

PROLOGUE: REDEMPTION NEEDED: CREATION AND FALL**Scene 2: Consequences of the Fall (Genesis 4:1–11:26)**

Memory Verse: *The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time* (Gen. 6:5 NIV).

Background Helps:

The first eleven chapters of Genesis are the prologue to the story of the Bible, to the unfolding drama of God's plan of redemption. These chapters reveal the *need* of redemption by narrating the original creation of man (chaps. 1–2) and his fall into sin (chap. 3) and the subsequent consequences of this fall on the family (chap. 4) and, ultimately, on the whole human race (chaps. 5–11).

According to one definition, “redemption” is “the act of saving something or somebody from a declined, dilapidated, or corrupted state and restoring it, him, or her to a better condition.” Again, “redemption” can be defined as “the buying back of something.” In biblical terms, redemption is the rescuing of humanity from our corrupt, sinful state by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, and restoring us to a relationship with God. Christ bought us back for God by the shedding of his blood. In the midst of the tragic story of the Fall and mankind's subsequent corruption in Genesis 1–11, there are hints of future redemption: 3:15, 21; 4:4; 8:20-22.



Lesson Helps:

In covering Genesis 4–11, there are two alternative approaches you may consider:

1. You could teach a lesson based on all or most of the material found in these chapters, writing an appropriate lesson aim. For example, your aim might read: My students will learn about the consequences of the Fall on the human race, so that they will trust in Jesus Christ to redeem them. In this lesson you would study, in sequence, the impact of the Fall on the family of Adam and Eve (chap. 4), on their descendants (see the references to death in chap. 5), and on the whole human race as evidenced in the days of Noah (chaps. 6–9) and at the Tower of Babel (11:1-9). Help them to see the grave consequences of sin and our need of redemption. Be sure to incorporate the memory verse. Then review the hints of future redemption in these same chapters (see above), and show how this promise of redemption is fulfilled in Christ. Encourage every student to trust personally in the Lord Jesus.
2. Or, you could more rapidly survey the same events covered in the first approach (in order to keep God's unfolding drama of redemption before your students), and then focus on one narrower passage from which you derive your lesson aim. In fact, this plan would probably be the best way to go in children's classes. For example:

- My students will learn about the consequences of sin in the lives of Cain and Abel (Gen. 4:1-16), so that they will work at getting along with their siblings (or, so that they will love another). See also 1 John 3:11-18.
- My students will learn about the flood of Noah's time, so that they will trust in the Lord Jesus to save them from future judgment. Consider using such New Testament passages as Matthew 24:37-38; Luke 17:26-27; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:18-22; 2 Peter 2:5; 3:1-13 (choose from among them!). Include the memory verse.
- My students will learn about the dispersion of the human race at the Tower of Babel (11:1-9), so that they will become involved in bringing the gospel to all nations. In this lesson you could incorporate the Table of Nations in Genesis 10 and the call of Abram in Genesis 12:1-3 (looking ahead to next week's lesson), and show them God's plan to reach all these nations with the gospel.

Assignment:

-  Read about Act I: Redemption Prepared: Israel. Scene 1: God's Choice of a People: The Patriarchs. **Abraham:** Genesis 11:27–25:18.
-  Memorize Genesis 15:6.