



JUNIOR: Ages 9-12 or fourth, fifth, and sixth grades

JUNIOR OVERVIEW

JUNIOR	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5
TITLE	Creation: God's Perfect World Breaks	Nation: God Makes Eternal Promises	Kingdom: God Promises a Perfect Ruler	Savior: God Sends His Perfect Sacrifice	Redemption: God Promises a New Earth
QUESTION	What went wrong with our world?	Who can I trust to fix our world?	Who should rule my life?	What is the price to fix my brokenness?	When will God fix our world for good?
BIBLE TEXTS	Genesis 1:31-2:1; 2:15-17; 3:1-24	Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 1:7-10; 3:7-10, 19, 20; 11:1-8; 12:3-7, 12, 13, 21-41	1 Samuel 8:4-22; 13:5-14; 16:1-14; 18:5-12; 2 Samuel 7:1-17; 1 Chronicles 17:11-14	John 1:10-12; 18:1-12, 33-40; 19:1-37; 20:1, 2, 11-17	Revelation 1:9; 21:1-22:5
THEME	When sin broke God's perfect world, God promised to fix it.	God deserves our trust because He always keeps His promises.	God sets us free from sin to serve Him.	Jesus paid the redemption price we could never afford.	God wants us to live with a sure hope of a perfect future.
MEMORY VERSES	"The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).	"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23).	"If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).	"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7). <i>Theme Verse</i>	"He who sat on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation 21:5).
TEACHING TIE-IN	Great big mess 	Grandpa's faithful tractor 	Bible: the King's book 	Cross and manger 	Restored snow globe 
GAMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every Single One • Bad Snake • Balloon Pop • Doggy Bath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promise Trust Toss • Giant Tic-Tac-Toe • Pile-High Pyramid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Javelin Defender • Knock It Off! • Royal Relay • Breaking Free 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Out—Laser Beams! • Miss Sarge Rescue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grab & Run • Redemption Relay • Jumpin' Junkyard
SNACKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruity Peek • Juice Box Buddy • Grape Snake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fab Fruit • Corn Transform • Fruity Frog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cookie Creations • Which Way Arrows • Surprise Cupcakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do You Have Enough? • Ransom Brownies • Resurrection Crackers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No-Worries Lamb • By the Crystal Sea • Goody Goody Gelatin
CRAFTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandpa's Toolbox • All Around Creation • Plant Wrap Garden • Picture-Perfect Promises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trusty Tractor • Camel Trek • Go Abraham • Junkyard Wind Chimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Is My King • Bubble Art Crown • PRAY Picture Frame • Good News Caterpillar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectacular Snow Globe • Junkyard Tic-Tac-Toe • Love on a Cross • Promise Magnets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Hope • Emoji Cups • Jesus Makes All Things New • Lion and Lamb

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JUNIOR

TEACHER BOOK

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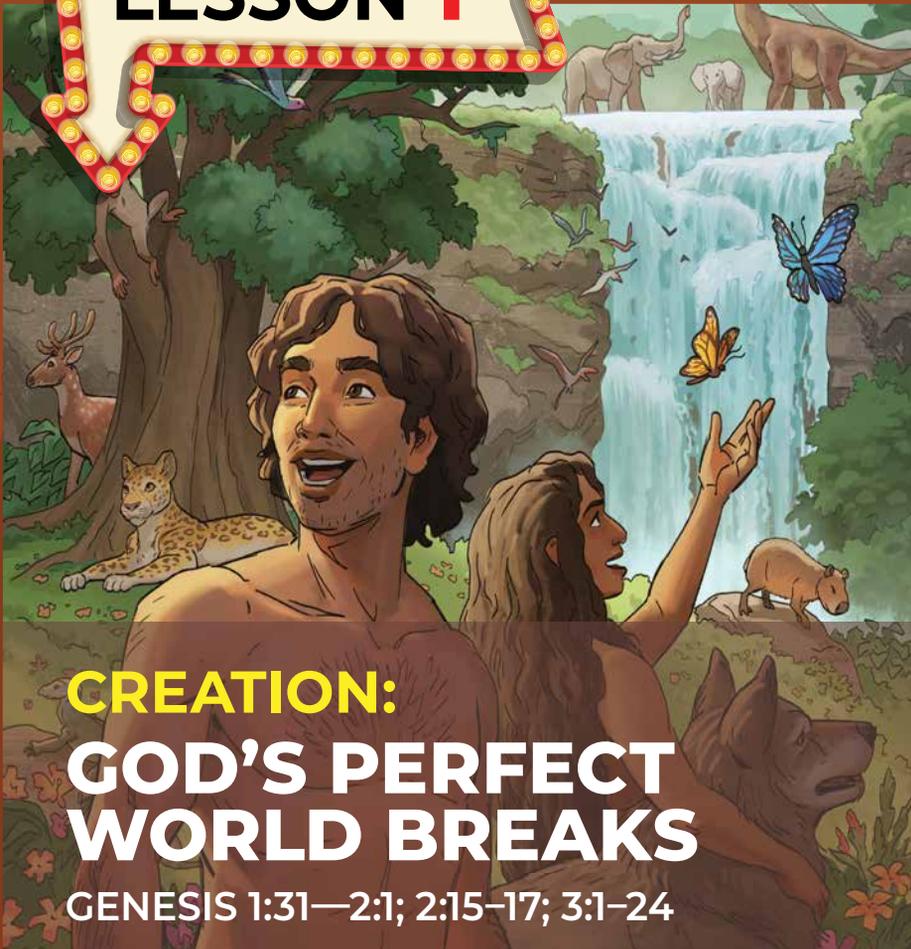
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LESSON 1



CREATION: GOD'S PERFECT WORLD BREAKS

GENESIS 1:31—2:1; 2:15-17; 3:1-24



MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 8:18

(See page on the left)

QUESTION

What went wrong with our world?

THEME

When sin broke God's perfect world, God promised to fix it.

TAKEAWAY

Stay hopeful—the world's a mess, but God will fix it!

- Greet students with enthusiasm and a smile. Get to know each student.
- Make sure you have a completed registration card (30208) for each student.
- Distribute nametags (34233) and Junkyard Redemption passes (34234).
- Open the class time with prayer.

TIP ▶

Choose one of the following two options to help students warm up before the lesson.



Option 1: Beauty in Decay

Materials

- 2 real flowers; 2 clear vases or jars; water; object large enough to cover the vases or jars from view but not the flowers (e.g., box, book, sheet of paper).

Before class: Purchase or cut two similar flowers three or four days before the lesson. Leave one flower in a vase without water, but place the other in water. Before students arrive, cover the vases but not the flowers from view.

Welcome to VBS! I'm so excited that you've joined me today. To celebrate, I brought in these beautiful flowers! They seem to have a problem though.

ASK: What do you suppose is the difference between this flower (*gesture to the flower in water*) and the other one? **ACTIVITY:** After students offer their suggestions, remove the obstacle to show the vases.

One flower has plenty of water, but the other flower has been removed from its life-sustaining source. When a flower is cut off from its life source (its roots) and then from the water that would sustain it a little longer, the flower begins to decay until what was beautiful becomes brown and dried up.

Like this flower, our world is decaying. Today we'll trace the state of our world back to the time when it was cut off from its life source.

Option 2: What Happened Here?

Materials

- Three noticeably broken or ripped objects (e.g., toy, towel, garden tool).

Welcome to VBS! I'm glad you joined me today. We'll be talking about broken things a lot, so I brought some broken things that I found around my house.

DISPLAY: Show each item to the class. **ACTIVITY:** Give each object to a small group of students. Have each group work together to invent a creative backstory for how their object broke. After several minutes, ask students to share their stories. **ASK:** What are some broken things in our world? (*Answers could be from any category—e.g., relationships, possessions, health, weather.*)

If we look around us long enough, we'll notice broken things. Today we'll learn that the Bible tells the true backstory for this destruction.



INTRODUCTION

Materials

- Whiteboard; dry-erase marker; 3" x 5" note cards; pen.

Before class: On note cards, write several scenarios involving situations students can't fix on their own (e.g., you accidentally broke your neighbor's window; you're on vacation and forgot your spending money; your Frisbee landed in a dangerous construction zone).

ACTIVITY: Write "REDEEM" on the whiteboard. **ASK:** What does *redeem* mean? Record students' ideas on the board.

In the Bible, *redeem* suggests buying or getting something back or having a debt paid. It often involves someone stepping in to make things right when a person can't fix a situation alone.

ACTIVITY: Ask volunteers to read each scenario aloud. After each one is read, discuss who might step in to help fix that situation and how that person might help.

When has someone helped you in a difficult situation? Many years ago, two people found themselves in a horrible situation that seemed impossible to fix. It affected the entire world! However, as we'll learn, all was not over for them because Someone stepped in to redeem their situation—and ours too.



EXPLORE THE BIBLE!

Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visuals (34207 or 34207EB); paper; whiteboard; dry-erase marker; four large sticks of sidewalk chalk; permanent marker; resealable bags; hammer.

Before class: Write or type the days of creation in large lettering on sheets of paper, one day per sheet. (See margin.) Write the following phrases on large sticks of sidewalk chalk with permanent marker, one phrase per stick: "relationship with God," "creation," "human relationships," "work/purpose." Mark the Scripture passages in your Bible so you can find them quickly during the lesson.

When God makes something, He doesn't mess it up. And when He created the world, He called everything in it "very good." Not even one little thing was wrong.

TIP

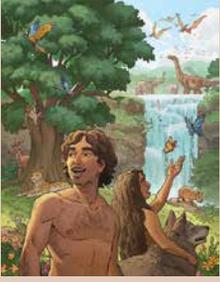
A definition of *redemption*: "God's act of freeing those who trust in Jesus from sin's punishment and making them part of His family. One day He will remake all creation and free it from sin's brokenness."

WHAT GOD MADE ON EACH DAY OF CREATION

- Day 1—light and darkness
- Day 2—the atmosphere (sky)
- Day 3—dry land and plants
- Day 4—sun, moon, and stars
- Day 5—birds and sea animals
- Day 6—land animals; humans

TIP

Each lesson has statements or activities at Very Important Points (VIPs) of the lesson. These VIPs are set apart by different colors. In lesson 1, the VIPs (marked in red) occur when a piece of sidewalk chalk is smashed.



Lesson 1 Visual 1

ACTIVITY: Ask six volunteers to come to the front of the room. Hold up the sheets labeled with the days of creation. As you read each sheet, have one of the volunteers express in word or action that God’s creation was good (e.g., a big thumbs-up; exclaiming, “Woo-hoo!” or “Oh yeah!”). Have the class mimic the volunteer’s words or actions. **DISPLAY:** Show lesson 1 visual 1. **READ:** Genesis 1:31—2:1.

All that God created was perfect and complete—“*very good.*”

Wait a minute! If God made the world very good, why do we get hurt and things break? Some people ask, “Why would a loving God create pain and suffering?” They’re right that God did not make pain, suffering, or death! These problems came from somewhere else. What happened then?

READ: Genesis 2:15–17. **ASK:** What one thing was Adam told not to do? (*Eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*)

When God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, He wanted them to take care of His creation. God gave them free access to everything, with only one restriction: They’d better not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God made it clear that if they ate from that one tree, they would die.

It wasn’t long before God’s archenemy, Satan, sneaked up to Eve as a snake. He planted a seed of doubt in Eve’s mind, adjusted God’s words, and boldly lied that God would not punish her for eating from the forbidden tree. He accused God of keeping something good from her.

READ: Genesis 3:6.

Eve gave in and ate fruit from the tree. Adam also ate the fruit. They never could have imagined what happened next, although God warned them!

When they disobeyed God, Adam and Eve’s relationship with God was broken. Our sin separates us from God because sin and holiness can’t coexist.

ACTIVITY: Show the chalk labeled “relationship with God.” Place it in a resealable bag and seal the bag. Place the bag on the floor. Ask a student to gently pound the chalk with the hammer to smash it. Hold up the bag to show the smashed pieces. **ASK:** How do human relationships with God still show destruction today? (*Sin still separates all humans from God. People choose to disobey God. Some even deny His existence.*)

Adam and Eve became sinners. Sin is choosing our own way instead of God’s way—disobeying Him. Sin can happen in what we think, say, or do. God is holy, and anytime we act unlike Him, we sin.

DISPLAY: Show lesson 1 visual 2. **READ:** Genesis 3:14, 15.

Disobedience demanded punishment. God started with the serpent, which He cursed to slither on its belly and eat dust. Satan, who used the serpent’s body, would be at war with humans, and Eve’s offspring would eventually destroy him. We’ll talk about that in a minute.

TIP ▶
Save the bag of crushed “relationship with God” chalk for Decision Time. Save all the bags of crushed chalk for lesson 4.



Lesson 1 Visual 2

LESSON 1

READ: Romans 8:20, 22. **ACTIVITY:** Show the chalk labeled “creation.” Place it in a bag, seal the bag, and ask a student to smash it.

All of God’s perfect creation was broken. It began to decay and die. Thousands of years of disease, decay, and death have produced a broken world—a shadow of the one God created.

READ: Genesis 3:16.

Eve would experience pain in being a mother. And instead of living in peace, she and Adam would struggle for power in their relationship.

ACTIVITY: Show the chalk labeled “human relationships” and place it in a bag. Have a student smash it. Show the pieces to the students. **ASK:** What evidence do we see of broken relationships today? (*People are selfish and hurt each other. Families are broken. Friendships end.*)

READ: Genesis 3:17–19. **ASK:** What was Adam’s curse? (*His work would be hard and unprofitable. He would work hard until he died.*)

Before Adam sinned, he was happy taking care of God’s creation. He loved his work every day! Now nothing would come easily to him. And eventually his physical body would die and return to the dust from which he was formed.

ACTIVITY: Show the chalk labeled “work/purpose.” Repeat the activity as before. **ASK:** What evidence shows that mankind’s work and purpose for living are still broken today? (*Humans must work hard, and often they struggle to make ends meet. They search for purpose but can’t find it.*)

ASK: In what ways did Adam and Eve’s sin bring about death? (*All creation began to decay. Adam and Eve would eventually die physically. They died spiritually because their sin broke their relationship with God.*)

DISPLAY: Show lesson 1 visual 3.

While Adam and Eve didn’t immediately die physically when they ate the fruit, they died in a worse way. Spiritual death means that sin broke their perfect relationship with the life-giving Creator. And the process of physical death began. From that moment until today, physical death affects all of creation.

This account sounds depressing so far. But God had Adam and Eve look up toward hope!

READ: Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 3:15. **DISPLAY:** Show lesson 1 visual 4.

God promised that a descendant of Eve would one day destroy Satan and the bad things he did. That’s what “bruise” his head means in this verse. One day God was going to fix the broken world!

The rest of the Bible tells us how God’s incredible plan unfolded. It is the greatest redemption story ever told. God stepped into our messed-up



Lesson 1 Visual 3



Lesson 1 Visual 4

TIP

God also provided a covering by making clothes for Adam and Eve from animal skin. This required the animal’s death and was a hint of the blood sacrifice required to cover the punishment for sin of all people.

world to free people from their sin. He will also one day redeem creation's brokenness by making it new!



DECISION TIME

Materials

- Bible; sticky notes; crushed "relationship with God" chalk from Explore the Bible.

Before class: Use sticky notes to mark the following passages in a Bible: Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23.

DISPLAY: Show the shattered "relationship with God" chalk.

This chalk represents the state of every human's relationship with God. Sin shatters our relationship with Him.

ASK: What is sin? *(Anything we think, say, and do that disobeys God; anything against God's holy nature.)*

READ: Ask a volunteer to read Romans 5:12 from the marked Bible. Ask another volunteer to read Romans 3:23 from the marked Bible.

Can we blame Adam for our sin? *(No, because we also sin, just like he did. We each earn our own punishment for our sin.)* Sin earns us eternal death, separated from God.

ASK: Can we fix this broken stick of chalk? *(No.)* **READ:** Ask a volunteer to read Jeremiah 17:9 from the marked Bible.

The Bible says our hearts are infected by sin. We can't fix our broken relationship with God because we cannot separate ourselves from our sin.

READ: Ask a volunteer to read Romans 6:23 from the marked Bible. **ASK:** What is the good news in our depressing situation? *(We don't have to fix anything. Our restoration to God is a gift from God!)* **ASK:** What decision do we have to make? *(To trust in Jesus as Savior.)*



DISCOVER!

Colorful Recall

Materials

- Several rolls of classic-flavored Life Savers candy.

ACTIVITY: Give each student a Life Savers candy and ask students to stand and share a detail from the lesson about the subject corresponding

TIP ▶
Use this activity to reinforce and cement the lesson truths.

with their colors. Prompt students about the details of their subjects as needed. Green—creation; purple—Eve; orange—Adam; red—serpent; yellow—Garden of Eden.

If broken creation were the end of the story, how might that leave us feeling? (*Hopeless, despairing.*) What hope did God give us in the Garden of Eden? (*A descendant of Eve would redeem all that was broken.*)



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Memory Verse: Romans 8:18.

DISPLAY: Verse poster of Romans 8:18 from rbpVBS.org/verseposters or PowerPoint of the verse from the VBS Resources (34202 or 34202EB).

ACTIVITY: Say the verse a few times with the students.

Paul, the human writer of Romans, experienced a lot of suffering but wasn't discouraged. He compared the problems of the present with the perfection of the future, when the promised Redeemer makes all things new.

Bandage It Up

Materials

- Adhesive bandages; 3" x 5" note cards; pen.

Before class: Write out Romans 8:18 on note cards, a word or two per card. Make several sets of cards.

ACTIVITY: Divide the class into small groups and give each group a set of prepared cards and some adhesive bandages. Challenge groups to assemble the memory verse in order and to attach the cards to each other with the bandages. When groups are finished, read the verse out loud together. **ASK:** What kinds of things do we do to eliminate pain and discomfort? Can we ever eliminate all pain and discomfort?

Though we experience all levels of suffering in our world now, we have a sure hope for the day when the Redeemer will make all things new!



APPLY IT NOW!

Option 1: Guilty as Charged!

Materials

- Student activity sheets (34213); poster board; markers.

ACTIVITY: Students work in small groups to do the activity on the first page of their student books. Instruct groups to create a poster listing what sin Adam and Eve committed, their punishment, and the long-term

TIP

The VBS Resources (34202 or 34202EB) include printable cards for students to take home so they can keep working on the memory verses.

Get verse posters at rbpVBS.org/verseposters that make verses stick!

TIP

Choose one of the following two options to help students apply the lesson.

TIP 
Read Romans 3:23 aloud.

consequences of their actions. When groups are finished, ask volunteers to share their posters.

ASK: How does Adam and Eve's sin affect people who weren't even there? (*We are all born with a sin nature, and we all suffer the consequences of sin.*) Could you make a "guilty as charged" poster for yourself? (*Of course.*) How might our sins affect the world around us? (*Our words and actions can hurt other people; we can have destructive effects on God's creation.*)

Sin rarely affects just the person committing it. But there's good news: God is more powerful than sin's effects, and He promises to eventually fix all that is broken in our world and our hearts.

Option 2: Color Vision

Materials

- Blue and yellow balloons; permanent markers; whiteboard; dry-erase marker.

Before class: Inflate a blue balloon and a yellow balloon for each student.

ACTIVITY: Ask students to list elements of daily life (e.g., breakfast, riding bikes, bedtime). Write students' suggestions all over the whiteboard. Then give one blue balloon and one yellow balloon to each student. Instruct students to use a permanent marker to write three or more broken things about the world on the blue balloon. When students are finished, have them look at the whiteboard while holding the blue balloon in front of their eyes.

ASK: What happens when we view our lives through the lens of everything bad in the world? (*It colors everything with discouragement and hopelessness.*)

Now let's see an illustration of the difference God's hope makes.

ACTIVITY: Have students write HOPE on the yellow balloon and look at the board with the yellow balloon in front of their eyes.

ASK: What hope do we have for the future of this world? (*God will one day make all things new.*) How does looking at our lives through the lens of hope change how we view hard things? (*We know that suffering will not last forever. We can look forward to a day when God will make everything perfect.*)