

Advanced Level, Block 1—Result of Fall

Week 1

Rebellion and Restoration

Point to Emphasize: When we overthrow authority, we must confess our actions.

Reference Reading: Genesis 1:1-2; Jeremiah 4:23; Isaiah 24:1; 45:18; Job 38:7

Memory Verse: Let every person be subject to the authorities over him, for there is no authority except from God... (Romans 13:1)

Story Sample

In this new set of stories, we want you to see some of the key outcomes in the entire Bible. The Bible is filled with stories or events that show that in the whole universe, as well as in our own lives, there are actions and there are outcomes. Outcomes can also be called consequences. If a child brings home a report card with straight A's, there might be a reward. But if a child brings home a report card with all F's, there may be a punishment. Both the reward and the punishment are outcomes, or consequences.

So, let us begin by reading the first two verses in the Bible. Genesis 1:1 states that God created the heavens and the earth. Another verse in the book of Job tells us that the angels sang and shouted for joy because of God's beautiful creation of the earth (Job 38:7). Earth was then a marvelous place! So green and lush with a sky so clear and so blue. The waters were sparkling clean and beautiful to behold. The earth was really a place to rejoice about.

Now let us go to read Genesis 1:2. It shows us that something, some event, caused this marvelously created earth to become "waste and emptiness" with only "darkness on the surface of the deep."

I think this little story may help us see what happened between verses 1 and 2 of the book of Genesis. Recently, in the city of Paris, France, people got together and marched around the city to demonstrate or protest what they thought was unfair. The gas tax went up really high last year, so thousands of people went out to demonstrate. They shouted slogans and waved signs with their complaints about the government's new gas tax, and they were peaceful, up to a point. But then some in the crowd started throwing things at the police, smashing the windows of stores and running in to loot, burning cars on the streets, etc. The crowd was now out of control. Their actions were to overthrow law and order on the streets. It was a rebellion against the authority of the government. Quickly, riot police came with tear gas to disperse the crowd and to restore order. Many demonstrators were arrested. By the time it was all over, the streets were left empty, except with charred cars, smashed windows, and damaged property showing a wasteland. Everywhere you looked things had been destroyed. Rebellion always destroys and must be punished.

And this is what happened between the first two verses in Genesis. God's enemy, Satan, came to overthrow God's authority. He and the other angels that followed him in his rebellion tried to overrun the law and order of God in the heavens and the earth. But God would not let the rebellion continue. He judged this rebellion, and the earth, which was once a wonderful place, became waste and empty. There was now deep water covering the surface of the earth and only darkness upon the water. There was no light and no living thing.

So what does this story have to do with you? You may think that you are not rebellious. But you probably have experienced this kind of rebellion in your heart. Sometimes when your mom tells

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you it is time to do your homework, you get mad and think, “I can do just what I want! I don’t have to listen to you! I won’t do my homework until I am done playing.” Maybe you only thought it in your mind, or maybe you have said something like this to your mom. In your thinking or speaking, you are overthrowing your mom’s authority.

Or maybe your siblings told you to do something and you hit them and said, “You’re not my boss, I’m way smarter than you.” When you storm back to your room, don’t you feel like you’re a mess, and so empty inside? Many of you have experienced darkness in your heart after this kind of rebellious behavior.

I know I have. Once we had a substitute teacher. A classmate told us all to make noises when she turned her back to us to write on the chalkboard. We all did as he said. That substitute got so upset at us. She could not do a thing to stop us. By our noises we were overthrowing her authority. We were rebelling. I went along with everyone else, but deep down I felt dark inside. Finally, the teacher called the principal in to the classroom, and we received a very severe punishment. I just hung my head. I was so ashamed. I felt so awful and so terribly sorry for taking part in the rebellion against my teacher’s authority. *[Storyteller, use your own example.]*

This is the way we should feel when something like this happens. Even if we are just thinking those rebellious thoughts about our mom or dad, it is right to feel ashamed and dark inside. If we speak disrespectfully or yell at our parents, we should hang our head in shame and feel so awful inside. God has given them authority and not you. So then, what must we do? We must tell our mom or dad how awful we feel and how heavy our heart is that we would yell at either one of them like that.

You know, after his rebellion Satan never did apologize to God. He was never sorry for his rebellion to overthrow God’s authority, but we are different! We can tell others how awful we feel when we say rebellious things. We know better, and we know that these really are attempts to overthrow the rightful authority.

I am so glad that the Bible does not end with waste, emptiness, and darkness in Genesis chapter one, verse two. At the end of verse two, God is planning to do something to change the situation. He will restore the earth.

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Week 2 Man Resembles God

Point to Emphasize: As those who resemble God, we will always feel uneasy inside until we like what God likes and love what He loves.

Reference Reading: Genesis 1:26-28; *The Subjective Experience of the Indwelling Christ*, ch. 5, *Life-study of Genesis*, msg. 8

Memory Verse: And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. (Genesis 1:26)

Story Sample

In the very first chapter of the Bible, we saw how the beautiful earth created by God became waste, emptiness, and darkness (Genesis 1:2). A lot of people don't know why this happened. There are many ideas about how this happened during that time, but at your age, you are all learning the truth. You are learning what the Bible tells us about what happened.

Do you think God gave up on the earth? No! You have to realize that God loved the earth, and He had already planned to change this situation of waste and emptiness. God restored the whole situation. He began by separating the light from the darkness. He called the light, Day and the darkness, Night. I hope you all can know how God continued His creation and what He did on each day. If you don't know what God did on each day, I encourage you to go home and read with your parents Genesis chapter 1.

Well, God created the animals one way and he created man in quite a different way. God created each animal after its own kind; after its own species. This means that all cows, whether it is a Texas longhorn or an Indian Brahman have something in common. *[Storyteller, show pictures.]* BUT man was made VERY differently. Man was made of red clay. God breathed into his nostrils and man became living. Man resembled God!

When I tell you that I resemble God, I am not referring to the outward appearance, which you can see with your eyes. I am referring to the inward resemblance. Let me explain this to you, *[Storyteller, bring a family picture and have the children point out how the children look like their parents.]* If you see my family here, you would see that my sons both look like their father. They have the same smile, the same nose, etc. This is the outward resemblance. Another kind of resemblance is the inward resemblance. As you get to know my sons you will see that my boys think like their father. They have the same likes and dislikes. They are very much alike in who they are in the inside.

In the very same way, the man created by God resembled God. Not in the outward resemblance, but in the inward resemblance. This means you can love your family, because God is love. You can be kind to others, because God is kind. God wants you to be loving and kind; He wants you to be honest and upright. Throughout the ages, anyone who steals will have a sense of shame. A person does not have to be educated to develop this sense, because this is just the way we were created. We have a desire to honor our parents and to love and care for others because these are qualities of the created human nature.

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I once was your age and I had many experiences just like the ones you have now. For the most part, I was always happy with my parents. But there were some days that I would get upset at them. One day I wanted to go to a certain place with my older cousins and my parents said “no.” I was upset, very upset. I was so upset that I told them they didn’t know what was best for me and that I was not happy they were my parents. I left the conversation and went to my room and slammed the door. But no matter how upset I was, something inside of me would just not let me be upset at them for too long. I couldn’t explain why, but I felt more ashamed than upset. I had to go back to my parents and apologize for the things I had said. When I apologized to them, I immediately felt so relieved. Even though I had this experience and knew better, this kind of thing happened over and over again, many times. [*Storyteller, share your own experience.*]

No matter how hard you try to convince yourself to feel good after dishonoring your parents, you will always feel bad. Why? Because you resemble God, this is the way you were created. As you are growing older, and as you become a young person and then an adult, you must remember how you were created. You will find that when you do things or say things that God doesn’t like, you will feel uneasy inside. You will always feel uneasy inside until you dislike the things God doesn’t like. You will always feel uneasy inside until you like what God likes and you love the things God loves. This is how and why you were created. You were created to resemble God.

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Week 3 Being Tempted

Point to Emphasize: We should not think that we are so able to take care of situations on our own; we should follow our parent's instructions and tell them if someone tells us differently.

Reference Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3

Memory Verse: Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, / And do not rely on your own understanding... (Proverbs 3:5)

Story Sample

After God created Adam, He also blessed him and put him in the garden of Eden along with Eve. It was very pleasant in this garden for Adam and Eve. They would walk with God and talk with God. He made sure that everything they needed was there in the garden. All the fruits and vegetables were there for them to eat. They even had the companionship of God. How wonderful! God cared so much for them! To keep them safe, He gave them an instruction. He told them, "Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely, But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat..." (Genesis 2:16-17). This was for their own safety. This is much the same as with our parents. They love us so much that sometimes they give us instructions and warnings for our own safety.

But one day the serpent came to talk to Eve. She listened and began to doubt God's word. This kind of talk made her question whether God's speaking was true. We should never doubt God's word! God's word is always true! Eve was tempted to act against God's instruction. Rather than going to her husband to talk to him first, she made a decision on her own. She thought she was able to make a choice all by herself, with no other help.

Often we find ourselves in these situations. Maybe our friends or someone older than us will tempt us to do something that is against our parent's instructions. We are just like Adam and Eve. Have any of you ever had friends that questioned something your parents said? When I was your age, our parents would not allow us to climb on the fence in the backyard, because it wasn't safe. But one day my sister said, "What can be wrong with that? It will be fun! Go ahead and do it!" And the neighbor girl, said, "Yes! Do it!" I just knew I could do it, so I doubted my parents' instruction and trusted what my sister and her friend told me instead. So, without checking with my parents first, I just got up there and began to run on the wall. Well, I fell off and ended up with a concussion. Ouch! The outcome was not very good. I hurt myself and I disobeyed my parents. See how easy it is to do something against what our parents have told us? See how easily we listen to others and do something we shouldn't? *[Storyteller, give your own example.]*

It is very easy to act on our own or do things because our friends tell us to. Some friends might encourage us to listen to popular music or play video games or see movies that our parents have instructed us not to. This kind of disobedience to follow our friends instead of our parents can also ruin our love toward God. We shouldn't listen to certain music or play certain games or watch certain things that could turn our heart away from God.

Eve should have called Adam. She should have stopped talking to the serpent once she realized that it was speaking differently from what God said. We can talk to our parents and tell them what is going on. We should always rely on our parents. We should not think that we can handle every situation. They really do know what is best. My parents knew it was best not to climb the

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wall. When I woke up from my concussion due to my fall, I was so ashamed that I had broken the rule, that I had listened to my sister instead of my parents, and that I had disobeyed my parents to cause them so much worry.

[Storyteller, end the time by speaking to the children about their experiences of being tempted and of being ashamed. How should we respond if our friends are trying to influence us the wrong way? How do we feel when we have broken a rule?]

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Week 4

Disobeying Jehovah's Instruction

Point to emphasize: We are responsible for our actions; our disobedient acts have consequences.

Reference Reading: Genesis 3:2-24

Memory Verse: Blessed is the man / Whom You discipline, O Jehovah... (Psalm 94:12)

Story Sample

In our reading of Genesis, the serpent had been talking to Eve and she had been listening. By listening, her idea about the trees changed. Before then, she went along with God's instruction to not eat of a certain tree, but now, she thought that it would be so good to eat its fruit. She thought that there was no harm in trying it. Before the serpent talked to her, she had followed God's instruction, but by listening to the serpent, she now doubted God's word. Okay, now let's see what Eve could have done differently at this point. What options did she have? *[Let the children discuss. She could have called her husband right away. She could have said, "Go away, serpent." She could have said that she would talk with God about all you say.]* But she did not do any of those things. She just followed the serpent's advice and ate from that tree. Not only that, she gave some to her husband, Adam, too.

Immediately there were consequences! They both knew that they had done something terribly wrong! They tried to cover up their wrongdoing. Then they heard the sound of Jehovah God walking about in the garden and hid themselves. Before this they were so glad to be with Jehovah, but after disobeying, they hid from Him.

Then Jehovah called out to the man, "Where are you?" This really shows God's kindness. He already knew where they were hiding and what they had done but He wanted them to confess. But instead of fully confessing Adam blamed it on Eve. He said that he only disobeyed because Eve did it first. Then when Jehovah asked her what had happened, she said that it was the serpent's fault. The serpent had deceived her. Neither of them took responsibility for their actions. They both had disobeyed but neither of them took responsibility.

Right away there were consequences. Jehovah judged the serpent and spoke a solemn word of punishment, making it to crawl on its belly on the earth. Then there were severe consequences for Adam and Eve. Their life would no longer be the pleasant living in the garden, where everything they needed was provided for them. They were sent out of the garden and had to work the ground to grow the fruits and vegetables they needed to live. They would have to work hard to grow things. And having children and raising a family would be hard, too. Everything about their daily life would no longer be easy. It would all be full of hardship.

And sadly, God would no longer be their daily companion. They lost His presence. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and had to face the consequences. They were in this beautiful garden, and they lost it. They lost access to the garden and to being in God's presence. After this disobedience they were blocked from the garden and could not enter again.

There are certain things that you may be tempted to do and once you act on that suggestion, it has a lasting consequence. My son was told not to play a certain video game that his friends were playing because we had not seen it yet to approve it. But he downloaded it anyway and he played it. The game was about car-racing so he thought it was harmless. But in the background of the

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game there were some images of ugly skeletons. Weeks later he couldn't sleep. He had to confess to us that these images kept coming back to him. He was the one who suffered the most from disobeying our instructions. He should have obeyed the instructions we gave him. *[Storyteller, use a personal example and then encourage the children to give their example, especially emphasizing that the consequences have a permanent effect.]*

Disobedient acts have consequences, and we are living today in the consequences of what Adam and Eve did.

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Week 5

Jealousy and Anger—Cain and Abel

Point to Emphasize: We need to be warned about our anger and learn to control it.

Reference Reading: Genesis 4:1-15; *Life-study of Genesis*, msgs. 22, 24

Memory Verse: Be angry, yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your indignation,
Neither give place to the devil. (Ephesians 4:26-27)

Story Sample

Have your parents shared with you stories of the time they were growing up? Parents enjoy telling stories of their childhood. Parents also give us advice on what things to do and what mistakes they made growing up, so we don't have to repeat them. This is also what happened in the very first family we see in the Bible. Cain and Abel were the first children to be born to Adam and Eve.

As parents, Adam and Eve certainly must have told their children their story. They must have told their children how they were created by God, and that they lived in the garden and had disobeyed God. Then, because of their disobedience, God had to sacrifice a lamb on their behalf. The lamb skins were used to clothe them. Adam and Eve must have told their children to follow God's way. God's way was to sacrifice lambs for their disobedience.

Both Cain and Abel were taught to honor God no matter what they did. Abel became a tender of sheep and Cain became a tiller of the ground. When it was time to present an offering to God, Cain presented fruits of his labor and Abel presented a lamb, according to God's way. Cain was proud and wanted to present an offering in his own way. He did not want to take God's way. God was pleased with Abel's offering, but He rejected Cain's. When Cain saw this, he was angry; extremely angry.

Sometimes we, too, might take our own way at school. One time we were given a project in school and the teacher had given us specific instructions on how to do it. I wanted to do a better job than my classmate, who was pretty smart. I ended up doing other things that the teacher had not asked. I wanted to do it my way, and I thought it would be a better project. I was so proud! I thought my teacher would make such a big deal of it, but she didn't. She didn't say one word. I became angry inside, because I felt my effort wasn't appreciated. Instead, the teacher made a big deal of my classmate who had done exactly what was asked, nothing more and nothing less. So I was not only angry, I was also jealous of my classmate who got the approval of my teacher. This is not a good place to be! *[Storyteller, insert your example of feeling anger and jealousy. If possible, due to doing something your way instead of following the instructions.]*

God knew Cain was angry, because his offering was rejected. So He came to talk to him. God asked Cain why he was angry. And He warned him not to let his anger control him. But Cain would not confess.

Cain's trouble continued because he didn't take God's warning to control his anger. In his anger and jealousy he killed his brother Abel. Is this logical? Did his brother do anything that should cause him to be hated and murdered? No!

After this, God came to Cain again and asked him, "Where is Abel your brother?" This shows how merciful and kind God is. God came to help unload Cain of his guilt. Instead of confessing, Cain

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answered: "I do not know: Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). This answer was a big lie, the first lie in the history of the human race (*Life-study of Genesis*, msg. 24, p. 318).

We have all been angry and jealous at times. And we might have let our anger cause us to hurt someone or make them feel bad. This shows that our anger has controlled us, just as it controlled Cain. This is why the Bible warns us not to be angry. We need to limit our anger. We need to confess and say we are sorry, even before doing something out of anger and even if we feel we are right. No one feels good about themselves after they have been angry and jealous. [*Lead the children into a discussion that would cause them to be convicted about not feeling right when they do something like this. Or discuss things they have done to control their anger.*]

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Week 6

A Culture without God

Point to Emphasize: We must choose to live a godly way of living.

Reference Reading: Genesis 4; footnote 4:17²

Memory Verse: Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth... (Ecclesiastes 12:1a)

Story Sample

Today we want to see some of the results, or outcomes, of Cain's actions. You see, the biggest problem was that Cain did not feel sorry at all. Surely, God would have forgiven him if he had asked for forgiveness, but Cain did not regret what he had done and there were great consequences: (1) the ground would not yield produce no matter how much he labored upon it; and (2) he would become a wanderer on the earth.

After these consequences, the Bible says Cain complained to God that he couldn't bear such a punishment and he went away to settle in a new land void of any contact with his family. Instead of confessing his evil crime, he complained. Instead of asking for God's forgiveness and becoming a forgiven person, he left his godly family and left God entirely.

In the garden, God had originally been everything to man. He provided such a good place for them to live. God provided man with food, companionship, and protection. Everything that man needed, God provided. Even after Adam and Eve were sent away from the garden, God still cared for them. Now, Cain left God and thought that He didn't need God. Cain began to build an existence without God. He started to develop an entire society without God; a society in which people lived their entire lives without ever knowing God or loving God. This was a very deep tragedy.

The Bible tells us that Cain constructed a city for his protection and existence. He began a family. Since they had forsaken God, they had to raise their own food. They had to make weapons to protect themselves. Someone invented musical instruments, and they filled their days with entertainment and enjoyment. It seemed like it was good, but there was something wrong about this. Something very important was missing—God. Cain, with his actions and choices, had produced a society without God.

This was Cain's way. He developed his own culture, a culture without God. This is the same kind of society we live in today. When someone sings a song about the pleasures of the world or makes a movie, they are doing exactly what Cain did. They are being part of a society that has forsaken God.

When I was young, if I got in trouble, I would be sent to my room to consider what I had done wrong. But usually, while I was in my room, I would still be mad and think how wrong my parents were. I would think that when I grew up, I would do things differently. I would not go to the church meetings, I would watch TV all day, I would go to all the places my parents wouldn't allow me to go, and I would say all the words I wanted to speak. In my way of thinking, I would do whatever I wanted to do! *[Storyteller, tell your own story of choosing to go another way.]*

This was just what Cain chose to do. But now, as a grown up, I'm so glad I didn't ever do those things that I had planned in my anger. I am so thankful and happy that I was preserved in my godly family.

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We don't have to be like Cain. We must choose a godly way of living. When we come to children's meeting and choose to participate happily, we are choosing a godly way. When we choose to memorize a Bible verse, we are choosing a godly way. When we choose to read the Bible with our parents, we are choosing a godly way. When we agree with our parent's restrictions—in what we wear, what we listen to, and where we go—that is also choosing to live a godly way. When we choose not to use the foul, dirty words others say, we are choosing the godly way. As we grow, this kind of choosing each day will help us take the way of living a godly life that includes and honors our God rather than forsakes Him.

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Week 7

The Ones who Choose God and His Way

Point to Emphasize: We need to be those who choose God at every stage of our living.

Reference Reading: Genesis 4:25—5:24

Memory Verse: ...For he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6b)

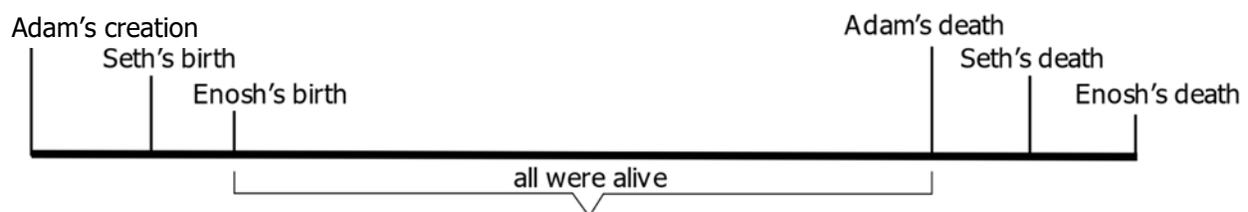
Story Sample

We have talked about Cain and how he decided not to take God's way, how he murdered his brother and how he left God and left his godly family. He ended up living a godless life, rejecting God altogether. Now it is time to see another way of life, a life choosing God's way.

After Abel, Adam and Eve had another son named Seth. They raised Seth in much the same way as they had raised Abel and Cain. They spoke of how they lived in the garden with God and about the terrible thing they had done to eat of the wrong tree. They probably spoke of how God took lambs and sacrificed them, clothing them with lamb's skins. They must have also told him about Abel and Cain. Seth knew that Cain had murdered his brother and left God. At a certain age, Seth also had to choose what kind of life he would have. Seth took the way that his parents taught him. Like Abel, Seth chose God and chose God's way.

Now Seth grew up and raised his family. His first son was called Enosh. He taught Enosh everything that his parents had taught him about God's way. Enosh then grew up and took God's way. He too had a family which took God's way.

Now let's make a family line. We begin with the line of Adam. Adam was 130 years old when Seth was born. Adam lived for 800 more years. Seth was 105 years old when his son Enosh was born. He lived 807 more years. Enosh had a family and lived 905 years.



The reason I wanted you to see this is so you can know how these men lived and see how long they lived. In their early years they followed their parents to take God's way. As they got older and started their own families, they chose to take God's way. As their children grew up and had families of their own, they again chose God's way. At every stage of their life they chose to know God, to come to Him and to love Him, to depend on Him and to take His way, not their own way. I hope that you would be like these ones who chose God continually. At every stage of your life—right now, as a teenager, and then as a young adult, you would remember and be like those who also chose God.

By our line graph you can see that Adam, Seth and Enosh were alive at the same time. This means that they knew each other. Adam was Enosh's grandfather. And as they got older, they

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realized that they needed God even more. They all prayed and talked with God. They all spent time in His presence every day. They called upon the Lord just like your mom and dad do today.

Now, we will skip to the great, great grandson of Enosh. His name was Enoch, and he continued to choose God and follow God's way as those before him. Only Enoch went even further. Every day Enoch talked with God and spent time with God. He did everything with God. In everything he did, he was seeking to please God. The Bible tells us that the society in which Enoch lived was ungodly. This is a strong term. It means that everything around him was going down, forsaking God. But Enoch did not believe what his friends and neighbors said. He believed God just like his godly relatives before him.

I had the very same experience growing up. I was raised in a family that chose God and His ways. My grandpa and my dad, they both knew and loved God. So, when I was about your age, I was already asking myself, do I want to live like my dad and my grandpa or do I want to choose a different path? Sometimes I really wanted to go to children's meetings and pay attention, but sometimes, I really didn't want to go. When grandpa came to visit, he would always ask me, "Can you grab your guitar? Let's sing a hymn! Oh, sometimes I was willing but sometimes I would just fuss, because I wanted to do something else. Many times, I agreed to join him. I have beautiful memories of all of us singing hymns in our living room. So, I was about your age when I decided to live like them, choosing God and His ways. Now, I'm raising my own family, and I am still choosing God and choosing His ways. *[Storyteller, share your story of choosing God and His ways in different stages of your life.]*

Now, you need to know that the Bible says that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. And God rewarded Enoch. Enoch lived over 300 years, and everyday he was well pleasing to God. As a reward, God took Enoch for Himself. He was taken from the earth, and he never died. What a wonderful outcome to a history of godly men!

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Week 8

God's Repentance of Making Man

Point to Emphasize: We must avoid things in the evil society around us that could damage us for God.

Reference Reading: Genesis 6:5-7; *Life-study of Genesis*, msg. 29

Memory Verse: ...He will be a vessel unto honor,...useful to the master, prepared unto every good work. (2 Timothy 2:21b)

Story Sample

After God created man, He said, "Very good" (Genesis 1:31). In God's eyes, man was very good. Then, in Genesis 6, many hundreds of years later, God took another look at mankind and saw that man had become wicked and corrupt to the uttermost. Genesis 6:5 says, "And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." What a change from Genesis 1! Originally, man was on such a high level; noble, even perfect, and now man declined to a low level and had become so wicked and corrupt. Man had no morality in their living.

Verse 6 says that God repented that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart. To repent is to have a deep regret. God regretted that the man He created was so corrupt. There was no hope. This grieved God. To grieve is even more than to feel bad—Grieving hurts to the very center of our being. God was full of sorrow.

What was it about their living that caused God to regret making man? Well, man followed Cain in leaving God and man became evil. As we read in Genesis 6:5, man was doing evil things and was thinking evil thoughts constantly. Evil, wickedness and violence filled society. So, God needed to make this right. The only way to make things right was to clear up this evil on the earth.

Sadly, the world we live in now is very similar to the world they were living in thousands of years ago. There is such wickedness on the earth today. For example, firstly, God created a man and a woman (male and female) and He established it this way. Marriage was between a man and a woman. This is God's way. Anything different that you see in society, in books or in television programs, is part of the evil age. These different and erroneous things grieve God. Since God created us male and female, boy or girl, we just accept it. To say that someone can "change their gender" is to deny God and is part of this evil age.

One more example in this evil age is the pressure on children to have boyfriends and girlfriends. This damages us. When I was your age, some of my girl classmates were already talking about the boys they liked, about kissing and holding hands. My friends would put pressure on me to be like them. However, I decided to wait. I was not going to get myself involved in that kind of talk and participate in those kinds of things as a child! I decided I would wait until graduating from college before thinking about who to marry. I enjoyed my teenage years baking, cooking, playing guitar with the young people, among a lot of other healthy activities. It wasn't until I was 24 years old that I felt I was ready to get married. Oh, it was the perfect timing! Some of my classmates had many boyfriends, and ended up getting married too early. They ended up having complicated lives. I am happy I avoided all of these complications and waited for the right time to get married. [*Storyteller, insert your example of avoiding things from society that could damage you, for a 10-11 year old.*]

Advanced Level, Block 1—Result of Fall

Finally, another evil in this society is the pressure to smoke, vape, take drugs, and drink. All of these things will damage our bodies that were created by God. These things can even damage our bodies permanently. It can damage you physically and psychologically for your whole life. There are some things we've done that we can't erase. Some of these may damage our bodies and shorten our lives. We need to make sure that we don't give in to this pressure. We need to avoid any of these things. We can make the decision to avoid all these things so we can be useful to God.

Advanced Level, Block 1—Result of Fall

Week 9

Noah's Family Building the Ark

Point to Emphasize: We should stand firm with our parents in the household of God, knowing that we live a different life than others.

Reference Reading: Genesis 6:13—7:22; Hebrews 11:7; *Life-study of Genesis*, msgs. 28-29

Memory Verse: ...Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:58b)

Story Sample

Last week we saw that the man that God created, the man that God had been so happy with, became corrupted and evil. God even repented that He had made man. Now, what would God do? Well, there were two outcomes. First, God judged the earth. He is a righteous God and could not let this evil continue. He decided to judge the earth to clear up the entire situation. He would send a huge flood to destroy the whole earth. God needed to judge what was wrong.

The second outcome was that God saved one family. God rewards what is right. Noah was right before God and his family was the only one living according to God's way. So, God provided a way for this family to be preserved. God did not want to judge all the others on the earth, but there was the problem of God being forsaken, just like we learned about with Cain. Those on the earth at that time had also forsaken God and were like Cain. They would not repent of their evil way, and God desired a new start.

In order to have a new start, God needed a man to help prepare the way. He needed someone righteous and just, not one like all those corrupted evil ones. God found this man named Noah. Noah was the 10th descendant in the line of Adam. He followed in the godly way of his forefathers, and he raised his family in the same way. His parents and grandparents taught him the things of God, and he realized that he needed God's grace. Because of this, Noah was a man who was pleasing to God. God chose Noah and his family for a unique project to rescue the situation on the earth at that time. Noah's wife and sons stood firm together with him as one family for God's purpose.

This project was to build an ark that would pass through a huge flood. Noah worked on the ark, according to God's plan, for 120 years. He was in the midst of a crooked and perverse people. These people didn't like what Noah was doing. They made fun of him and laughed at him and said he was ridiculous for building a big boat and saying that a flood would come.

Noah's wife, his sons, and their wives were also with him building the ark. Now, what if you were one of Noah's sons? I know two boys who would go with their dad to every conference while he would set up the audio/visual in his office - waiting and waiting, rather than being outside playing with their friends. Often they complained, but as they grew older, they realized that they could jump in and help too. *[Storyteller, use your example – e.g., setting up chairs, cleaning or help setting up for a love feast.]*

As you see your parents following God, in the household of God, you will see them living a life that is different from others. It might be little things like going to meetings, cleaning the meeting hall or preparing food for others. Or it might be a big thing, like moving to another place to serve the Lord. What will our view of these things be? Will we be like Noah's family, who stood firm with him as he faithfully built the ark?

[Have a discussion with the children about ways they might stand firm with their parents as they follow the Lord in the small, practical ways (like all the zoom meetings, setting up chairs, etc.)]

Advanced Level, Block 1—Result of Fall

Week 10

Eight Being Preserved for God

Point to Emphasize: We must be those who are preserved for God.

Reference Reading: Genesis 6—9; footnotes 8:22¹, 6:18¹; 2 Peter 2:5

Memory Verse: ...And only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark.
(Genesis 7:23b)

Story Sample

When God told Noah that He was about to bring a flood of water upon the earth to destroy everything that was on the earth, He also made a covenant with him. A covenant is an agreement, a contract. Here is an example of a covenant. Growing up I had a summer job. There was an agreement, a covenant between my neighbor and myself. If I watered their lawn while they were gone for two months, then I would get paid when they returned. Well, God made a covenant with Noah that if Noah built the ark and followed His instruction, after the flood, God would restore the earth so all living things could grow and man would multiply on the earth.

Noah and his family carried out all of God's instructions. God told them to go into the ark with all the animals and the food they would need. They did just as God said. After that, God shut the door. After seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth. All the springs of the great deep burst open, and the windows of heaven were opened, and it rained. For forty days and forty nights the flood waters came and covered the earth. And every living thing upon the land was blotted out. But the eight who followed God within the ark were safe and dry. They were safe from God's judgment upon the wickedness filling the earth at that time.

The Bible does not tell us what went on inside the ark as the flood waters covered the earth, but they must have been very thankful that Noah was their father and that he taught them to live in a way that pleased God. Surely, they were so thankful to know God and God's way. Knowing God and God's way saved them from His judgment! But at the same time, they must also have been sad, so very sad to know that they were the only ones in the ark. But it was not their fault that no one else was with them.

Second Peter 2:5 says that Noah was "a herald of righteousness." A herald is one who announces something to others. Not only did Noah build the ark with God, BUT he also spoke to his friends and family. He told them all that they needed to live according to God's way and instruction, like he and his family did. He told them that they needed to get right with God. Noah was not there silently working on the ark. He took every opportunity to tell others. BUT they all chose to live in wickedness and violence. Not one turned from their way. So, they suffered the consequences of their living in that way.

Recently a ten-year-old boy I know was very concerned for all of his classmates, none of which believed that God even exists. He wondered, "Would they all continue in this way, a way of denying that God exists?" He talked with his parents about it several times over the months. It's good for us at this young age to consider and have concern for our friends and classmates. It is good to talk with your parents about it, too. We all should be concerned for others and the kind of life they live. We all should want the best for them—to be in a family that knows and cares for God. *[Storyteller, insert your own story]*

Advanced Level, Block 1—Result of Fall

Now, God remembered Noah and all the animals and all the cattle that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind pass over the earth and the waters subsided. The springs of the deep stopped and the rain from the heavens was held back. After the waters receded, God spoke to Noah, telling him to go forth from the ark. So Noah and his family, all the animals, creeping things, and birds all went forth from the ark. And God gave them a sign of His covenant. He set His bow in the clouds. It was a sign of the covenant between God and all the earth. God would never again blot out all living things on the earth by water. The bow spoke of God's faithfulness in this.

And today we can still see that God has been faithful to this. The earth has been preserved and there are now over 7 billion people inhabiting the earth. God will always be faithful to His word and to His covenant. Just as Noah and his family made the choice to be preserved for God and His unique purpose, we can make the same choice to be preserved for Him today.