

Teacher Guide
Fall



Middle Elementary
Year 1

A scenic autumn landscape featuring a large tree with vibrant yellow and orange leaves on the right side. In the foreground, a wooden bench sits on a grassy bank overlooking a calm body of water. The background shows a hazy, distant shoreline under a clear blue sky. The text 'MISSION 2020' is overlaid in large, white, bold letters across the center of the image.

MISSION 2020



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 or 719.685.9103.

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.

30 minutes		Teaching the Lesson			
45 minutes	Getting Started	Teaching the Lesson		Memory Verse Activity	Children's Worksheet
60 minutes	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



LEARNING GOD'S WORD

1 Thessalonians 2, Colossians 3, Luke 11, Romans 10, James 1

MEMORY VERSE

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path
(Psalm 119:105).

MATERIALS

- Various Bible versions
- Audio recording of “The B-I-B-L-E”
- Children’s Worksheet 1
- Poster 1
- Parent Letter 1

they receive from the world around them, information that may or may not be true. Middle graders have the capacity to read, reason, make decisions, understand right and wrong, and choose how they will respond to various situations and circumstances. Their ideas about God and the world are beginning to take shape. Their worldview must have a reliable source of truth on which they can base their beliefs. This source is God’s Word, the Bible.

PREPARATION

Obtain several versions and types of Bibles, such as an old family Bible, a children’s Bible, or the newer Bibles we use now, including digital versions.

A key element in Bible study is knowing that God’s Word is truth, and so it is completely dependable. It is accurate to say that God wrote the Bible. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, Scripture is “breathed out” by God. Throughout the Bible, it is obvious that God is being quoted—over 400 times in the Bible, we find the words “thus says the Lord” (NKJV). God divinely inspired the Bible’s authors. These authors included prophets, kings, sages, historians and apostles. Some authors are unknown, such as the author of the book of Judges and the epistle to the Hebrews. Scribes recorded, organized, and preserved the texts. We know from a study of ancient texts that the Bible we have today is essentially the same text of God’s Word that has been unchanged through the ages.

ABOUT THE LESSON

Lesson 1 focuses on the importance of studying God’s Word. It sets the stage for the fall quarter study of the Old Testament. The goal for each lesson is for children to develop a biblical Christian worldview—a framework for interpreting reality. All people have a worldview even if they do not realize it. Worldviews include convictions, beliefs, and even strong opinions. They are influenced by experience and culture. Children begin to build their worldview almost from birth. As they grow, they add to their worldview. They make assumptions based on information

The emphasis in today’s lesson is the Bible is God’s Word. It reveals God’s good plan for our lives today.

GETTING STARTED

Display the different copies of the Bible you have brought in. If children have brought their own Bibles to class, have them show the class. Have children tell what is the same about each Bible. Then have them say what is different. Emphasize that although our Bibles may have different covers or even be different translations, they are all God's Word. God's Word is true. It contains the record of God's good plan for us and for our world.

Make sure each child has a copy of the Bible. Direct them to find the table of contents. Explain that the Bible has two parts—the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament contains writings before Jesus was born; the New Testament tells about Jesus' life and what happened after Jesus returned to heaven. Instruct children in locating the chapter numbers and verse numbers if they are unfamiliar with the Bible. Have children help each other to find verses. You may have children read the verses for today's lesson or read them to the class.

TEACHING THE LESSON

 *Today's Bible Truth is God Always Tells the Truth.* Show Poster 1. Lead children in saying the Bible Truth. *The character trait for this lesson is reverence, which is an attitude of respect and honor for God and His Word. We honor God when we learn about His Word, so let's find out more about God's Word, the Bible.*



Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

 *The apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Thessalonians. The Thessalonians lived in Greece a long time ago. Paul told the people how he thanked God because the people believed God's Word, and it was at work in their hearts. What do you think it means to have God's Word at work in your heart? If God's Word is at work in your heart, does it change the way you think? Does God's Word change the way you act or treat others?*



Read Colossians 3:16.

 *Paul also wrote a letter to the Christians in Colossae. What do you think Paul was talking about when he said that God's Word should fill our lives? What can you learn from the Bible? How can God's Word help you to live a life that pleases Him?*



Read Luke 11:28.

SAY *Luke wrote Jesus' words in his Gospel. Jesus said that we are blessed when we hear God's Word and obey it or put it into practice. What do you think "putting it into practice" means? How does putting God's Word into practice change the way we behave?*

 Read Romans 10:17.

SAY *Paul wrote these words to the church in Rome. What is faith? Why does faith depend on hearing (or reading) God's Word? How can a person grow in faith? Can you tell when someone is growing in their faith? What is different about that person?*

 Read James 1:22.

SAY *The apostle James wrote to Christians about the importance of learning and obeying God's Word. What's wrong with just hearing God's Word and not doing what it says? Will ignoring God's Word cause problems for us? What kind of problems does it cause? Have you ever ignored God's Word? If you did, what happened?*

Do you know a song about God's Word? One of those songs is "The B-I-B-L-E." Let's sing it together.

Play the song and sing it together.

1 What are the two testaments in our Bible?

4 Why do you think the Bible has both Old and New Testaments?

2 How can you find a chapter in the Bible? How can you find a verse?

5 How do you know the Bible is true?

3 What can you learn about in the Old Testament? In the New Testament?

6 How can you learn more about the Bible?

7 Who can you go to if you have questions about the Bible?

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path (Psalm 119:105).



APPLICATION GAME

To help children remember what they learned about God's Word, read the following sentences. Have children hop once for true statements and twice for false statements.

- The Bible has two testaments.
- The Bible is also called God's Word.
- The larger numbers in the Bible are the verse numbers.
- The smaller numbers in the Bible are the verse numbers.
- Hearing God's Word can help our faith to grow.
- When we hear God's Word, we should do what it says.
- God's Word is always true.
- God's Word can help us make good choices.
- Memorizing God's Word can help us throughout our life.
- God's Word is not as important as the dictionary.
- God is pleased when we obey His Word.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET

Distribute Children's Worksheet 1. Have children draw a line from the name of each book of the Bible to the correct place in the Bible bookshelf. They can use the table of contents in their Bibles for help. Then have children write their memory verse on the worksheet.

MEMORY VERSE

Have children say the verse with you several times. Then decide on a word to substitute with a clap. For example, say, "*This time I will clap for the word lamp, but you will say it.*" Continue until you are clapping, but the children are saying the verse on their own. Call on volunteers to say the verse for the class.

CLOSE

Choose children to praise God for His Word. These praises can include praise that God's Word is true, that we can depend on His Word, and that the Bible helps us know that God loves us and has a plan for us. Distribute Parent Letter 1 and have children give it to their parents.

PRAY

Thank You, God, for giving us Your Word, the Bible. Help us to learn what the Bible says and to live according to Your Word. In Jesus' name, amen.



CREATION

Genesis 1–2

MEMORY VERSE

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them (Genesis 1:27a).

MATERIALS

- 3 cans of play dough
- Children's Worksheet 2
- Poster 4
- Parent Letter 2

PREPARATION

Be sure each child has a Bible. Write the memory verse on the board. Keep the play dough near you as you and the children read the Bible story.

ABOUT THE LESSON

One question that everyone asks is “Where did the world come from?” The Bible gives us the answer to this question: God [the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] 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 spoken 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 according to 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, the first people we know as 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). The Bible affirms that God is not an absentee landlord of the earth, rather, He sustains the earth (Hebrews 1:3) and cares for His children. Creation reflects the majesty and glory of God and reveals that God is a creative, personal Being with infinite wisdom and power.

The emphasis in this lesson is that God is the Creator. Creation reveals a God of order and beauty, and it reveals a God of love who alone deserves all glory and honor.

GETTING STARTED

Make sure each child has a copy of the Bible. See who can find the table of contents first. Remind children that the Bible has two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament contains writings before Jesus was born; the New Testament tells about Jesus' life and what happened after Jesus returned to heaven.

Review the chapter and verse numbers. Challenge children to find John 3:16 in the New Testament. Read the verse. Then have children find Genesis 1.

TEACHING THE LESSON

SAY *Today's Bible Truth is God Is the Creator.* Show Poster 4. Lead children in saying the Bible Truth. *The character trait for this lesson is gratitude, which is thankfulness in your heart that you share with God and with others. We will read that God made people in His image. That means that we are like God in some ways. Let's find out more about God's creation.*

 Read Genesis 1:1–2.

SAY *Can you imagine what the world was like before God began creating more? It was dark and cold, and nothing was there. It was just like this blob of play dough.*

Show a lump of play dough.

 Read Genesis 1:3–8.

SAY *What did God do to make sky and seas? He separated the water! Do you know that the sky has water in it? That's right; clouds are full of water!*

Break the play dough into two pieces.

 Read Genesis 1:9–13.

SAY *Once God separated the waters, it was time for dry land to appear. What grew on the land? Have you ever planted seeds and watched them grow? What did they grow?*

 Read Genesis 1:14–19.

SAY *What did God make on the fourth day? How do you think the plants grew before the sun was made?*

 Read Genesis 1:20–23.

SAY *What did God think about His work after each day of creation? What are some of your favorite birds or fish?*

 Read Genesis 1:24–27.

SAY *What are some of your favorite animals? Who did God create to bear His image, or be like Him in some ways? Why do you think God made people last of all?*

Make a simple human shape from the play dough.

 Read Genesis 1:28–31 and Genesis 2:1–3.

SAY *In our next lesson, we will learn more about the first people God created.*

1 Where can you find the story of creation in the Bible?

4 What do you think it means to be created in God's image?

2 What existed before God made it? What did God use to create the world?

5 What plants and animals are your favorites?

3 Why do you think God created plants before he created animals?

6 What does creation tell you about God's power? His wisdom?

7 God saw that everything He made was good. Is it good to learn about Him? Why?

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them.
(Genesis 1:27a).



APPLICATION GAME

Play this game to remind children of God's creation. Divide the class into two teams for "Creation Charades." The object is for one player to create a play dough image of something God created. The other team members must guess what it is in about a minute. Decide which team will go first and give the team's starting player a lump of play dough. Whisper the first clue to that child. Allow that player's team to guess what it is. Clues:

- sun
- tree
- fish
- moon
- dog or cat
- bird
- giraffe
- snake
- flower
- people
- apple

CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET

Have children refer to Genesis 1 in their Bibles to complete the activity. You may need to assist them by rereading the verses and pointing out what God created on each day. Have children complete the two questions at the bottom of the page.

MEMORY VERSE

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

CLOSE

Choose children to praise God for His creation. These praises can include praise for the things God made that we enjoy, such as the mountains, forests, seashore, or other natural things. Distribute Parent Letter 2 and have children give it to their parents.

PRAY

Thank You, God, for creating us and for Your mighty power and wisdom. Thank You for making everything good. In Jesus' name, amen.



THE FALL

Genesis 2–3

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight (Romans 3:23–24a).

MATERIALS

- A large sheet of paper
- An old and a new item
- Blindfold
- Children's Worksheet 3
- Poster 7
- Parent Letter 3

Sin entered God's created order in heaven through Satan, one of God's created angels. Satan was endowed with 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.

PREPARATION

Be sure each child has a Bible. Write the memory verse on the board. Write God at the top of the sheet of paper. Write the words Adam and Eve at the bottom of the large sheet of paper. Leave enough space between Adam and Eve and God so that you can tear the paper, showing a separation of people from God.

After being expelled from heaven, Satan and the fallen angels continued their rebellion, working 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 and given 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 disobey God's commands.

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.

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 3:4–6). In a moment, Adam and Eve disbelieved God and asserted their independence from Him, ushering sin into the world. Adam and Eve 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 emphasis in this lesson is that all sin and desperately need a Savior.

GETTING STARTED

Hold up the old item and the new item. Challenge children to relate the old and new items to what they have learned about the Bible. Remind them that the Bible has two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Today's lesson comes from Genesis, the first book in the Old Testament.

Ask children what was the first thing that happened in Genesis. How many days did God take to create everything? What did God say about all that he created? Begin drawing a simple stick figure on the board. Pretend that you don't like the figure and erase and redraw it. Remark that your figure began well, but then things went wrong. State that in today's lesson, something bad happened to God's good creation.

TEACHING THE LESSON

SAY *Today's Bible Truth is Sin Causes Problems between People and God.* Show Poster 7. Lead children in saying the Bible Truth. *The character trait for this lesson is honesty, which is truthfulness in everything we say, think, and do.*

God made a perfect world. On the sixth day of creation, God made a man in His image, to be like Him. The first man's name was Adam. Adam was able to talk to God just like you and I can talk to our friends. The first woman was named Eve.

Let's find out how Satan, God's enemy disguised as a snake, said some dishonest things to Adam and Eve and how this caused big problems.



Read Genesis 3:1.

SAY

A serpent is a snake. This snake was different from any snake you have ever seen. How was it different? That's right—it could talk! Who did this snake talk to?



Read Genesis 3:2–3.

SAY

Did Eve know what God had commanded about the tree in the middle of the garden? What did Eve tell the snake?



Read Genesis 3:4–5.

SAY

God said that Adam and Eve would die if they ate the fruit. What did the snake say that was different from what God said? Do you think the snake told the truth? What did the snake say would happen as soon as Eve ate the fruit?



Read Genesis 3:6–7.



Did Eve want the fruit because she was hungry or because she believed that it would make her like God? Who else ate the fruit? What happened after both Adam and Eve ate the fruit?



Read Genesis 3:8–11.



What did the people do when God came into the garden? What did Adam say when God called him? What did God ask?



Read Genesis 3:12–13 and 3:23.

Hold up the large piece of paper and dramatically rip it right between Adam and Eve and God.



Adam and Eve did wrong. They sinned. All sin is disobedience to God, and their sin separated them from God. How sad they must have been to have to leave the garden! They would no longer live forever with God; now they would grow old and die. It would be hard for them to grow food, and they could never return to their first home. From that time on, all people have been born with a sinful nature, which means everyone sins and needs God's grace, love, and forgiveness.

1 Where can you find the story of Adam and Eve in the Bible?

2 What did God tell Adam and Eve not to do?

3 Why do you think Satan, the snake, tried to get Eve to eat the fruit? Was the snake honest in what he told Eve?

4 If Eve knew it was wrong to eat the fruit, then why did she eat it? Why did Adam eat it?

5 Did Adam and Eve become like God after eating the fruit? Why or why not?

6 What does this story teach us about disobedience?

7 What can you do to be more obedient today or this week?

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight (Romans 3:23–24a).



APPLICATION GAME

Play this game to reinforce the concept of avoiding temptation. Have the children form a circle. Choose one child to wear a blindfold and stand in the center of the circle. Choose one child from the circle to hold a Bible. After blindfolding the child, turn him or her around several times. Have the other children pass the Bible around the circle until you call “stop”. Whoever ends up with the Bible should hold it out so the blindfolded player can find it.

Then have the children who do not have the Bible call out lies to the blindfolded player, such as, “Here’s the Bible!” “I have the Bible; come here!” “Walk this way and you’ll find the Bible!” “You are getting closer to the Bible!” It will be hard for the blindfolded player to find the Bible unless he or she ignores the players who are trying to tempt him or her away from

the Bible. Once the blindfolded player discovers the Bible, choose a new player and play again.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET

Have children trace the maze from Adam and Eve in the garden to their life outside the garden. Choose a child to explain why Adam and Eve had to leave their first home and make a new home outside the garden.

MEMORY VERSE

Have children say the verse with you several times. Challenge them to invent their own hand motions to help them remember the words.

CLOSE

Choose children to thank God for forgiving their sins. Discuss ways we can avoid temptation and lead honest, obedient lives. Distribute Parent Letter 3 and have children give it to their parents.

PRAY

Thank You, God, for creating and redeeming us. Thank You for forgiving us when we sin. Help us to know Your Word. Help us to stay away from people or things that make us want to sin. In Jesus' name, amen.

Answer Key

Lesson 1

Matching:

Acts (orange/Church History)
Psalms (yellow/Poetry)
Daniel (purple/Major Prophets)
Matthew (red/Gospel)
Revelation (bright purple/Prophecy)
Genesis (green/Law)
Job (yellow/Poetry)

Memory Verse:

*Answers will vary slightly based on Bible version but should reference **Psalm 119:105**.*

“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

Lesson 2

Top row: (Land) day 3; (sky) day 2; (stars and moon) day 4.

Bottom row: (Light) day 1; (sea creatures) day 5; (land animals) day 6.

Unscrambled: **It was good.**

God made **people** in His image. (*Variations may also include **Adam and Eve, humans, etc.***)

Lesson 3

(What caused death to enter the world?) sin

Lesson 4

Sentences about the tower of Babel will vary. Sentences should draw from the lesson, such as references to God confusing the people's language, or that the people thought the tower would make them equal to God.

:HOLA, NI HAO, BONJOUR, CIAO, SHALOM, MERHABA

Lesson 5

Bible truth: God Created the Family, Cities, Towns, and Nations

Lesson 6

(From the top: from the left)

Box 1: picture 4

Box 2: picture 1

Box 3: picture 2

Box 4: picture 3

Lesson 7

Esau: firstborn, hunter, Isaac's favorite, thick hair
Jacob: quiet, Rebekah's favorite, stayed near home, younger twin

Lesson 8

2, 4, 3, 1

True, False (Jacob gave Joseph a coat), True, True, True, True, True, False (Jacob believed wild animals had killed Joseph.)

Lesson 10

Matching:

As a boy, Joseph dreamed his brothers bowed to him.

His jealous brothers sold him as a slave.

Joseph was put in charge of Potiphar's household.

While in prison, Joseph told two prisoners their dreams.

The cupbearer was released, but he forgot about Joseph.

When Pharaoh had dreams, Joseph interpreted them.

Joseph stored grain for seven years.

Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy grain.

Lesson 11

Children will use the hieroglyphs to write a message by finding the matching pictures for K I N D and F A M I L Y.

Lesson 12

Canaan, Canaan, Egypt, Canaan, Egypt, Egypt, Egypt

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

Lesson 13

3, 1, 4, 5, 2

Jacob promised Joseph that God would give him many descendants.

Joseph promised Jacob to bury him in Canaan.

Joseph promised his brothers that he would continue to take care of them.

Joseph's brothers promised Joseph to carry his bones out of Egypt.

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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