to help you guide children toward this deep faith. It doesn't just teach Bible stories and moral lessons; it shows young Christians how to apply their faith in everything they do. Discussion questions, games, and activities make lessons enjoyable and purposeful. Songs, posters, and flashcards will help your students retain essential biblical truths and recognize unbiblical ideas competing for their hearts and minds.

There is enough material in each lesson to fill at least an hour-long class. If you have less time, read across the suggested schedule below for the section of the lesson to teach.

<b>30 minutes</b>		Teaching the Lesson			
<b>45 minutes</b>	Getting Started	Teaching the Lesson		Memory Verse Activity	Children's Worksheet
<b>60 minutes</b>	Getting Started	Teaching the Lesson	Application Game	Memory Verse Activity	Children's Worksheet

We firmly believe that parents should be a child's primary teacher. To help parents participate in their children's spiritual education, we have included Parent Letters with each lesson. Parent Letters include a summary of the lesson, memory verse, and ideas for discussion in your home.

Again, we appreciate the time you are investing in these young Christians' lives. We pray you will be equally blessed as you teach this curriculum.

Yours in Christ,

The Summit Curriculum Development Team

SAMPLES

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SAMPLES

## **Bible Truths Presented in Mission 2:20**

Bible Truth 1: God always tells the truth.

Bible Truth 2: There is only one true God.

Bible Truth 3: God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Bible Truth 4: God is the Creator.

Bible Truth 5: God created people to be His children.

Bible Truth 6: God created people to need Him.

Bible Truth 7: Sin causes problems between people and God.

Bible Truth 8: Jesus died to bring peace between people and God.

Bible Truth 9: God created all people in His image.

Bible Truth 10: God gave people a crown of honor.

Bible Truth 11: Sin causes problems within our hearts.

Bible Truth 12: Jesus died to bring peace within our hearts.

Bible Truth 13: God created people to love and serve each other.

Bible Truth 14: God created the family, cities, towns, and nations.

Bible Truth 15: Sin causes big problems between people.

Bible Truth 16: Jesus died so that people could be a part of God's family, the church.

Bible Truth 17: God takes care of His creation.

Bible Truth 18: God wants people to take care of the earth.

Bible Truth 19: Sin causes problems between people and the earth.

Bible Truth 20: Jesus died to fix the problems between people and the earth.

SAMPLES



# CREATION

Genesis 1–2

## MEMORY VERSE

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth  
(Genesis 1:1).

## MATERIALS

- Flashlight
- Scissors
- Small houseplant
- Toy animals
- Sand in a shoe box
- Glue sticks
- Children's Worksheet 1
- Poster 4
- Parent Letter 1

## PREPARATION

Fill a shoe box with sand. Place the flashlight, shoe box, houseplant, and toy animals near you for your use as you tell the Bible story.

## ABOUT THE LESSON

One question that people ask is “Where did the world come from?” The Bible gives us the answer to this question: God created the heavens and the earth. It opens with the words, “In the beginning God created . . .” (Genesis 1:1). These words reveal that all things originated with God, who is Himself uncreated and eternal. History’s first week is the story of God’s omnipotent, creative acts whereby the heavens, the earth, and everything in them came into existence. By the power of His word, God spoke order to the formless earth, filled

the cosmos with light, separated the waters below and above the earth, divided the land and sea, and spangled the heavens with stars. With the physical environment prepared for life, God filled the earth and seas with every kind of living plant and animal, commanding that each produce offspring of its own species (Genesis 1:12, 21, 24).

Finally, at the end of the sixth day, God created the crowning glory of His earthly creation, Adam and Eve. Above all the rest of creation, they bore their Creator’s image, giving them the privilege of experiencing intimate fellowship with God and equipping them to have dominion over all things as God’s stewards of creation.

On the seventh day, God rested from His work. This resting does not suggest that God became inactive; rather He had completed His work of creation, and all was “very good” (Genesis 1:31). Creation reflects the majesty and glory of God and reveals that God is a creative, personal Being with infinite wisdom and power. Creation reveals a God of order and beauty, and it reveals a God of love who alone deserves all glory and honor.

**The main point of the lesson is that God created the heavens and the earth and sustains them.**

## GETTING STARTED

Play the game “I’m thinking of something.” State that you are thinking of an animal that has warm, white fur. Have children guess what the animal might be. Continue with other animals. End the game by asking the children who made all the animals.

## TEACHING THE LESSON

 **SAY** *Today's Bible Truth is **God Is the Creator**.* Show Poster 4. Lead children in saying the Bible Truth. Today's character trait is gratitude, which is thankfulness in your heart that you share with God and with others. *Let's find out how God created this wonderful world.*

 Read the paraphrase slowly and dramatically, stopping where indicated for interactive responses.

*This great big, round world where we live is very old; it is so old that no one knows when it was made. But long before there was any Earth, or sun, or stars, God was living because God never had a beginning. He always was. And long, long ago, God spoke, and the earth and the heavens came into being. At first, Earth was not like the way it is now, with mountains and valleys, rivers and seas, trees and flowers. There was nothing on the earth, nothing at all! It was blacker than midnight because there was no light. No one could have breathed its air, no animals could walk upon it, and no fish could swim in its black waters. There was no life on Earth.*

Have children close their eyes for a second to experience blackness.

*So, God said, “Let there be light,” and then the light began to shine on the empty world. Part of the time it was light, and part of the time it was dark, just as it is now. And God called the dark time night and the light time day. And that was the first day on Earth.*

Show the flashlight and turn it on.

*Then at God's word, the dark clouds all around the earth began to break, and the sky came into sight, and the water that was in the clouds began to be separate from the water that was on the earth. And the sky that was over the earth God called heaven. And so, the night and the morning made a second day. Then God said, “Let the water on the earth come together in one place and let the dry land appear.” And it happened! The water that had been all over the world came together and formed great oceans, and the dry land arose. And the great water God called sea, and the dry places He called land, and God saw that the land and sea were both good.*

Show the box filled with sand.

*Then God said, "Let grass and trees, and flowers, and fruits, grow on the earth." And at once the earth began to be green and bright with grass, and flowers, and trees bearing fruit. This made the third day on the earth.*

Show the houseplant.

*Then God said, "Let the sun, and moon, and stars give off light." So, the sun began to shine by day, and the moon and the stars began to shine in the night. And this was done on the fourth day. And God said, "Let there be fish in the sea, and let there be birds to fly in the air." So, the fish began to swim in the sea; and the birds began to fly in the air over the earth, just as they do now. And this was the fifth day.*

Have children mimic birds flying and fish jumping.

*Then God said, "Let the animals come to live on the earth, large animals and small ones; those that walk and those that creep and crawl on the earth." And the woods and the fields began to be alive with animals of all kinds.*

Show toy animals.

*And now the earth began to be more beautiful, with its green fields and bright flowers, and singing birds in the trees, and animals of every kind walking in the forests. But God was not yet finished with His creation: He made two people—a man named Adam and a woman named Eve. God gave the people a beautiful garden for their home. This was the sixth day. And then God rested from His work.*

Have children pretend to be their favorite animal.

- 1** What was the world like before God began creation?
- 2** What did God create first? Second? Third? Fourth? Fifth? Last?
- 3** Why do you think God created plants before He created animals?
- 4** Why do you think God made people as the last thing He made?
- 5** Do you think God is creative? Are you creative? What do you like to make?

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth  
(Genesis 1:1).



## APPLICATION GAME

Play a memory game to help children grasp the immense variety of God's creation. Seat children in a circle. Have a child say something God made that begins with an **A**. The next child in the circle says what the first child said and then adds something that begins with a **B**. Continue in this manner.

## CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET

Read the directions. Have children cut out the things God made on each day of God's creation. Then have the children glue the items to the page in the correct places.

## MEMORY VERSE

Have children say the verse with you several times. Then have everyone who is wearing blue say the verse, and then have those wearing red say the verse, and so on until all the children can say the verse.

## CLOSE

Choose children to thank God for creation. Each child should think of one thing that God made and state it in the prayer. Distribute Parent Letter 1 and have children give it to their parents.

**PRAY**

*Thank You, God, that You are the Creator. You have made everything we see and called it good. We are grateful for all Your blessings. In Jesus' name, amen.*



# THE FIRST SIN

Genesis 2–3

## MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard (Romans 3:23).

## MATERIALS

- 2 magnets
- Children's Worksheet 2
- Poster 7
- Parent Letter 2

## PREPARATION

Have the magnets close by, ready to use.

## ABOUT THE LESSON

Everything God created was good. Adam and Eve had perfect relationships with God, within themselves, with each other, and with nature. Created in God's image, they were endowed with intellect and will, both of which they exercised in submitting to God and living in fellowship with Him.

Sin entered God's created order in heaven through Satan, one of these created angels. Satan was endowed with qualities and attributes including wisdom and beauty (Isaiah 14:12–14, Ezekiel 28:11–19). Created with a will and intellect, he was free to live in submission to God or to assert himself and live independently of Him. Choosing the latter,

Satan exalted himself above God and recruited followers from among the angelic host. After being expelled from heaven, Satan and the fallen angels (demonic spirits) continued their course of rebellion. They wanted to destroy God's earthly creation by tempting His image-bearers, Adam and Eve, who were endowed with a moral nature to discern right and wrong. God gave them a will, empowering them to choose between good and evil (Genesis 2:16–17). Lucifer's strategy was to undermine God's authority by tempting Adam and Eve to assert their will above God's.

Satan initiated his temptation by leading Eve to question God's laws and enticing her to think she could become as wise as her Creator (Genesis 3:5). In a moment, Adam and Eve disbelieved God and asserted their independence from Him, ushering sin into the world. Adam and Eve did not have to sin. They were not created with the bent toward sin that we have. Even though they were capable of being tempted, they were not forced to sin. In essence, Adam and Eve made a choice, acted on that choice, and were accountable for it.

**The main point of this lesson is that we all sin and desperately need a Savior.**

## GETTING STARTED

Show the magnets and ask children if they have ever played with magnets. Show how magnets either attract or repel. Explain that God designed people to be pulled to Him. He wanted to be close to us. However, when sin entered the world, it “repelled” people from God, and we could not be as close to God as Adam and Eve were when God created them. Sin causes people to be separated from God.

## TEACHING THE LESSON

 **SAY** *Today's Bible Truth is Sin Causes Problems between People and God.* Show Poster 7 and have students say the Bible Truth. The character trait is honesty, which is truthfulness. *Let's find out what happened to God's beautiful world.*

 Read the paraphrase slowly and dramatically, stopping where indicated for interactive responses.

*For a time, we really don't know how long, Adam and Eve were at peace in their beautiful garden. They did just as God told them to do. They were able to talk with God as easily as you can talk with a close friend. They didn't know anything was evil or wrong or sinful, but they did know that God expected them to obey Him. God told them, "You may eat the fruit of all the trees in the garden except one. In the middle of the garden, there is a fruit tree that you must not eat from. If you eat of the fruit from that tree, you will die."*

*Now among the animals in the garden, there was a snake, or serpent. This snake was very different from the snakes we know today because it could talk! The snake asked Eve, "Has God told you that there is a kind of fruit in the garden that you must not eat?"*

*Eve answered the snake, "We can eat the fruit of all the trees except the one that stands in the middle of the garden. If we eat the fruit of that tree, God says that we must die."*

*Then the snake said, "No, you will not die. God knows that if you eat of the fruit of that tree, you will become as wise as God Himself because you will know what is good and what is evil."*

*Eve listened to the snake and then she looked at the tree and its fruit. As she looked at it, she thought that the fruit might taste good. And if it would truly make her wise, she thought she would like to eat it, even though God said not to. She took the fruit, and she ate it. She did not die right then and there, so she gave some fruit to Adam. He ate it, too, even though he knew it was wrong. Uh oh. Adam and Eve knew that they had done wrong in not obeying God's words. And now, for the first time, they were afraid to meet God. They tried to hide from God's sight among the trees. But God called and said, "Adam, where are you?"*

Have children pretend to take big bite of fruit and then pretend to hide.

*Adam said, "Lord, I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, so I hid."*

*And God said, "Why were you afraid? Have you eaten the fruit of the tree that I told you not to eat?"*

*Then Adam said, "Eve, the woman you made to be with me, she gave me some of the fruit, and I ate it."*

*Then God said to Eve, "What have you done?"*

*Eve said, "The snake told me that it wouldn't harm me to eat the fruit, and so I took some of it and ate it."*

Have children make a stern face and shake their pointer finger as if berating the snake.

*Then the Lord God said to the snake, "Because you have led Adam and Eve to do wrong, you will crawl in the dust and the dirt forever. You will never be friends with people. One of Eve's descendants will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." That descendant was Jesus!*

*And God told Eve, "Because you led your husband to disobey Me, you will have pain in giving birth to children." And God said to Adam, "Because you listened to your wife when she told you to do what was wrong, you, too, must suffer. You must work hard for everything that you get from the ground."*

*Because Adam and Eve had disobeyed, they were driven out of the beautiful garden and sent out into the world. From that day on, all people have been born with a sinful nature. And all people eventually die.*

Have children pretend to cry.

- 1** What did God tell Adam and Eve not to do?
- 2** Who tempted Eve to sin? What did he tell Eve? Who told Adam to eat the fruit?
- 3** What could Eve have done instead of sinning? What can you do when you are tempted to sin?
- 4** Why do you think Adam ate the fruit, too, even though he knew it was wrong?
- 5** What do you think will happen next in the story? What is God's plan for the problem of sin?

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.  
(Romans 3:23).



## MEMORY VERSE

Discuss the meaning of the memory verse. Use hand motions to teach the words of the verse. For example, have children show four fingers for the word for, wave their hand around the room for the word everyone, and bow their heads sadly for sin.

## CLOSE

Choose a child to tell who was not honest, or truthful, in the story. Remind the children that when the snake lied, he was sinning because sin is disobedience to God. Explain that when we trust Jesus as our Savior, we can tell Him we are sorry for our sins, and He will forgive us. Distribute Parent Letter 2 and have children give it to their parents.

## APPLICATION GAME

Play the game "Simon Says" to teach the concept of obedience. After the game, review God's command not to eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Remind children that following God's commands is not like playing a game; God's commands are not to be taken lightly; they are to be obeyed.

PRAY

*Thank You, God, that You made people. We know that sometimes we sin, but we love you because You sent Jesus to die on the cross to forgive us for our sins. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET

Have children complete the maze from the picture of Adam and Eve in the garden to the picture of Adam and Eve sent out of the garden.



# NOAH'S GREAT SHIP

Genesis 5–9

## MEMORY VERSE

Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so all will go well with you  
(Deuteronomy 6:18a).

## MATERIALS

- Children's Worksheet 3
- Poster 17
- Parent Letter 3

Through God's chosen remnant from the first creation, God would replenish the earth with life and continue His eternal plan for bringing His image-bearers back into fellowship with Himself. His covenant with Noah reaffirmed this plan. The Messiah would eventually come through the lineage of Noah's family.

## PREPARATION

None

Following the flood, people again populated the earth, this time through the families of Noah's sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Noah, who had found favor in God's sight, showed obedience in following all that God spoke to him, and God blessed him by letting him see the first rainbow. This was a sign of the promise that God would never again flood the earth. God cares for His creation, even when people disappoint Him.

## ABOUT THE LESSON

The effects of the fall spread throughout the earth as people developed their rebellious and God-hating cultures. Grieved at the sin of the human heart and the rampant evil it produced, God decided to destroy His creation. However, Noah, who loved God, found grace in His eyes. God saved Noah and his family from the flood because of His love, provision, and direction.

Noah exhibited obedience in building an enormous boat when there was no known reason for one. It took 120 years to construct the ark. It was a three-story box, approximately 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It contained nearly 100,000 square feet of space. The ark was designed to float upon the flooded earth until the time God ordained for it to come to rest on Mount Ararat.

**The main point for this lesson is understanding how God showed grace to Noah, his family, and to all creation.**

## GETTING STARTED

Invite a child to silently act out an animal for the rest of the class to guess. Choose a child who guesses correctly to act out a different animal. Continue until all the children have acted out an animal.

## TEACHING THE LESSON



*God created a perfect world, but Adam and Eve chose to sin and were separated from God. All people are born with a sinful nature, but we can choose to obey God.*

*Today's Bible Truth is **God Takes Care of His Creation**. Show Poster 17. Lead children in saying the Bible Truth. Today's character trait is obedience, which is a willingness to do what you are told. God used Noah's obedience to give people a new beginning.*



Read the paraphrase slowly and dramatically, stopping where indicated for responses.

*Adam and Eve lived for hundreds of years and had many children. Because they had sinned, all their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on were born with a sinful nature, and all sinned. As God looked down on the world that He had made, He saw that most people did not obey Him. God said sadly, "All people are evil in what they say, do, and think." But God saw one good man: Noah. Noah always tried to do right.*

*Noah had three sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth. God said to Noah, "The time has come when all the people on the earth will die because they are completely sinful and won't change their ways. But you and your family will be saved because you always try to do right." Then God told Noah to build a very large ship, an ark. He told Noah, "I am going to cause it to rain so hard that all the animals and bad people will be drowned. You must make the ark large enough to hold a pair of each kind of animal, and several pairs of some animals that will be needed after the flood has ended. Bring food for your family and the animals, enough food to last for a year while the earth is flooded."*

*Noah obeyed what God told him to do. It must have seemed very strange to his neighbors to build a ship where there was no water to sail it on. But, at last, the ark was finished. Then God said, "Come into the ark because it will rain soon."*

Have children hold up two fingers and move them like pairs of animals going in the ark.

*God brought to the ark the animals, and the birds, and the crawling things of all kinds, and they went inside where Noah and his family put them in their stalls and brought food for them. God shut the door of the ark. Soon rain began to fall. The water rose higher and higher, and the ark began to float. For forty days and nights, the rain kept falling.*

Have children raise their hands and wiggle their fingers as they lower their hands while counting together to 40.

*After forty days, the rain stopped, but the water remained for more than six months. God sent a strong wind, so little by little, the earth dried. Finally, the ark landed on Mount Ararat. Noah waited for a time, then he opened the window and let loose a bird called a raven. The raven flew round and round, found a place to rest, and did not return to the ark. After a while, Noah sent out a dove, but the dove could not find any place to rest, so it flew back to the ark. After a week, Noah sent the dove again, and it came back with a fresh olive leaf.*

*Noah knew that the water had gone down enough to let the trees grow once more. He waited another week, but this time the dove flew away. The earth was dry again! Noah had now lived in the ark a little more than a year when God said, "Come out of the ark, with your family and all the living things that are with you." All the living creatures in the ark came out and began to bring life again to the earth.*

*The first thing that Noah did when he came out of the ark was to give thanks to God for taking care of his family and all the animals. He built an altar and laid on it an offering to the Lord. Noah promised to obey God's will. God was pleased and said, "I will never again destroy the earth with a flood, no matter how bad people become." Then God put a rainbow in the sky, and He told Noah that whenever people see the rainbow, they should remember His promise. Now when we see the beautiful rainbow, we should remember that it is the sign of God's promise to the world. God took care of His creation and gave people a new beginning to choose to obey Him.*

**1** Why did God choose Noah to build the great ship?

**2** Why did God send a flood?

**3** Why did God send extra pairs of animals to the ark?

**4** What do you think Noah and his family did while they were on the ark for a year?

**5** Have you had times when you disobeyed but had another chance to do what is right?

Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so all will go well with you (Deuteronomy 6:18a).



## CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET

Have the children complete the dot-to-dot of Noah's ark. Remind them that God took care of Noah, his family, and the animals because Noah obeyed God. Read the sentence at the bottom of the page and have the children trace Noah's name. Allow time for coloring the picture.

## MEMORY VERSE

Have children stamp their feet for each of the first four words of the verse. Then have them point to heaven for the rest of that phrase. Have children clap as they finish the verse. Tell them obedience is the right thing to do, and it brings blessings.

## APPLICATION GAME

To review the concept that Noah obeyed God and took care of all the animals on the ark, have children play a pantomime game. Name an animal and have the children act out how they would take care of that animal. Select several children to explain to the class what they are doing to take care of that animal. Name a variety of different animals such as a dog, cat, hamster, guinea pig, fish, or bird. Explain that we love animals and take care of them, just as God loves creation and takes care of it.

## CLOSE

Choose children to name something they do to show they choose obedience. As each child names something, have that child pray it as a commitment to show God he or she wants to choose obedience. Distribute Parent Letter 3 and have children give it to their parents.

**PRAY**

*Thank You, God, for taking care of Noah when he obeyed You. You love Your creation, and You gave Noah and his family and the animals a new beginning on Earth. I will choose to obey You. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## EPHESIANS 2:20

*Together,  
we are his house,  
built on the foundation  
of the apostles  
and the prophets.  
And the cornerstone  
is Christ Jesus himself.*

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