


Sunday school Lesson – Upper Primary

Big Idea	God is our rightful ruler
Bible Passage	Genesis 2:9, 16-17; 3:1-24
Preparation	<p>Read Genesis 2:5 – 3:24 This story represents the most catastrophic event in human history. God had made a perfect environment for Adam and Eve to live in, and placed them at the very centre of his creation. He established himself as their provider by generously, lovingly and abundantly taking care of all their needs. God also clearly established his role as their ruler. Adam and Eve were given explicit instructions, with equally clear consequences for disobedience. They were living under the provision and protection of the best possible ruler, and yet knowingly chose to rebel against this rule. The prospect of “being like God” outweighed their present benefits, and they succumbed to the devil’s lie, with disastrous consequences. They discovered that rejecting God’s rule, far from bringing fulfilment and pleasure, instead brought pain, suffering, broken relationships with each other and with God, and ultimately death. This pattern has repeated itself again and again throughout human history. We doubt the goodness and generosity of God’s rule in our lives. We believe the lie that ruling our own lives will work out better, and reject God’s rightful reign over us. Thankfully, the story does not end there. Even here, right at the beginning of human rebellion, God already has his rescue plan in place. Genesis 3:15 offers the first glimpse of a restored order, where God again establishes his rightful rule.</p> <p>Children may have questions as to why God allowed sin to enter the world. If this question is raised, it is important to emphasise human culpability. However, this does not negate God’s sovereignty. In the end, we can’t fully know or understand how both of these things can be true. We can only pass on what the bible teaches – God is completely in control of everything, but we are also completely responsible for our actions – and trust that God is more knowledgeable and wiser than us! Try not to get too side-tracked by this, however. Keep the focus of the lesson on the fact that Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God, although he had given them no cause to do so.</p> <p>Take home message: Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God, their rightful ruler. We naturally choose to do the same thing. But God is the best possible ruler for our lives.</p> <p>Prepare. Write the word “God” in large letters on a piece of card. Stick some card to the back as a stand so it stands up by itself. Put 2 slits in the top of the card so that a crown can slot into them. Write the words “Adam and Eve” on another piece of card and make a stand for the back and slits in the top. Make a crown out of card. Have card, scissors and colouring pencils ready for the children in your class to make crowns also.</p>
	

<p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Get everyone to make a crown out of the card. Make the crown so it is too big for their own head.</p>
<p>Finding Out 1. God is a good ruler (Gen 2:8-10, 15-17)</p> <p>2. The test (Gen 3:1-7)</p>	<p>➤ Review the creation story from last week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What did God say when he saw everything he had made?</i> <p>Read Genesis 2:8-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How would you describe the place that God made for Adam and Eve to live in?</i> <p>➤ Help the children to see that God provided everything that Adam and Eve needed. Not just enough to live on, but all sorts of different types of trees and foods, that were “pleasant to the sight and good for food”. He provided above and beyond just what they needed to live.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: There were 2 special trees in the garden – what were they called?</i> <p>Read Genesis 2:15-17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Which tree were they not allowed to eat from?</i> • <i>Q: What did God say would happen if they ate from this tree?</i> <p>➤ Explain that God made it very clear that he was their ruler. He would look after them and provide for them. <i>(Use the visual aid prepared earlier – put the crown you made onto the card with the word “God” written on it.)</i></p> <p>➤ Adam and Eve’s responsibility was to obey God. He gave them a very clear rule to follow. They knew exactly what they were supposed to do, and what would happen if they disobeyed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Adam and Eve must have enjoyed eating things from all the different trees. What sorts of things do you think they ate?</i> <p>➤ But one day, everything changed. Eve had a visitor...</p> <p>Read Genesis 3:1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Talk about the serpent’s question to Eve. What was he trying to do?</i> <p>➤ Explain that the serpent was trying to get Eve to doubt God’s word.</p> <p>Read Genesis 3:2-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What did Eve answer?</i> <p>➤ Point out that Eve remembered what God had commanded, and what would happen if she disobeyed.</p> <p>Read Genesis 3:4-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What had God said would be the consequence if they disobeyed him and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?</i> • <i>Q: What did the serpent say instead would happen to them?</i> <p>➤ The serpent tried to get Eve to believe that God had got it wrong. They wouldn’t die after all, instead they would be like God if they ate from the tree.</p> <p>➤ Explain that by saying that Eve would be like God, he was saying that she could be her own ruler, instead of having to submit to God’s rule. Eve could get to decide what was right and wrong, instead of obeying God and trusting what he said.</p> <p>Read Genesis 3:6</p> <p>➤ In the end, Eve listened to the snake. She liked the idea of being like God and getting to rule her own life instead of God, so she ate the fruit from the tree. She also gave some to Adam and he ate it as well.</p> <p>➤ <i>(Transfer the crown from the card with “God” written on it to the one with “Adam and Eve” written on it)</i></p>

<p>3. The result (Gen 3:7-19)</p> <p>4. Not the end of the story.... (Gen 3:15)</p>	<p>Read Genesis 3:7-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ask the children to remember what the serpent had said would happen if they ate from the tree (they would be like God – be their own ruler) • <i>Q: Instead, what was the result of eating the fruit?</i> ➤ Show from these verses that far from the ideal future that the serpent promised, the result was shame (v.7-8), a broken relationship with God (v.8), blame (v.12-13), pain and suffering (v.16-19). ➤ Talk about the contrast between living under God as ruler (before they sinned) and what it was like when they chose to rule their own lives. ➤ That could have been the end of the story – just three chapters in the bible. God made people. He was their rightful ruler and looked after them well. People thought they could do a better job of ruling and tried to take God’s place by rebelling against Him. People are punished. ➤ But God is merciful and kind and he didn’t leave the story there. <p>Read Genesis 3:15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God is talking to the serpent and giving him his punishment • <i>Q: Who is he referring to when he says someone will crush the serpent’s head?</i> ➤ One day, Jesus would come and put the order back the way it should be with God being the rightful ruler over everything again. ➤ <i>(Put the crown back on the card with “God” written on it)</i>
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Talk about ways that we do the same thing Adam and Eve did and try to be in charge of our own lives, instead of trusting God’s rule over us. (Try to get them to come up with specific examples from their own lives) ➤ Use the crowns they made. Ask them to try and put them on. Talk about the fact that this is what we are doing when we try to take over from God. Show that we were never meant to wear the crown – it doesn’t fit us! ➤ God has shown that he is the best possible ruler of our lives. He is well able to provide for us and care for us. He knows what is best for us and what the best way to live is. ➤ Trust God to rule your life. This involves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Admitting to God that you have tried to run your own life - Ask God to be the ruler of your life and ask him to help you to submit to his rule
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p>PSALM 145:1 <i>I will exalt you, my God and King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.</i></p>

Sunday school Lesson – Lower Primary

Big Idea	God is our rightful ruler
Bible Passage	Genesis 2:9, 16-17; 3:1-24
Preparation	<p>Read Genesis 2:5 – 3:24 This story represents the most catastrophic event in human history. God had made a perfect environment for Adam and Eve to live in, and placed them at the very centre of his creation. He established himself as their provider by generously, lovingly and abundantly taking care of all their needs. God also clearly established his role as their ruler. Adam and Eve were given explicit instructions, with equally clear consequences for disobedience. They were living under the provision and protection of the best possible ruler, and yet knowingly chose to rebel against this rule. The prospect of “being like God” outweighed their present benefits, and they succumbed to the devil’s lie, with disastrous consequences. They discovered that rejecting God’s rule, far from bringing fulfilment and pleasure, instead brought pain, suffering, broken relationships with each other and with God, and ultimately death. This pattern has repeated itself again and again throughout human history. We doubt the goodness and generosity of God’s rule in our lives. We believe the lie that ruling our own lives will work out better, and reject God’s rightful reign over us. Thankfully, the story does not end there. Even here, right at the beginning of human rebellion, God already has his rescue plan in place. Genesis 3:15 offers the first glimpse of a restored order, where God again establishes his rightful rule.</p> <p>Take home message: Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God, their rightful ruler. We do the same thing. But God is the best possible ruler for our lives.</p> <p>Prepare. Write the word “God” in large letters on a piece of card. Stick some card to the back as a stand so it stands up by itself. Put 2 slits in the top of the card so that a crown can slot into them. Write the words “Adam and Eve” on another piece of card and make a stand for the back and slits in the top. Make a crown out of card. Have card, scissors and colouring pencils ready for the children in your class to make crowns also.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
Getting Started	Get everyone to make a crown out of the card. Make the crown so it is too big for their own head.
Finding Out 1. God is a good ruler (Gen 2:8-10, 15-17)	<p>➤ Review the creation story from last week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>What did God say when he saw everything he had made?</i> <p>Read Genesis 2:9-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>What was the garden like that God made for Adam and Eve to live in?</i>

2. The test
(Gen 3:1-7)

- Show that God provided everything that Adam and Eve needed. Not just enough to live on, but all sorts of different types of trees and foods, that were “pleasant to the sight and good for food”.
- *Q: What sorts of trees do you think were in the garden? (name some trees)*
- *Q: There were 2 special trees in the garden – what were they called?*

Read Genesis 2:16-17

- *Q: Which tree were they not allowed to eat from?*
- *Q: What did God say would happen if they ate from this tree?*
- Explain that God made it very clear that he was their ruler. He would look after them and provide for them. *(Use the visual aid prepared earlier – put the crown you made onto the card with the word “God” written on it.)*
- Adam and Eve’s job was to obey God. He gave them a very clear rule to follow. They knew exactly what they were supposed to do, and what would happen if they disobeyed.

- *Q: Adam and Eve must have enjoyed eating things from all the different trees. What sorts of things do you think they ate?*
- But one day, everything changed. Eve had a visitor...

Read Genesis 3:1

- *Q: What did the serpent ask Eve?*
- Explain that the serpent was trying to get Eve to think that God can’t be trusted.

Read Genesis 3:2-3

- *Q: What did Eve answer?*
- Point out that Eve remembered what God had commanded, and what would happen if she disobeyed.

Read Genesis 3:4-5

- *Q: Do you remember what God said would happen if they disobeyed him and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?*
- The serpent tried to get Eve to believe that God had got it wrong. They wouldn’t die after all, instead they would be like God if they ate from the tree
- Explain that by saying that Eve would be like God, he was saying that she could be the one in charge, instead of having to obey God.

Read Genesis 3:6

- In the end, Eve listened to the snake. She liked the idea of being like God and getting to be in charge instead of God, so she ate the fruit from the tree. She also gave some to Adam and he ate it as well.
- *(Transfer the crown from the card with “God” written on it to the one with “Adam and Eve” written on it)*

- Ask the children to remember what the serpent had said would happen if they ate from the tree (they would be like God – be in charge)



Read Genesis 3:8

- *Q: Instead, what was the result of eating the fruit?*
- They ruined their friendship with God. Instead of being friends with him, now they were afraid of him, and hid from him

3. The result
(Gen 3:7-19)

<p>4. Not the end of the story.... (Gen 3:15)</p>	<p>Read Genesis 3:17-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They also ruined their beautiful world. Now it was a place of pain and sadness. ➤ Talk about the contrast between living under God as ruler (before they sinned) and what it was like when they chose to be the ones in charge. ➤ That could have been the end of the story. But God is kind and didn't finish the story there. <p>Read Genesis 3:15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Explain that this verse is talking about Jesus. One day, he will put the order back the way it should be with God being in charge over everything again. ➤ <i>(Put the crown back on the card with "God" written on it)</i>
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Talk about ways that we do the same thing Adam and Eve did and try to be in charge of our own lives, instead of trusting God's rule over us - whenever we choose to do things our way instead of the way God has commanded us to live. (Try to get them to come up with specific examples from their own lives) ➤ Use the crowns they made. Ask them to try and put them on. Talk about the fact that this is what we are doing when we try to take over from God. Show that we were never meant to wear the crown though – it doesn't fit us! ➤ God has shown that he is the best possible ruler of our lives. He is well able to provide for us and take care of us. He knows what is best for us and what the best way to live is. We can trust him.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p>PSALM 145:1 <i>I will exalt you, my God and King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.</i></p>

Sunday school Lesson – Pre-School

Big Idea	God is our rightful ruler
Bible Passage	Genesis 2:9, 16-17; 3:1-24
Preparation	<p>Read <i>Genesis 2:5 – 3:24</i> This story represents the most catastrophic event in human history. God had made a perfect environment for Adam and Eve to live in, and placed them at the very centre of his creation. He established himself as their provider by generously, lovingly and abundantly taking care of all their needs. God also clearly established his role as their ruler. Adam and Eve were given explicit instructions, with equally clear consequences for disobedience. They were living under the provision and protection of the best possible ruler, and yet knowingly chose to rebel against this rule. The prospect of “being like God” outweighed their present benefits, and they succumbed to the devil’s lie, with disastrous consequences. They discovered that rejecting God’s rule, far from bringing fulfilment and pleasure, instead brought pain, suffering, broken relationships with each other and with God, and ultimately death. This pattern has repeated itself again and again throughout human history. We doubt the goodness and generosity of God’s rule in our lives. We believe the lie that ruling our own lives will work out better, and reject God’s rightful reign over us. Thankfully, the story does not end there. Even here, right at the beginning of human rebellion, God already has his rescue plan in place. Genesis 3:15 offers the first glimpse of a restored order, where God again establishes his rightful rule.</p> <p>Take home message: Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God, their rightful ruler. We naturally choose to do the same thing. But God is the best possible ruler for our lives.</p> <p>Prepare. Write the word “God” in large letters on a piece of card. Stick some card to the back as a stand so it stands up by itself. Put 2 slits in the top of the card so that a crown can slot into them. Draw a picture/stick figures of a man and a woman on another piece of card and make a stand for the back and slits in the top. Make a crown out of card. Have card, scissors and colouring pencils/felt tips ready for the children in your class to make crowns also. Also have pictures of fruit for the lesson.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
Getting Started	Get everyone to make a crown out of the card. Make the crown so it is too big for their own head.
Finding Out 1. God is a good ruler (Gen 2:8-10, 15-17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review the creation story from last week. ● <i>Q: What did God say when he saw everything he had made?</i> <p>Read Genesis 2:9a</p>

<p>2. The test (Gen 3:1-7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God made a beautiful garden, just for Adam and Eve, with lots of different types of trees. The trees had all sorts of different fruits. Imagine if you had a garden with every type of fruit in it. (<i>Show pictures of fruit</i>) • Q: <i>What fruit would you choose to eat?</i> ➤ God provided everything that Adam and Eve needed. <p>Read Genesis 2:16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>Which tree were they not allowed to eat from?</i> • Q: <i>What did God say would happen if they ate from this tree?</i> ➤ Explain that God was the one in charge. He looked after them and gave them everything they needed. (<i>Use the visual aid prepared earlier – put the crown you made onto the card with the word “God” written on it.</i>) ➤ Adam and Eve’s job was to obey God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ But one day, everything changed. Eve had a visitor... <p>Read Genesis 3:1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>What did the serpent say to Eve?</i> ➤ Explain that the serpent was trying to get Eve to disobey God. <p>Read Genesis 3:2-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>What did Eve answer?</i> ➤ Point out that Eve remembered what God had commanded, and what would happen if she disobeyed. <p>Read Genesis 3:4-5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>Do you remember what God said would happen if they disobeyed him and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?</i> ➤ The serpent told Eve that God was wrong. They wouldn’t die after all ➤ Explain that the snake was saying that Eve could be the boss, instead of obeying God and trusting what he said was right. ➤ So, Eve listened to the snake. She liked the idea of being like God and getting to be the boss instead of God, so she ate the fruit from the tree. She also gave some to Adam and he ate it as well. ➤ (<i>Transfer the crown from the card with “God” written on it to the one with “Adam and Eve” written on it</i>)
<p>3. The result (Gen 3:7-19)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ask the children to remember what the serpent had said would happen if they ate from the tree (they would be like God and get to be the boss) • Q: <i>Do you think that’s what happened when they disobeyed God?</i> ➤ No! Instead, they ruined their friendship with God. Instead of being friends with him, now they were afraid of him, and hid from him ➤ They also ruined their beautiful world. Now, instead of being a beautiful garden, it was a place of sadness and pain. • Q: <i>Which was better – when God was in charge, or when Adam and Eve tried to be in charge of their lives?</i>
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use the crowns the children made earlier. Give examples of when we try to be the boss instead of God. With each example, ask them to put their crown on their head. Talk about the fact that this is what we are doing when we try to take

	over from God. Show that we were never meant to wear the crown though – it doesn't fit us! God is the only one who can do the job of being in charge.
Memory Verse	PSALM 145:1 <i>I will exalt you, my God and King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.</i>
Alternative to worksheet	Continue to decorate crowns. Get the children to draw a picture of themselves on the crown and then cross it out. Write "God" on the crown instead.