

Teacher Guide  
Fall

Upper Elementary  
Year 1



# 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](mailto:curriculum@summit.org) or 719.685.9103.

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



# THE SOWER AND THE SEED

Matthew 13, 2 Timothy 3

## MEMORY VERSE

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right (2 Timothy 3:16).

## MATERIALS

- Bibles in various translations
- Children's Worksheet 1
- Poster 1
- Parent Letter 1

## PREPARATION

Write the memory verse on the board. You will be reading from two New Testament books for this lesson. Bookmark the passages to read in advance. On plain paper, write out the four signs as follows: The Path, The Good Soil, The Rocky Soil, The Weeds.

## ABOUT THE LESSON

Every person has a worldview—ideas and beliefs that help us make sense of God, the world, and our relationship to both. Through our actions, our worldview has an impact on those around us and on the world itself. If our view of reality is distorted, our impact on the world can be harmful. If not, it can be beneficial. To develop an accurate view of reality, we need a reliable source of truth. That source is the Bible. The Bible shapes our ideas. It speaks to our relationship with God, ourselves, others, and the earth.

Jesus had much to say about God's Word, including that not everyone receives the truth of Scripture in the same way. To illustrate His point, Jesus told a parable about a farmer who planted seed in his field. Although the farmer planted the same seeds (God's Word) to all areas of his field, only about a quarter produced an abundant harvest. Jesus explained the parable to His disciples and to us: the seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message of God's Word but don't understand it. Then the devil comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the promises in God's Word and immediately receive them with joy. However, since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or face persecution as Christians. The seeds that fall into the thorns represent those who hear God's Word, but all too quickly God's Word loses its priority in their life, so they produce very little fruit. The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's Word. These believers—the abundant harvest—go on to share God's Word with others who can then also become Christ-followers.

**The emphasis in this lesson is learning God's Word and growing in faith.**

## GETTING STARTED

As the children arrive, have them look over the various versions of the Bible you have selected. If they have brought their own Bible from home, thank them, and encourage them to share it with others in the class. Challenge children to find the table of contents, the beginning and end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament. If there are maps or a concordance in their Bible (or one you have brought to class), have the children look for those features. Have children share what they like about the Bible, such as the pictures, the cover, their favorite book of the Bible, or a favorite passage.

## TEACHING THE LESSON

**SAY** *Today's Bible Truth is God Always Tells the Truth.* Show Poster 1. Lead children in saying the Bible Truth. *Every lesson will have a Bible Truth and character trait for us to learn. Our character trait today is dependability.*

*Let's review how to read the chapters and verses in the Bible.* Ask an older child who is familiar with the Bible to explain how to look up a verse. Tell the children that chapter numbers are the larger numbers on the page, and verse numbers are smaller. The Old Testament contains information about things that happened before Christ; the New Testament tells what happened during and after Jesus' time on Earth.

Have children turn to Matthew 13. Have those who are familiar with looking up Bible passages help those who are just learning.

**SAY** *Matthew is the first book in the New Testament. We call it the gospel according to Matthew because one of Jesus' disciples, Matthew, wrote the book. Do you know what you will read about in the New Testament? That's right. Stories about the life of Christ and the early days of the Christian church are in the New Testament. Let's read a story from Matthew. It's a parable that Jesus told. A parable is a story that Jesus used to teach people about God.*

 Read Matthew 13:1–2.

**SAY** *Who told the story that Matthew recorded? Who came to listen? Do you know some other stories that Jesus told? What stories can you name?*

 Read Matthew 13:3–9.

**SAY** *What happened to the seeds that landed on the path? What happened to the seeds that landed on the shallow soil? What happened to the seeds that fell among the thorns? What happened to the seeds that fell on the fertile soil?*



Read Matthew 13:18–23.

**SAY**

*Let's look at what Jesus said about the meaning of the parable. What does the seed that fell on the path stand for? The seed that fell on the shallow or rocky soil? The seed that fell among the thorns? The seed on the good soil? What does the seed stand for? If the seed stands for God's Word, do you think you should learn it? Why is learning God's Word important? Let's find out what the apostle Paul said about God's Word.*



Read 2 Timothy 3:16.

**SAY**

*Everything in God's Word, the Bible, is inspired by God. This does not mean that God sat down and wrote the Bible, but He spoke into the hearts and minds of the people who wrote the words. All of God's Word is useful to teach us what is right and wrong and how to live lives that please Him. We can help others come to know God through our words and actions.*

*We learn about God's character by reading His Word. God is dependable; we can count on Him for everything! Because God is dependable, we should be too. This means that we need to finish what we begin and always do our best work.*

**1** What are the two testaments in our Bible?

**2** Which testament tells us about things that happened before Christ? Which testament tells us about the life of Christ and the early church?

**3** How can you tell the difference between the chapters and verses in the Bible?

**4** What is a parable?

**5** What parable of Jesus' did we read today?

**6** Why do you think Jesus told parables?

**7** What did the seed represent in the parable of the farmer who sowed the seed?

**8** What kind of soil do you think you are most like?

**9** Why is it important for you to be "good soil" for God's Word? How can you become better soil?

**10** What did the seed represent in the parable of the farmer who sowed the seed?

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right  
(2 Timothy 3:16).



## CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET

Have children number the events in the parable and use the Word Bank to complete the sentences. They may need a Bible to complete the activities. Early finishers can look up and read the following verses about the Bible aloud to the class: 1 Peter 1:25, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, and Psalm 119:105. Assign one verse per child.

## MEMORY VERSE

Have children read the memory verse several times. Then have them select words to erase from the board until all the words have been erased. Have them say the verse from memory.

## APPLICATION GAME

To review the different types of soil the seed fell on from today's lesson, play "The Four Soils" game. This game is just like the game of four corners; children tiptoe to a corner of the room before the player designated as "It" counts to 20 and calls a corner. Tape a sign to each corner of the room as follows: The Path, The Rocky Soil, The Thorns, and The Good Soil. Choose someone to be It, and close his or her eyes, count to 20, and call out a corner, such as The Path. Anyone who is caught in that corner must sit down. Then It will call out another corner. Play until two players are left; they must not hide in the same corner. The last player not called out is the new It.

## CLOSE

Choose children to praise God for His Word. Have the children offer prayer requests if they so choose. Remind them to take home the Parent Letter for Lesson 1.

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

There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live (1 Corinthians 8:6).

## MATERIALS

- Jigsaw puzzle
- Children's Worksheet 2
- Poster 4
- Parent Letter 2

## PREPARATION

Write the memory verse on the board. Bring in a simple children's jigsaw puzzle.

## 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 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, authority, 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 emphasis in this lesson is understanding that God created the heavens and the earth.**

## GETTING STARTED

As children arrive, allow them to work together to build the jigsaw puzzle. They may put some of the pieces together, but they do not have to complete it. Once all the children are present, put the pieces back into the box for use later in the lesson.

## TEACHING THE LESSON

**SAY** *Today's Bible Truth is God Is the Creator.* Show Poster 4 and have children say the Bible Truth. *Everything we have comes from God, including all the materials people use to make other things. Today's character trait is gratitude.*

*Let's review how to read the chapters and verses in the Bible.* Ask a child who is familiar with the Bible to explain how to look up a verse. Remind the children that chapter numbers are the larger numbers on the page, and verse numbers are smaller. Show them where to find the books of the Bible in the table of contents.

Have children turn to Genesis 1. Those who are familiar with looking up Bible passages can help those who are just learning.

**SAY** *Genesis is the first book in the Old Testament. The word "genesis" means "beginning." So, in the book of Genesis, we will learn about how God created the world we live in.*

 Read Genesis 1:1–8.

**SAY** *What was the first thing God created? What did He do on the second day?*

 Read Genesis 1:9–13.

**SAY** *What happened on the third day of creation? Why do you think God made plants before He made animals?*

 Read Genesis 1:14–19.

**SAY** *What did God make on the fourth day of creation? Why do you think He made light before He made the sun?*

 Read Genesis 1:20–23.



*If you had been on Earth on the fifth day of creation, what would you have seen?*



Read Genesis 1:24–26.



*What did God make on the sixth day? What was different about how He made people?*



Read Genesis 1:27–31 and Genesis 2:1–3.



*What did God do on the seventh day? Why did He call the seventh day “holy”? The seventh day is Saturday, which is called the Sabbath in the Bible. Christians worship on Sunday, the first day of the week, because Jesus rose on Sunday.*

*When we think about the beautiful world God made, it should move our heart to be grateful for all He has given us including a home, a future, and the ability to choose to love Him freely. God did not make us to be puppets, rather we are His children who can give and receive love from God and others.*

**1** Who made the heavens and the earth?

**2** What did God do to create everything?

**3** What did God say about the things he created?

**4** Did life just happen, or did God plan for life on Earth?

**5** What jobs did God give people?

**6** What jobs do people do today that take care of the earth?

**7** Are all people made in God's image?

**8** If all people are made in God's image, does that mean all people are valuable? Why?

**9** How can you show respect for all people because they are made in God's image?

There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live (1 Corinthians 8:6).



## CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET

Have children circle the things God made on the sixth day. At the bottom of the page, have them complete the sentences using the Word Bank.

## MEMORY VERSE

Have children read the memory verse several times. Then have them select words to erase from the board until all the words have been erased. Have them say the verse from memory.

## CLOSE

Show children the puzzle they started building at the beginning of class. Place the pieces back in the box and ask them if the puzzle would come together on its own if you tossed the pieces into the air. Emphasize that creation is the act of an intelligent mind—God's mind. He planned and spoke creation into being. Our world did not just come about by random chance. Have children share something that they are glad God created. Remind them to take home the Parent Letter for Lesson 2.

**PRAY**

*Thank You, God, for creating and sustaining the world. We thank You for Your wonderful plans for creation and our redemption. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## APPLICATION GAME

Play a game similar to charades but with drawings to review the things God created. Divide the class into two teams. Have the first team choose a player to draw on the whiteboard. Whisper something that God created to the artist. Then have that child draw the picture for his or her team to guess. If that team cannot guess what it is in 30 seconds, allow the other team to guess. Repeat the process by having the second team select someone to draw for their team to guess.

Here are suggestions: bird, giraffe, alligator, palm tree, shark, whale, zebra, penguin, shooting star, or pine tree.



# THE FALL

Genesis 2–3

## MEMORY VERSE

**Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone (Romans 5:18).**

## MATERIALS

- Balloon
- Pin to pop the balloon
- Penny
- Children's Worksheet 3
- Poster 7
- Parent Letter 3

## PREPARATION

Write the memory verse on the board. Blow up the balloon.

## ABOUT THE LESSON

Genesis explains the origin of the cosmos, a creative work of God, and the origin and nature of sin, a universal human condition that mars the four relationships all human beings have—our relationship with God, within our own hearts, with others, and with the earth. A sinful nature is an inherited condition, going back to Adam and Eve, and, sadly, we pass it along to our children. Early in Genesis, however, God announces His plan to redeem and restore creation and to set us free from bondage to sin.

Genesis 1 describes God's creation of Adam and Eve as well as the cultural mandate to fill

and to subdue the earth (Genesis 1:28). The narrative continues in Genesis 2. It defines the husband-and-wife relationship and the condition of obedience upon which the perfection of Eden could continue. Adam and Eve had no doubt as to the requirement God placed upon them, knowing full well that God said of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, "If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die" (Genesis 2:17).

Genesis 3 records the fall and the beginning of sin's calamitous effects on each of the four relationships of creation, including loss of fellowship with God, feelings of guilt and sadness, willingness to blame others, and a curse upon the ground. God pronounces that Eve will have pain in bearing children. Adam will have to work hard to till the soil. The final terrible consequence for sin is death, both physical and spiritual.

God then announces His eternal remedy—a plan that would result in the destruction of Satan, the deceiver, and the payment for the penalty of sin through the seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15). His promise is fulfilled through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. The writer of Hebrews proclaims, "With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever (Hebrews 9:12).

**The emphasis in this lesson is on understanding that sin separates people from God.**

## GETTING STARTED

As children arrive, have them sit in a large circle. Play the old game “Telephone.” Whisper a sentence or two to the child nearest you. Have that child pass along the message to the next child, and so on. Have the last child speak the message aloud. Remark that it is interesting how a message can be changed to say something entirely different.

## 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.*

*Remember that God made people on the sixth day of creation. God rested on the seventh day. In today's lesson, we will learn the one rule that God had for people and how God's enemy, Satan, decided to tempt Adam and Eve to disobey the rule by slightly changing the meaning of God's words.*

Have children turn to Genesis 2. Show the balloon.

**SAY** Remember that God made everything, including the world we live in. On the sixth day, God made the first person, Adam. He lived in a beautiful garden, full of good things, just like this balloon is full of air.

 Read Genesis 2:7–9.

**SAY** What did God make Adam from? How was the creation of Adam different from the creation of the animals? What tree was in the middle of the garden?

 Read Genesis 2:20–24.

**SAY** How did God make the first woman, Eve? What does verse 24 tell us about God's plan for marriage?

 Read Genesis 3:1–3.

**SAY** The serpent was really God's enemy, Satan, in disguise. He was different from all other animals because he could talk! What did he ask Eve, the woman?

 Read Genesis 3:4–5.

**SAY** What lie did the serpent/Satan tell Eve? What promise did he imply?

 Read Genesis 3:6–7. Pop the balloon dramatically.

**SAY**

*Bam! Sin came into the world right then. Adam knew that the fruit was from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He knew that God had said not to eat it. Why do you think he willfully disobeyed God?*



Read Genesis 3:8–10.

**SAY**

*Adam hid from God because he knew he had sinned. Can anyone hide from God?*



Read Genesis 3:11–12.

**SAY**

*Do you think God knew what Adam had done before He asked the question? Why? Does God know everything we do? Who did Adam blame for his sin?*



Read Genesis 3:13–16.

**SAY**

*Who did Eve blame? What curse did God put on the serpent? What did God say about the offspring of the woman? Who might be the One who would crush the serpent's head?*



Read Genesis 13:17–24.

**SAY**

*How did God punish Adam and Eve for their sin?*

**1** Where did the first people live?

**2** What was the only thing that God said not to do?

**3** Did both Adam and Eve know that they were not supposed to eat the fruit?

**4** What lie did the serpent/Satan tell Eve?

**5** Why do you think Eve ate the fruit even though she knew it was wrong?

**6** Were Adam and Eve honest in taking personal responsibility for their sin?

**7** How do you feel when you do something you know is wrong?

**8** Can you hide your sin from God?

**9** Do you think blaming someone for your sin makes you less sinful?

**10** How did the first sin cause problems for everyone?

Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone (Romans 5:18).



## CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET

Have children use their Bible to complete the worksheet. When all have finished, discuss the answers.

## MEMORY VERSE

Have children read the memory verse several times. Then have them say the verse in a silly tone of voice, like a tiny mouse or like a huge lion. Choose volunteers to say the verse without looking at it.

## CLOSE

Guide children to understand that Adam and Eve's sin brought death to all people because all people sin. They were not honestly accepting responsibility for their own choices, rather they each blamed someone else. However, because God loves us so much, He sent His only Son to save us from the penalty for sin—eternal separation from God. Remind children to take home the Parent Letter for Lesson 3.

**PRAY**

*Thank You, God, for Your promise to redeem us from our sins. We know that we disobey You. Help us to be honest with You when we repent and accept forgiveness when we sin. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## APPLICATION GAME

Play this game to review the action of Adam and Eve hiding from God. Seat children in a circle. Choose someone to be "It." Have the rest of the class sit with their hands resting on their knees. While It is hiding his or her eyes and counting to 10, pass a penny around the circle. Before It gets to 10, be sure one child has the penny. Have all the children close their hands into fists. When It opens his or her eyes, the children know where the penny is hidden, but It must guess. Have It guess a few times, then the child who has the penny should reveal it. The child with the penny is the next It. Remind the class that even though we can hide a penny from our classmates, we can never hide from God.

# Answer Key

## Lesson 1

Order of pictures from left to right: 2, 4, 3, 1  
God's Word, soil, thorns

## Lesson 2

Children should circle horses, cats, dogs, people, cows, tigers, hippos, image, food, good, multiply

## Lesson 3

Words are: fruit, serpent, woman, husband, wisdom, eat, tempt, woman, husband, ate, fruit

## Lesson 4

Ur, Sarai, God, Canaan

## Lesson 5

Ishmael was Abraham's older son.

Hagar was Ishmael's mother.

God cared for them.

Ishmael became a strong man.

## Lesson 7

Abraham, servant, travel, well, prayed, Rebekah, water, Isaac, loyal, master

## Lesson 8

Esau: A good hunter, Isaac's favorite, Traded his birthright, Liked to be outdoors

Jacob: Rebekah's favorite, Tricked his father, Liked to stay home, The younger brother

## Lesson 9

faith, fear, faith, fear, faith

## Lesson 10

Joseph's dreams were sent by the Lord.

## Lesson 11

b., a., a., e., c., d., d.

## Lesson 12

Naphtali, Levi, Asher, Dan, Judah, Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Gad, Reuben, Joseph's brothers

## Lesson 13

Cross out: Always reminding someone about what he or she did wrong; trying to get even when someone hurts you; taking revenge because it makes you feel better; staying angry at someone who hurt you; hating the person who hurt you.

## 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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ISBN-13: 978----0000000002

A standard barcode representing the ISBN number 978----0000000002.

9 78000 000002