

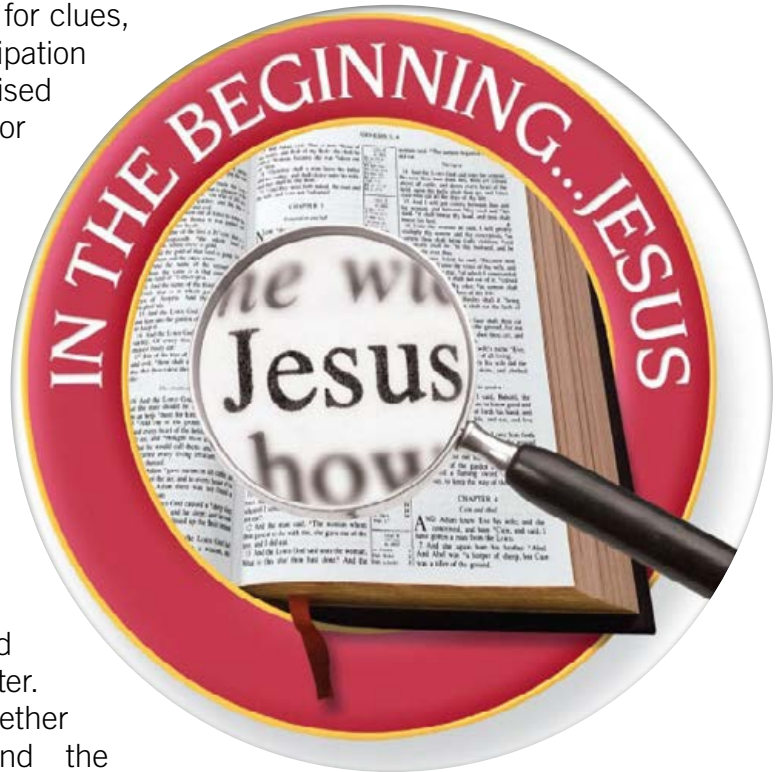
Most of us love a mystery—the challenge of looking for clues, trying to make sense of them, and the growing anticipation of getting closer to the solution. Often, we are surprised by the ending because, from the beginning, the author has intentionally led us in directions that seemed to lead to other conclusions. After the solution is revealed, however, the seemingly disjointed clues make perfect sense as we come to understand the "big picture" of the story.

The greatest author of all wrote a type of mystery story—the Bible. *In the Beginning...Jesus* starts at the beginning of this true story and looks for clues woven into the storyline. These clues point us to the solution to the greatest mystery of all. What is this mystery? The death of Jesus on the cross.

In the Beginning...Jesus helps children understand the "big picture" of the Bible with Jesus at the center. By putting the Old and New Testaments together chronologically, children can better comprehend the intentional flow of the Bible—the progressive revelation of God's plan of redemption, and the eternal, sovereign nature of that plan as it leads to the climax of the mystery.

As children discover Jesus is the key to the clues, they will learn about the central message of the Bible—the saving work of God to reconcile sinners to Himself through Jesus Christ, so that God may be glorified forever. Through the presentation of the Scriptures and the work of the Holy Spirit, we pray children will recognize their own sin and helplessness, embrace Jesus Christ as their only hope, and be reconciled to God through His shed blood on the cross.

Because *In the Beginning...Jesus* presents children with the "big picture," it is ideal for children who are not familiar with the overall message of the Bible. For children who have grown up in the church, some of the material may be familiar, but as they look for the clues they will find new discoveries and connections between the Old and New Testaments.



*In the beginning,
God created the heavens and the earth.—Genesis 1:1*

*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.—John 1:1*

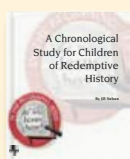
Curriculum Introduction



Curriculum Scope & Sequence



What You Need to Start



Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition



Color Resource Packet



Student Workbook



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Our Mission

Children Desiring God exists to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things so that the next generation may know and cherish Jesus Christ as the only One who saves and satisfies the desires of the heart.

We want millions in every generation to set their hope in God. To that end, we aim to fuel spiritual desire by producing God-centered, Bible-saturated, Christ-exalting resources, and by equipping parents and churches to work in partnership to instruct the mind, engage the heart, and nurture the faith of the next generation.

Our Distinctions

- **God-Centeredness**
The most important question we can ask of Scripture is, "What does this say about our great God?"
- **Depth**
We want to fill students with truth that will make them steadfast, immovable, and always abounding. Thus, the Bible must be taught in depth with accuracy, yet in an age-appropriate and interesting manner.
- **Application**
Teaching falls short if it simply feeds words through students' minds. Truth must be understood and applied. Concrete illustrations and interaction with Scripture help students connect the known to the unknown.
- **Theology**
The truth that our all-powerful, all-loving, Triune God sovereignly orchestrates all things to serve His glory and His good purpose is central to the teaching of each curriculum.
- **Partnership with Parents**
Because parents, not churches, have the primary responsibility before God for the spiritual nurture of their children, the curricula are structured to help churches "walk alongside" parents, enabling and equipping them in this God-given role.

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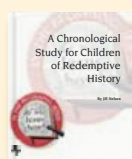
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IN THE BEGINNING...JESUS INTENDED USE: Sunday School TARGET GRADE: 3rd LESSONS: 40 ESV/NIV



In the Beginning...Jesus Scope & Sequence

In the Beginning...Jesus is a chronological study for children on redemptive history. Throughout the study, students use weekly clues, which are placed on the *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster to discover the answer to the mystery of who killed Jesus and why. In this study, students will memorize two longer passages of Scripture: Isaiah 53:3-12 and John 1:1-18.

Lesson 1: What Happened Here?

The Crucifixion (Matthew 26-27; Luke 23; John 19)

The Bible is one, complete, true story that reveals the solution to the greatest mystery of all—the death of Jesus on the cross.

- ▶ This first lesson sets the stage for this study by revealing a mystery. Students will be solving this mystery throughout the study as they ponder the question: “Who killed Jesus and why?”

Memory Verse: None

Lesson 2: Back to the Beginning

Post-Resurrection Reactions (Luke 24)

The whole Bible is necessary for understanding the mystery of Jesus’ death on the cross; Jesus is the key to understanding the Bible.

- ▶ The first clue in the mystery is revealed as students learn that the Bible is not simply a collection of verses, people, and events tossed together at random. All of the Bible points to God’s plan for His people. Jesus is the key to understanding the mystery at hand. It is in this lesson that the children discover that in order to find more clues to this mystery, they’ll need to start at the beginning of the Bible.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:3a

Lesson 3: God Creates His Image Bearer

Creation of Man (Genesis 1-2)

God created man in His image so man might enjoy a special relationship with Him forever.

- ▶ Students discover what it means to be made in the image of God and why it is important. They will study the perfect relationship that God created between Himself and man at the beginning of creation, and the value of this relationship.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:3b

Lesson 4: The Fall, the Curse, and the Promise

The Fall and Its Effects (Genesis 2-3)

God is right to punish sin with death; God has a plan for solving the problem of sin and death.

- ▶ As students study the fall of man in this lesson they will discover that the desire of Adam and Eve to be independent from God and disobey Him is sin and deserves the punishment of death. The effect of their actions on human relationships with God is examined.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:4

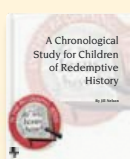
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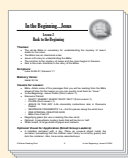
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Lesson 5: God's Mercy and Abel's Response of Faith			Cain and Abel (Genesis 3-4)	
God is merciful—He is kind to undeserving sinners.				
▶ In this lesson, students will discover the wonder of God's mercy as He provides a way for sinners to come to Him through the requirement of a covering for sin. Children will also see why we are all born sinners because of Adam and Eve's sin. As students look at Abel's story, they will see that it was by faith and trust in God that Abel was considered a friend of God.				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:5a				
Lesson 6: God Judges the World, but Has Favor on Noah			The Flood (Genesis 6-8)	
God is grieved by sin, and is right to judge sinners; God is faithful to all His promises.				
▶ After Cain and Abel, man's wickedness increased on the earth. God's righteous judgment against these sinners was the Flood. But God also showed His grace through the unmerited favor He showed to Noah and his family, by providing a way for them to escape this judgment. Children will see that Noah trusted God's one way of salvation from the punishment for sin, and that God is pleased when sinners trust Him.				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:5b				
Lesson 7: God Scatters the Nations & Chooses One Man for Himself			Babel and the Call of Abram (Genesis 9-12)	
Man is sinful and is in rebellion against God; God alone is the Sovereign Ruler—no one who opposes Him can win.				
▶ After the flood, God commanded Noah and his sons to multiply and fill the earth, but man was still sinful and rebellious toward God. The people of Shinar thought they could oppose the one, true God, but no one can oppose God and win. Near the end of this lesson, children will be introduced to Abraham, a man chosen by God. It is through this one man that God will make a great nation to bless the world.				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:6				
Lesson 8: God's Covenant with Abram			Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12)	
God will accomplish all His plans.				
▶ God chose Abram to make one great nation to bless the world. In this lesson, students will study the binding covenant made between God and Abram. Even though it was difficult, by faith Abram obeyed God's call and depended on God's faithfulness. Through exploration of some events in Abram's life, the children will see that despite man's obstacles, God's plans will not be thwarted.				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:7a				
Lesson 9: God Gives Abraham and Sarah a Child of Promise			Promise and Birth of Isaac (Genesis 12-19)	
God's promises are received through faith in God.				
▶ In His covenant with Abraham, God had promised a multitude of offspring. Yet in their old age, Abraham and Sarah still did not have any children. But God is faithful and gave Abraham and Sarah the child He promised. This lesson is designed to help students see that God is completely trustworthy.				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:7b				

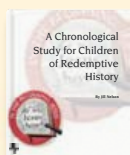
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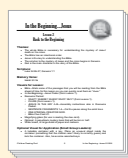
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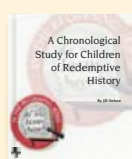
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Lesson 10: God Provides Abraham with a Right Offering			Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22)	
Faith in God is demonstrated through obedience to God.				
▶ In the last lesson, the students learned that God made a binding covenant with Abraham and his son, Isaac. In this lesson, students will study the need of God's people to have a right covering for sin. Abraham responded to this need in obedient faith. Just as He did with the ram and Abraham, students will discover that what God requires of His people to cover their sin, He graciously provides.				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:8a				
Lesson 11: God's Providence and His Choice of Jacob			Abraham's Descendants Grow (Genesis 22-25)	
God directs people and events to bring about His purposes.				
▶ In previous lessons, students learned that God promised to make Abraham a great nation that would bless the world. In this lesson, students will see that after the death of Abraham, God continued His covenant promise through Isaac, and after Isaac He chose to continue His covenant through Jacob. As they study the descendants of Abraham they will be searching for evidence of God's sovereignty in the lives of these men to bring about His plan.				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:8b				
Lesson 12: Jacob's Deceit and God's Design			Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25-28)	
Man's sin cannot thwart God's design.				
▶ This lesson continues the study of God's faithfulness to the descendants of Abraham. Before his birth, God chose Jacob to inherit the covenantal promise made to Abraham and Isaac. Though neither Jacob, nor his brother Esau deserved God's special promises, God chose to be merciful to Jacob. Jacob deceitfully stole his brother's birthright, but students will see that sin cannot thwart God's plans.				
Memory Verse: Review Isaiah 53:3-8				
Lesson 13: God Preserves Israel in the Land of Egypt			Life of Joseph (Genesis 37-50)	
God causes evil to serve His good purposes.				
▶ The study of Abraham's descendants continues as students learn how God changed Jacob's name to Israel, therefore making his sons the beginning of the nation of Israel. Students will see God's eye watching and His hand working in the lives of Jacob and his sons to preserve His people in Egypt in faithfulness to his covenant.				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:9				
Lesson 14: The LORD Chooses Moses to Be His Prophet			Moses' Birth, The Burning Bush (Exodus 1-3)	
God's name, "I AM," points to His uniqueness.				
▶ God prospered His people in Egypt during the time of Joseph, but over time the people of Israel became enslaved by the Egyptians. But God's plans will not be thwarted. God chose Moses to be His prophet, through whom He would deliver His people. God revealed his name to Moses at the burning bush, giving us a glimpse into the plan of deliverance for His people.				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:10a				



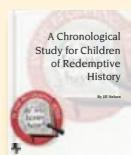
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Lesson 15: The Plagues and the Passover			The Plagues and the Passover (Exodus 3-12)	
God is sovereign over all things—even the hearts of men.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ In the previous lesson, God appointed Moses as His prophet to deliver His people from Egypt. Now God carries out the beginning of His plan through his right judgment delivered through the plagues and his mercy to Israel through the Passover. Students will see that God is almighty. No one can oppose Him and succeed. Emphasis is placed on the Passover and its foreshadowing of the future Passover Lamb. 				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:10b				
Lesson 16: The Exodus			The Crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 12-14)	
Trusting God is the only way to be saved.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The last lesson demonstrated that God is almighty—no one can oppose Him and succeed. In the next part of God's plan, God is faithful to the people of Israel and delivers them from bondage in Egypt by showing His sovereignty over all creation and parting the Red Sea to create a path of escape. This lesson focuses on the absolute necessity of trusting God as the only means to salvation. 				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:11				
Lesson 17: God's Covenant with Israel			Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 15-19)	
God is merciful—He is kind to undeserving sinners.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ After Israel's release from Egypt, God shows He is faithful and good by providing for all the needs of His people. In His desire to have a special relationship with His chosen people, He establishes a covenant with Israel in which He outlines the conditions of His relationship with His treasured people. 				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:12a				
Lesson 18: God's Law is Given to Israel			The 10 Commandments (Exodus 19-20)	
God's law is holy, righteous, and good.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The previous lesson introduced God's covenant with Israel. This lesson continues to explore that covenantal relationship as God gives Israel His law. This law described how Israel was to live as a redeemed people of God. 				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:12b				
Lesson 19: The Blood of the Covenant and the Tabernacle			The Covenant Confirmed (Exodus 24-25)	
God's commandments show us that we are sinners and deserve death.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ In Lesson 18, students learned how God's commandments described how Israel was to live as the delivered people of God. The commandments also showed the Israelites that they were sinners and deserved death. In this lesson, God seals the covenant with blood, showing Israel its dependence on His mercy and forgiveness. God then introduces the idea of dwelling in the midst of His people in the tabernacle. 				
Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:12c				
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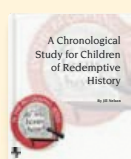
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Lesson 20: The Tabernacle, Priests and Sacrifices	The Construction of the Tabernacle (Exodus 25-30)			
The holy God desires to dwell with His people.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The previous lesson introduced the tabernacle. This lesson focuses on that topic as God instructs Israel how to worship Him in the tabernacle. Emphasis is placed on how God chose priests to be mediators between God and His sinful people. He commanded the priests to offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of their own sins and the sins of the people. On the Day of Atonement, the one high priest could enter the Most Holy Place, foreshadowing the Great High Priest who was to come. 				
Memory Verse: Review Isaiah 53:3-12				
Lesson 21: The Golden Calf and the Renewal of the Covenant	The Golden Calf (Exodus 31-34)			
God is merciful and faithful.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The previous lessons introduced students to the binding covenant God made with Israel. However, Israel was quick to break God's covenant when they built the golden calf. Students will see that God is right to punish those who break His commands, but because He is merciful and faithful, He renewed His covenant with Israel. 				
Memory Verse: John 1:1-2				
Lesson 22: Israel's Wandering in the Wilderness	Israel's Unbelief (Numbers 11, 13-14, and 21)			
God is faithful, merciful, and good.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The faithful God leads Israel toward the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But when they arrive, Israel's unbelief in the goodness of God results in a wilderness wandering for 40 years. As the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness, God remained merciful and faithful to them, even when sending snakes among them, to teach them to depend wholly on Him for salvation. 				
Memory Verse: John 1:3				
Lesson 23: God Leads Israel into the Promised Land	Israel Conquers Jericho and Ai (Portions of Joshua)			
God's people must trust and obey Him in all things.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ God is faithful to all His promises. He had promised to send Israel a new prophet after Moses. In this lesson, God chooses Joshua to lead His people into the promised land, and the people of God must trust and obey Him as they enter the promised land. 				
Memory Verse: John 1:4				
Lesson 24: God Appoints Judges and Gives Israel a King	The Era of the Judges (Portions of Judges)			
God punishes people for their disobedience.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ After God gave Israel the promised land (Lesson 23), Israel turned to idolatry. In this lesson, God rightfully punishes the people of Israel for their disobedience, and in His mercy He appoints judges to deliver His people. However, Israel rejects God's rule and desires a king. 				
Memory Verse: John 1:5				



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Lesson 25: God Establishes His Kingdom Through David Davidic Covenant (Portions of 1 and 2 Samuel) God chose a king after His own heart.

- ▶ At the end of the previous lesson, Israel asked for a king. In this lesson, God gives Israel a king after *their* own heart: Saul. But God rejects Saul and chooses for Israel a king after *His* heart: David. Another clue to the mystery is revealed as God blesses David and promises to him an everlasting throne on which his offspring will reign forever.

Memory Verse: John 1:6-7

Lesson 26: The Rise and Decline of the Kingdom Under Solomon Solomon's Reign (Portions of 1 Kings) God is faithful to all His promises.

- ▶ Picking up where the previous lesson leaves off, this lesson explores how God made Israel into a great nation through the kings, David and Solomon. He instructs Solomon to build a special place of worship, the temple, in Jerusalem. However, though he blessed the kingdom, David and Solomon were still sinners in need of punishment. God brings strife into David's family because of his sin and Solomon eventually turns away from the one true God. At the end of this lesson, God divides the kingdom of Israel.

Memory Verse: John 1:8

Lesson 27: God's Prophets Foretell Coming Judgment and Deliverance Various Old Testament Passages God promised to make a new kind of covenant with His people.

- ▶ As seen at the end of the previous lesson, God punished His sinful people by dividing them into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah. In this lesson, God sends prophets to His people warning them of judgment if they do not repent. He sends enemy nations to take Israel and then Judah into captivity, but He promises to send a new type of King to rule over His people and promises to make a new kind of covenant with them.

Memory Verse: John 1:9

Lesson 28: A Man of Sorrows Isaiah's Prophecy of the Messiah (Isaiah 53) God promised His people a new kind of heart.

- ▶ In the last lesson God had promised His people a new kind of King and a new kind of covenant. In this lesson, students grow closer to solving the mystery as they study Isaiah's foretelling of a Man who would bear the sins of God's people, take upon Himself their punishment, and heal them. God then promises a new kind of heart.

Memory Verse: John 1:10

Lesson 29: God's Anointed One Various Passages God promised to send His Anointed One to bring good news to His sinful people.

- ▶ This lesson shows students that through His prophets, God predicted the re-building of Jerusalem and temple, and the return of His people. Students will review various events in the Old Testament and review the clues that were revealed to move another step closer to solving the mystery.

Memory Verse: Review John 1:1-10

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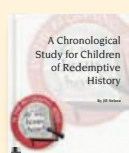
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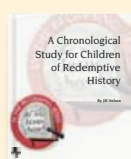
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Lesson 30: The Day of the Lord's Coming	Inter-Testamental Period (Portions of Malachi and Luke)			
God promised to send a messenger to prepare the way for the coming King.				
▶ This lesson covers the 400 years that separate the events of the Old and New Testaments, and then leaps into the beginning of the New Testament. God promises to send a messenger to prepare the way for the coming King. John the Baptist is born in fulfillment of this promise.				
Memory Verse: John 1:11				
Lesson 31: The Promised King and Savior is Born	Birth of Jesus (Various Gospel Passages)			
Jesus was born to a virgin in Bethlehem, fulfilling Old Testament promises.				
▶ In the previous lesson, God prepared the way for Jesus with the birth of John the Baptist. This lesson focuses on the birth of Jesus and how His birth fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies that Jesus would be born to a virgin (Mary) and be born in Bethlehem. In this lesson, the clues from previous lessons begin to come together to reveal the answer to the mystery.				
Memory Verse: John 1:12				
Lesson 32: Jesus: Son of Man	Various Gospel Passages			
Jesus became fully human.				
▶ This lesson focuses on Jesus' humanity. Students will study why Christ needed to be fully human to save God's people. They will also study Jesus' family tree to see how His family fulfills more Old Testament promises about the Messiah.				
Memory Verse: John 1:13				
Lesson 33: Jesus: Son of God	Various Passages from John			
Jesus is fully God AND fully man.				
▶ The previous lesson focused on the humanity of Christ. This lesson focuses on the divinity of Christ. Students will learn how Jesus' divinity fulfilled several Old Testament promises. They will also discover that because Jesus is God, He is able to do what no one else could do—save sinners. Most importantly, this lesson teaches that Jesus is the only way sinners may be saved.				
Memory Verse: John 1:14a				
Lesson 34: Jesus: Perfect Law Keeper	Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4)			
Jesus kept God's holy and righteous commands, succeeding where all others have failed.				
▶ As the last two lessons showed, Jesus is fully God and became fully human, too. This lesson examines how Jesus is eligible to save us from the penalty of sin because He is the Perfect Law Keeper. Just like Adam, Jesus was tempted, but He didn't sin. Jesus kept all of God's commands, succeeding where all other people have failed. Jesus was victorious over Satan, which fulfills more Old Testament promises.				
Memory Verse: John 1:14b				
Lesson 35: Jesus: The Final Word	Various Gospel Passages			
Jesus brings completion to the Bible and explains the whole message of the Bible.				
▶ Jesus is God's Anointed One, the Messiah, the One able to fulfill all of the promises (clues) revealed in the Old Testament. Jesus speaks with final authority and is God's greatest Prophet. This lesson reviews Jesus' life showing that He indeed is the Messiah.				
Memory Verse: John 1:15				



Scope & Sequence

The Scope & Sequence provides an overview of the curriculum, including lesson titles, main Scripture passages, key themes, a short description of each lesson, and memory verse, if applicable. Short and expanded versions of the Scope & Sequence are also available as PDF downloads at childrendesiringGod.org

USAGE TIPS:

- Explain to church leaders what children are learning at each grade level.
- Help teachers and small group leaders understand the scope and sequence of the curriculum in order to teach the material more effectively.
- Share the scope and sequence with parents to give them an overview of the year, and to help them assist their son or daughter with review. It can also help parents know how to specifically pray for their children.

IN THE BEGINNING...JESUS INTENDED USE: Sunday School TARGET GRADE: 3rd LESSONS: 40 ESV/NIV

Lesson 36: Jesus: Great High Priest

Jesus Cleanses the Temple (John 2)

Jesus is our great High Priest, the one Mediator between God and sinful man.

- ▶ The Old Testament appointment of a temple and priests was temporary, pointing to something better—Jesus. Students will discover that the fullness of God dwells in the Person of Jesus. It is Christ and Christ alone who brings His people into presence of God.

Memory Verse: John 1:16

Lesson 37: Jesus: Lamb of God

Redemption Through Christ (Portions of Hebrews)

Jesus offered Himself as the one perfect sacrifice for sin.

- ▶ The Old Testament system of priests, sacrifices, and temple was temporary, pointing something much better—Jesus. In this lesson, we see that not only is Jesus the great High Priest, but He is also the perfect sacrifice for sin—the Lamb of God. The death of Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies and our punishment for sin.

Memory Verse: John 1:17

Lesson 38: The Mystery is Solved!

Various New Testament Passages

The new covenant is for all people who trust in Jesus alone for their salvation.

- ▶ This lesson encourages students to take what they've discovered in the past 37 lessons to reveal the answer to the mystery: Jesus came to establish a new covenant between God and His sinful people. This new covenant promises deliverance from sin and death because of what Jesus accomplished. This new covenant is everlasting and has been made official by the shed blood of Jesus. The new covenant is for all people who trust in Jesus alone for their salvation.

Memory Verse: John 1:18

Lesson 39: Jesus: Returning King

Various New Testament Passages

Jesus will one day return to earth as the triumphant and reigning King.

- ▶ Now that students know the solution to the mystery, what does this mean for the future? This lesson shows students that 1) Jesus' resurrection is proof that the new covenant has been enacted and accomplishes what it promises; 2) Jesus fulfills the Old Testament clues concerning the throne of David; and 3) Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the throne in heaven. They will also discover that Jesus will one day return to earth as the triumphant and reigning King.

Memory Verse: Review John 1:1-18

Lesson 40: A Story for You

Various New Testament Passages

All people respond to Jesus, either in belief resulting in eternal life, or unbelief resulting in eternal condemnation.

- ▶ This lesson summarizes the curriculum by telling students that God desires to save sinners through what Jesus has done on the cross. God has written all people into the story of the Bible. It has a personal message for each of us, because all people respond to Jesus, either in belief or unbelief.

Memory Verse: None

Curriculum Introduction

Curriculum Scope & Sequence

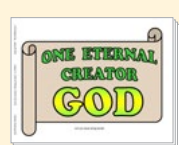
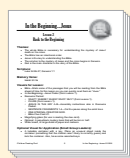
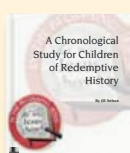
What You Need to Start

Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition

Color Resource Packet

Student Workbook

Parent Resource Pages



What You Need to Start

In the Beginning...Jesus was written to be taught to middle elementary students over 40 weeks in a Sunday school setting. The two main components of class time are the lesson—25-30 minutes, and the application time—15-30 minutes. Directions for adapting the curriculum to different time frames or settings, such as a school or home, are included.

The main teacher or team leader for the class should begin with a Teacher's Kit and a Student Workbook for each student attending the class.

Teacher's Kit

ORDER ONE PER CLASSROOM

This kit contains the basic tools you need to start teaching this curriculum.

Each kit contains:

A. Teacher's Notebook

1 - Three-ring binder containing curriculum introduction, lessons, appendix, Parent Resource Pages, and answer keys for certain workbook and Parent Resource Pages.

B. Student Workbook

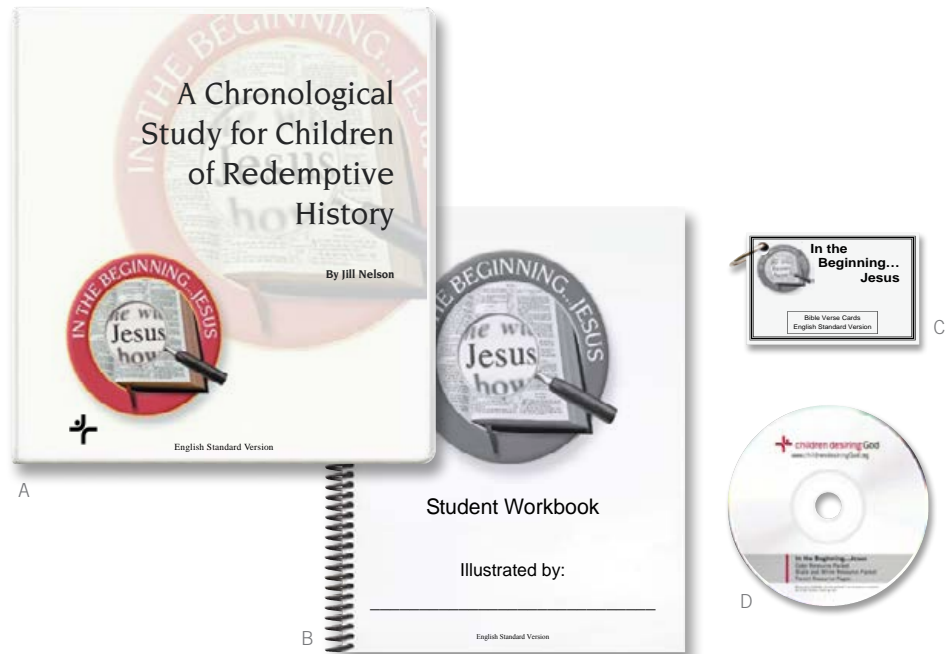
1 - Spiral-bound student workbook

C. Verse Card Packet

1 - Pocket size verse card packet for Scripture memory work. Cards are printed on heavy cardstock and bound with a metal ring.

D. Visuals CD

1 - CD containing printable PDFs of visual resources and Parent Resources Pages. (Printed copies of the visual resources may also be ordered in color or black and white, if desired.)

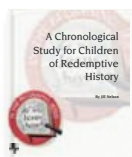
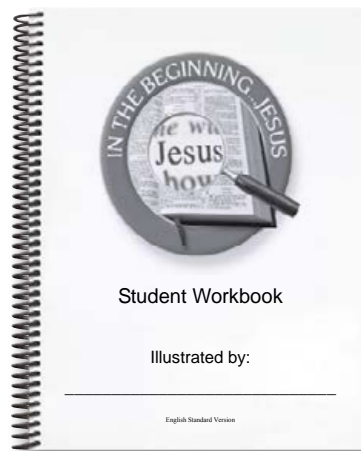


Student Workbooks

ORDER ONE PER STUDENT

(AVAILABLE IN PRINT AND ELECTRONIC FORMATS)

Recommended for every student for use in class during the application time. The workbooks are used for emphasizing key themes and Scripture, reviewing past lessons and helping children apply truths learned to their life. The workbook is available printed on heavy cardstock with a spiral binding, or as a downloadable PDF you can print at your convenience.



Additional Resources

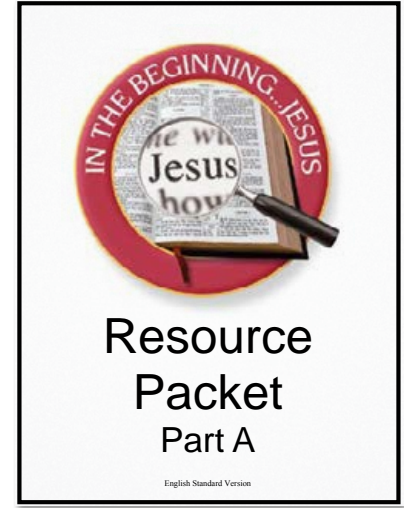
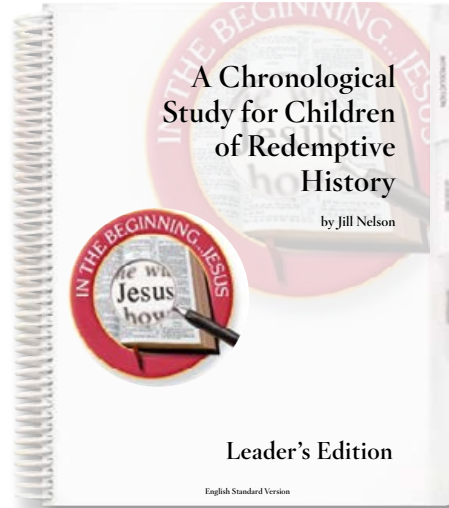
Depending on the size and structure of your children's ministry program, as well as the teaching styles of the ministry team, you may need additional resources in order to accommodate co-teachers and small group leaders, or to better equip your students to memorize Scripture. The resources listed below are recommended based on these and other variable factors.

Leader's Edition

ORDER ONE FOR EACH ADDITIONAL TEACHER OR SMALL GROUP LEADER

(AVAILABLE IN PRINT AND ELECTRONIC FORMATS)

A. The Leader's Edition is designed to equip small group leaders and co-leaders with their own copy of the curriculum to study and pray through as they prepare to minister to the children under their care. It includes the curriculum introduction, lesson content, and appendix. Leader's Editions are available printed with a spiral binding or as an electronic download.



Resource Packet

ORDER ONE IF YOU WOULD LIKE PRINTED VISUALS

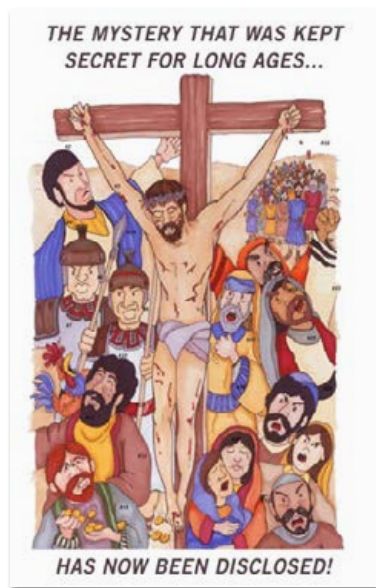
(AVAILABLE IN COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE)

B. A full set (237 pages) of visuals are professionally printed on cardstock (in either color or black and white). The visuals are also available as PDF files on the Visual Resources CD in the Teachers Kit, if you prefer to print them yourself.

Poster Set

ORDER ONE PER CLASS

C. This full-color, two-piece poster is a strongly recommended part of the curriculum that will be used throughout the entire curriculum. It is made of durable vinyl so it can be reused year after year. Flip open windows will reveal clues to children each week as the poster also helps keep their attention on Jesus' work on the cross.



Verse Card pack

ORDER ONE PER STUDENT OR FAMILY

D. Verse cards provide a handy tool for children to use to memorize the verses that correspond to the truths they are learning each week. Cards are printed on heavy cardstock and bound with a metal ring.

50 inches

31.5 inches

Top layer of the poster is shown here. Windows reveal clues on the bottom layer.

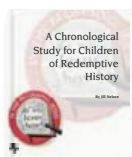
Curriculum Introduction



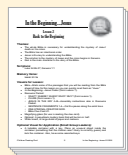
Curriculum Scope & Sequence



What You Need to Start



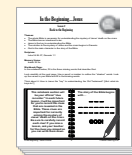
Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition



Color Resource Packet



Student Workbook



Parent Resource Pages



Teacher's Notebook/ Leader's Edition

This sample shows how the lessons are structured and what a teacher will use to prepare and teach the material.

Teachers should read through all the lessons (or the Scope & Sequence) before teaching the first lesson. This helps the teacher understand how the lessons build on one another week-by-week.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Lessons are included in the Teacher's Kit and in the Leader's Edition. Each teacher and small group leader should have a copy to prepare for the lesson and application times.

Each lesson is focused around several key themes and passages of Scripture, which are highlighted at the beginning of each lesson, along with the memory verse for the week.

In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 2

Back to the Beginning

Themes:

- The whole Bible is necessary for understanding the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross.
- The Bible has an intentional order.
- Jesus is the key to understanding the Bible.
- The solution to the mystery of Jesus and the cross begins in Genesis.
- God is the main character in the story of the Bible.

Scripture:

Luke 24:26-27; Genesis 1:1

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 53:3a

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible—Mark some of the passages that you will be reading from the Bible ahead of time for this lesson so you can quickly read them as “clues.”
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* Poster (from Lesson 1).
- Resource Packet:
 - WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHO? WHY? (from Lesson 1).
 - CLUES (from Lesson 1).
 - JESUS IS THE KEY A-B—Assembly instructions also in Resource Packet.
 - SENTENCE FRAGMENTS 1-4—Cut the pieces along the solid lines.
 - ONE ETERNAL CREATOR GOD.
 - Bible Clue Card #1.
- Magnifying glass (for use in reading the clue card).
- Optional: A paperback mystery book that will be torn in half.
- White board, or large sheet of paper and markers.

Optional Visual for Application (Small Group Leaders):

- A lockable container with a key. Place an unusual object inside the container (something that the children aren't likely to correctly guess) and lock the container. Also, have some assorted keys.

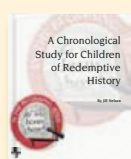
Curriculum
Introduction



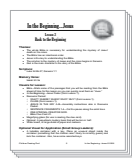
Curriculum
Scope & Sequence



What You
Need to Start



Teacher's Notebook
and Leader's Edition



Color Resource
Packet



Student
Workbook



Parent
Resource Pages



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ORDERING TIPS:

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Many lessons start with an illustration to catch the children's attention, as well as a short review of previous themes and clues discovered. This can help children who have missed a class to catch up.

Tips for working with visuals, interacting with the children, and explaining challenging concepts are included throughout the lesson.

Lesson

Display the *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster from Lesson 1.

Display the **WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHO? WHY?** visual and ask: *What happened here?* [Jesus died on a cross.] *Where did it happen?* [Outside the city of Jerusalem.] *When did it happen?* [During the Jewish Passover—about 2,000 years ago.] *Did the people who were there at the time of Jesus' death understand who did it?* [No.] *Did they truly understand why Jesus' died?* [No.] *Why not?* [It had been kept secret. They didn't know the whole story yet. They didn't have the whole Bible.]

Optional illustration: **Display** the paperback mystery book. Choose two children to come to the front and tell the class to pretend the following scenario:

Suppose [child's name] and [child's name] each want to read this exciting mystery story. What if I did the following? (Open the book, tear it down the middle of the binding, and give each child a half.) Would [child's name] and [child's name] be able to solve the mystery?

Point out that the child with the last half of the book would know “who done it and why,” but wouldn't know what had been done. The child with the first half of the book would know what was done, but not who did it or why. You need the **WHOLE** story to solve the mystery.

Point to the bottom of the poster and remind the children that although the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross was kept secret for long ages, it has now been revealed because we now have the **WHOLE** story. We have both the Old and New Testaments. **Display** the Bible. Emphasize that the **WHOLE** Bible is necessary for understanding the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross.

Display the **CLUES** visual from Lesson 1. Recall that clues are hints that help us solve a mystery. Point to the picture of the person on the visual. Ask the children what they would call a person who looks for clues to solve a mystery. [A detective.] Remind the children that at the end of the first lesson you said they would be acting as detectives during our lessons—looking for clues to solve the greatest mystery of all—who killed Jesus and why He was killed. Where will we need to look for these clues? [In the Bible.] The Bible contains the “clues” to the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross.

Tell the children that you will start looking for clues by reading from the Bible—from both Old and New Testaments. [Have the passages marked ahead of time so that you can turn to each and read through it quickly. As you read, the verses should flow together as one continuous thought.]

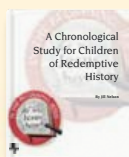
Curriculum Introduction



Curriculum Scope & Sequence



What You Need to Start



Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition



Color Resource Packet



Student Workbook



Parent Resource Pages



Teacher's Notebook/ Leader's Edition

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ORDERING TIPS:

- Lessons are included in the *Teacher's Kit* and in the *Leader's Edition*. Each teacher and small group leader should have a copy to prepare for the lesson and application times.

Teachers are encouraged to lead children to discover concepts through interactive lessons. Multiple illustrations are used to reach children with different learning styles and keep students engaged.

Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? (1 Corinthians 5:6b)

So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders. (Exodus 12:34)

They are like a heated oven whose baker ceases to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened. (Hosea 7:4b)

Ask: *Was this a good way to look for Bible clues? Why not?* [Allow the children to respond.]

Illustration: Have four children come up and each take a **SENTENCE FRAGMENT**. Tell the children that the fragments (or portions) are parts of a complete sentence. Their job is to use the fragments to put together the correct sentence. When the children are finished, have them hold their signs in order (left to right) in front of the class:

A PRETTY BLUE BIRD FLEW DOWN AND PECKED AT A WARTY TOAD

Ask the children if the order in which the word fragments were put together matters very much. For example, what if you were to change the order of the sentence fragments? **Display** this by exchanging the "A WARTY TOAD" fragment with the "A PRETTY BLUE BIRD" fragment so that the sentence now reads:

A WARTY TOAD FLEW DOWN AND PECKED AT A PRETTY BLUE BIRD

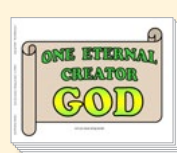
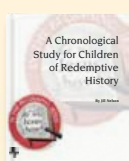
Point out that by changing the order of the words, we come to a totally different meaning to the sentence—and one that is very silly! Explain that this illustration can help us understand how we go about looking for clues in the Bible.

Display your Bible again and comment: *Not only is it important to have the WHOLE Bible for solving the mystery; it's also important that we put the clues from the Bible in their CORRECT ORDER.*

Emphasize that the Bible is not simply a collection of verses, people, and events tossed together at random. The Bible has a certain order to it. The Bible was written in a way that allows us to look for clues and put them in the right order.

Display Bible Clue Card #1. Tell the children that this card has a special clue on it that will help us know where in the Bible to begin to look for clues to solve the questions: "Who killed Jesus, and why did He die on a cross?"

Choose a child to come to the front. Hold the card up and ask him to read the clue printed on it. (Note: Do not allow him to hold and really study the card. It is important



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ORDERING TIPS:

- Lessons are included in the Teacher's Kit and in the Leader's Edition. Each teacher and small group leader should have a copy to prepare for the lesson and application times.

Children are urged to bring their Bible to class and are given the opportunity to look up Scripture during Sword (Bible) Drills.

that he not have a close enough look at it until you have placed it into the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual.) After he looks confused or comments that he can't read the card, ask the children what might be wrong. How will he be able to read the clue on the card? Explain to the children that you have a verse that might help solve the problem. [Have the child return to his seat.]

Have the children do a **Sword Drill** with **Luke 24:26-27**:

"Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Note: For an explanation of Sword Drills, see Appendix III.

Who is asking the question in verse 26? Go back and look at verse 15 of chapter 24 for the answer. [Jesus was asking the question.]

Remind the children that in our first lesson we learned of the two men who were walking together along a road near Jerusalem soon after Jesus' death. As they were walking, Jesus joined them, but they didn't recognize that He was Jesus.

Why would it be shocking to them that it was Jesus talking to them? [He was supposed to be dead.]

Explain that Jesus spoke these words to the two men after His resurrection—after He had risen from the dead! Jesus knew that they were confused by His death. Jesus knew that they didn't understand who did it and why. So He explained it—interpreted it—to them. He revealed to them the mystery that had been kept secret for long ages.

Ask: According to verse 27, how did Jesus go about explaining it to them? Where in the Bible story did He begin? [Beginning with Moses and the Prophets.]

Point out that "Moses and the Prophets" refer to the men God used to write down His words in the Old Testament. Jesus was explaining to the two men that the Old Testament Scripture was filled with clues about Himself and His death on the cross. Jesus explained to them what the clues were, where they were found, and how they explained the mystery of His death on the cross.

Jesus is the key to understanding the Old Testament and its clues. We need Jesus to understand what the clues are and what they mean.

Display the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual.

Quickly recall the four themes presented so far:

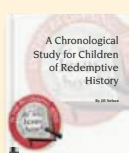
Curriculum Introduction



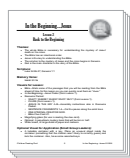
Curriculum Scope & Sequence



What You Need to Start



Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition



Color Resource Packet



Student Workbook



Parent Resource Pages



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Key themes for the teacher to point out are highlighted in each section of the lesson. These short phrases are easy for the teacher to repeat and for students to remember.

Specific scripting is provided in certain sections to help teachers know how to word challenging or intricate concepts.

- We need the WHOLE Bible to understand the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross.
- The Bible contains the CLUES to the mystery.
- We need put the clues from the Bible in the CORRECT ORDER—beginning with the Old Testament.
- JESUS IS THE KEY to understanding the clues.

Ask: *Exactly where in the Old Testament should we start looking for the clues?*

Explain that the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual can help us with this. Point to the red part that reads "Jesus." Have a child take **Bible Clue Card #1** and the magnifying glass (to help with reading the clue). Have the child slide the card into the slit above the red portion until the words become visible through the red paper:

Start at Genesis 1:1

Ask if any of the children can recite Genesis 1:1 from memory, and then have the children turn to Genesis 1:1 in their Bibles and read the passage together:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Tape the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual on a wall in the front of the classroom (at a height that will be easily accessible to the children).

Ask: *What does the very first verse of the Bible tell us?*

Activity: Use a white-board or large piece of paper and make the following headings:

Who? What?

Ask: *Who is the only Person mentioned in this verse? [God.] Is anyone else mentioned? Does it say "gods"? No! There is only one God. The story of the Bible begins by telling us something very important—the Bible is about the one God. It is His story. Solving the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross begins with God. (Write "One God" under the Who? heading.)*

Ask: *According to this verse, what did God do? [He created the heavens and the earth.] Who alone created the heavens and the earth? One God did. There is only this one God, and He alone is the Creator of everything. (Under the What? heading write "Created.")*

Ask: *If this one God is the Creator of everything, then He alone was never created—He alone had no beginning. There is a special word that is used to describe this. What is it? [God is eternal.] (Write "Eternal" under the Who? heading.)*

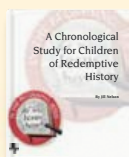
Curriculum Introduction



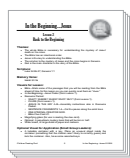
Curriculum Scope & Sequence



What You Need to Start



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Color Resource Packet



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The application questions are most effective in small groups of six to 10 children. The questions prompt meaningful conversation and go through the application material students have in their workbooks. Children are able to review the truths presented during the lesson and discuss how to practically apply them to their personal lives.

Ask: *When did God create everything?* [In the beginning.]

Point out that the very first sentence of the Bible provides us with the starting point of our mystery: God! The mystery of Jesus' death on the cross begins with the one eternal Creator God. **Display** the **ONE ETERNAL CREATOR GOD** visual.

The first verse of the Bible is very important for solving the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross. But we have a long way to go yet, and many clues to discover from the Bible!

Briefly summarize by stating the main themes presented:

- We need the WHOLE Bible to understand the mystery of what happened on the cross.
- The Bible contains the CLUES to solve the mystery.
- We need to put the clues from the Bible in the CORRECT ORDER—beginning with the Old Testament.
- JESUS IS THE KEY to understanding the clues
- The solution to the mystery begins in Genesis 1:1 with the one eternal Creator God.

Application

- **WORKBOOK**—Have the children turn to Lesson 2 in their workbooks. Read the comments and instructions that are written in the notebook section at the bottom of the page. Have them fill in the missing words on the three blank lines. What do these three words tell us about God? What does the word “eternal” mean? Have the children read **Psalm 90:2**. [Eternal means God has no beginning or end.] Is this also true of the things He created? Why not? As we read through the story of the Bible, from beginning to end, why is it important to know that God is eternal? Is the story of the Bible about someone who lived a long time ago but is now dead or will be dead in the future? How does this matter for your own life? How do you think that this might help us to solve the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross?
- **WORKBOOK**—Have the children look at the right hand side of the page. Instruct the children to use a colored pencil or marker to highlight the “shadow” words “key” and “Jesus.” How is Jesus the key to understanding the Bible (especially the Old Testament)? If available, show the children a locked container. Ask them if they know what's inside—it's a mystery that you are keeping secret! Give them a few vague hints (you don't want them to be able to guess what is inside). What would they need to open the container? A key. Place some keys on the table and have them try to open

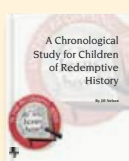
Curriculum Introduction



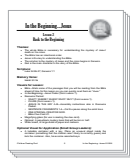
Curriculum Scope & Sequence



What You Need to Start



Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition



Color Resource Packet



Student Workbook



Parent Resource Pages



Teacher's Notebook/ Leader's Edition

This sample shows how the lessons are structured and what a teacher will use to prepare and teach the material.

Teachers should read through all the lessons (or the Scope & Sequence) before teaching the first lesson. This helps the teacher understand how the lessons build on one another week-by-week.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Lessons are included in the *Teacher's Kit* and in the *Leader's Edition*. Each teacher and small group leader should have a copy to prepare for the lesson and application times.

Small groups are encouraged to look deeper into Scripture as they discuss concepts presented in the workbook.

Teachers are reminded to send parent resources, review sheets, and take-home activities home with students at the end of class. If needed, materials are available on the Visuals CD.

the lock. Next, show them the key you have. Unlock the box to reveal what is inside. How can this illustration help us to understand that Jesus is the key to understanding the Scriptures?

- **WORKBOOK**—Have the children look up the verses listed at the bottom of the right-hand side of their workbook page. Have the children write in the missing words from each verse. What does **Hebrews 1:1-2** tell us about Jesus? What part of the verse tells us that Jesus is the key to understanding the Bible? Next, have the children fill in the missing words to **Luke 24:27**. How does this verse help us in our search for clues in correctly solving the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross?
- Some stories, especially mystery stories, are made-up stories. They are not about real people or real events. Is the Bible a true story? Why should this matter to us? Read and discuss **2 Timothy 3:16** and **2 Peter 1:20-21**. Why do you think God wanted the story of the Bible written down and passed on from generation to generation?
- Read **Hebrews 11:3**. What do the words, *by faith*, mean? (Read 11:1 to help.) *Do you have the faith that makes you sure that God created the whole world? Is it still hard for you to understand? Can you believe something to be true even though you can't fully understand it? Is it hard for you to understand that God, and God alone, had no beginning? Can you still trust that it is true even though you can't fully understand it? Have you ever been in a situation where someone tried to tell you that the world wasn't created by God? How did you respond? Can you depend on the Bible, or should you trust other ideas that people may have? Read and discuss **1 Corinthians 2:13-14**. Would you say that you are more like the "natural" person or are you more like the "spiritual" person? What makes the difference?*

Send Home

- Parent Resource Page

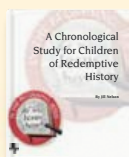
Curriculum Introduction



Curriculum Scope & Sequence



What You Need to Start



Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition



Color Resource Packet



Student Workbook



Parent Resource Pages



Color Resource Packets

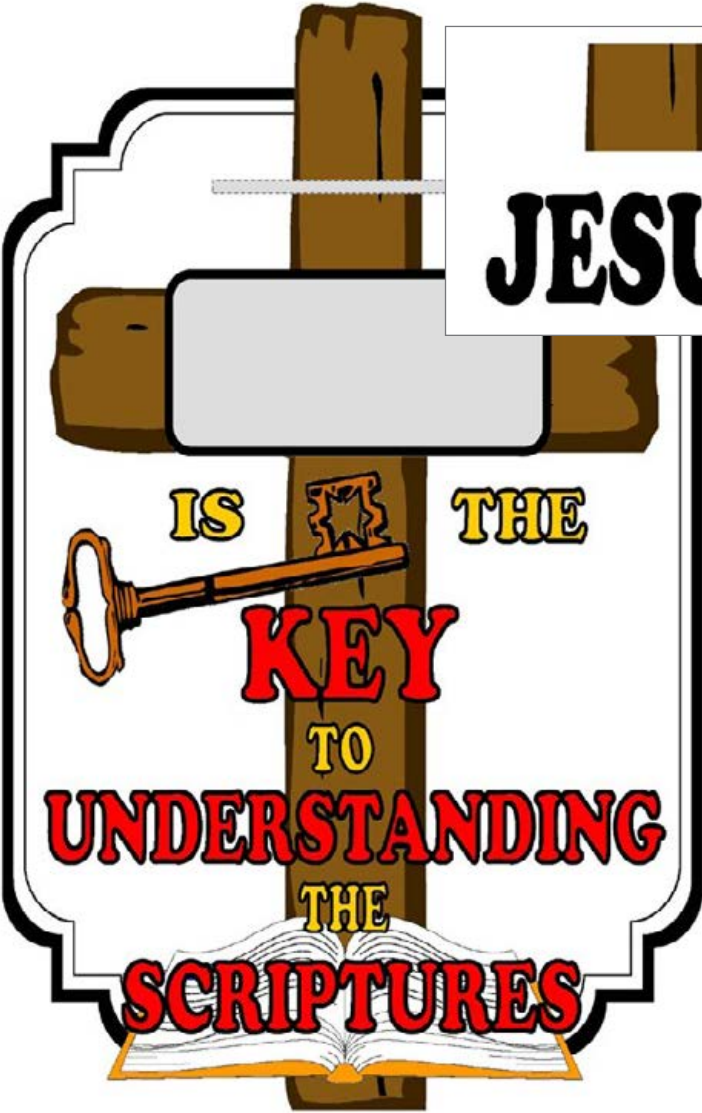
Visuals help explain illustrations and make lessons more interesting, impacting, and understandable. These visuals can be re-used for years, so it is important to store them carefully.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Order one (color or black and white) resource packet per classroom if you prefer to use professionally printed visuals.
- You can also print your own visuals from the Visuals CD, which is included with each Teacher's Kit.

Visuals include signs, diagrams, pictures, and clue cards that are used to teach part of the lesson.

Instructions are included for any visuals that need to be cut out or assembled.



JESUS

IS THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE SCRIPTURES

Front side of A

Cut out the two shaded areas on the visual.

Back side of A

After cutting out and removing shaded areas of A, the back side will look this:

Take the red transparent provided in the Resource Packet and cut it to an appropriate size.

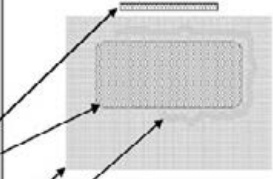
Carefully glue the red paper to the back side of A so that it shows through the front side in the larger window.

A and B


Place A directly on top of B. Glue them together around the outer edges, but leave the bottom edge open. (This will allow you to retrieve the Bible Clue Cards in case they accidentally fall through the upper slit.) The finished visual will look like this:

This will be referred to as the JESUS IS THE KEY visual throughout the curriculum.


Front side of A



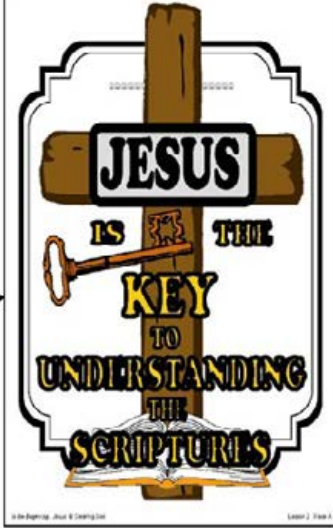
Back side of A



A and B



Finished Visual



In the Beginning...Jesus © 2008

Lesson 2—JESUS IS THE KEY A

Children Desiring God

In the Beginning...Jesus © 2008

Lesson 2—JESUS IS THE KEY Instructions for Assembly

Children Desiring God

Curriculum Introduction

Curriculum Scope & Sequence

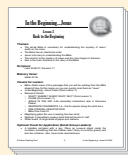
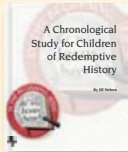
What You Need to Start

Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition

Color Resource Packet

Student Workbook

Parent Resource Pages



Color Resource Packets

Visuals help explain illustrations and make lessons more interesting, impacting, and understandable. These visuals can be re-used for years, so it is important to store them carefully.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Order one (color or black and white) resource packet per classroom if you prefer to use professionally printed visuals.
- You can also print your own visuals from the Visuals CD, which is included with each Teacher's Kit.

In the Beginning...Jesus © 2008
Lesson 2—SENTENCE FRAGMENTS 1-2
Children Desiring God

A PRETTY BLUE BIRD

FLEW DOWN AND

PECKED AT

A WARTY TOAD

In the Beginning...Jesus © 2008
Lesson 2—SENTENCE FRAGMENTS 3-4
Children Desiring God

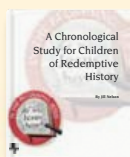
Curriculum Introduction



Curriculum Scope & Sequence



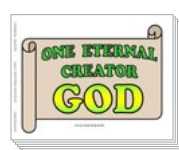
What You Need to Start



Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition



Color Resource Packet



Student Workbook



Parent Resource Pages



Color Resource Packets

Visuals help explain illustrations and make lessons more interesting, impacting, and understandable. These visuals can be re-used for years, so it is important to store them carefully.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Order one (color or black and white) resource packet per classroom if you prefer to use professionally printed visuals.
- You can also print your own visuals from the Visuals CD, which is included with each Teacher's Kit.

Since visuals are re-used from year to year, it is important to organize them neatly and label them clearly. Laminating flat visuals can increase durability.

Misplaced or worn visuals can be replaced by printing them from the Visuals CD, which is included in the Teacher's Kit.

Some visuals are used during the application time for a workbook activity. Instructions are provided when copies are needed for an activity.

In the Beginning...Jesus © 2008

Lesson 2—ONE ETERNAL CREATOR GOD

Children Desiring God

ONE ETERNAL
CREATOR
GOD

Cut out visual along border.

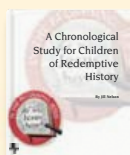
Curriculum Introduction



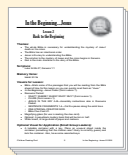
Curriculum Scope & Sequence



What You Need to Start



Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition



Color Resource Packet



Student Workbook



Parent Resource Pages



In the Beginning...Jesus

Sunday School Curricula

A Chronological Study for Children of Redemptive History

Target Grade: 3rd Grade Range: 3rd-4th Lessons: 40
Translations: ESV / NIV Author: Jill Nelson

Color Resource Packets

Visuals help explain illustrations and make lessons more interesting, impacting, and understandable. These visuals can be re-used for years, so it is important to store them carefully.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Order one (color or black and white) resource packet per classroom if you prefer to use professionally printed visuals.
- You can also print your own visuals from the Visuals CD, which is included with each Teacher's Kit.

Children decode Bible Clue Cards in each lesson to discover Scripture references and learn when they can open a window on the *In the Beginning...Jesus* Poster. The decoder is assembled with materials in the Resource Packet.

Picture clues are unveiled in the windows on the *In the Beginning...Jesus* Poster. A copy of the picture clues is also included in the Resource Packet and on the Visuals CD for use in small groups.

The image displays a set of educational materials. On the left, there are six 'Bible Clue Cards' numbered 1 through 6, each featuring a magnifying glass icon and a red grid area. On the right, there are four 'Picture Clue Cards' arranged in a 2x2 grid. The top-left card (Window # 30) shows a silhouette of a man's head with the text 'God's IMAGE BEARER' and 'GENESIS 1:27a'. The top-right card (Window # 16) shows a tree with fruit and the text 'PERFECT OBEDIENCE LIFE' and 'GENESIS 2:16-17'. The bottom-left card (Window # 6) shows a sword with a flame and the text 'PUNISHMENT FOR SIN DEATH' and 'GENESIS 2:19, 24'. The bottom-right card (Window # 22) shows a hand stepping on a snake and the text 'GENESIS 3:15'. At the bottom of the page, there is a copyright notice: 'In the Beginning...Jesus © 2008 Picture Clue Cards Children Desiring God'.

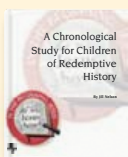
Curriculum Introduction



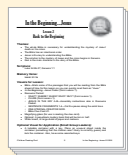
Curriculum Scope & Sequence



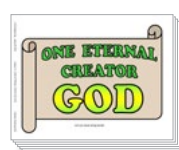
What You Need to Start



Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition



Color Resource Packet



Student Workbook



Parent Resource Pages



Student Workbook

Student Workbooks reinforce lesson truths and encourage discussion and review. It is recommended that you store workbooks in the classroom during the year. Then, at the end of the year, students can take the workbook home and continue to review the lessons. Workbooks are printed on heavy, marker-friendly cardstock and are spiral bound.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Order one workbook per student. Copies of a lesson can be made for visitors.
- Electronically downloadable workbooks are available if you prefer to print your own copies.

Key themes, Scripture, and memory verses used in the lesson are provided for reference, along with instructions for completing the workbook activities.

Space is given for the young detectives to write down the clues learned in the lesson. At the end of the year, all of the clues can be put together to solve the mystery of Jesus's death on the cross.

In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 2

Back to the Beginning

Themes:

- The whole Bible is necessary for understanding the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross.
- The Bible has an intentional order.
- Jesus is the key to understanding the Bible.
- The solution to the mystery of Jesus and the cross begins in Genesis.
- God is the main character in the story of the Bible.

Scripture:

Luke 24:26-27; Genesis 1:1

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 53:3a

Workbook Page:

In the notebook below, fill in the three missing words that describe God.

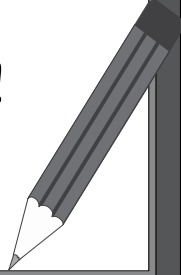
Look carefully at the next page. Use a pencil or marker to outline the "shadow" words. Look up the verses in your Bible and fill in the missing words.

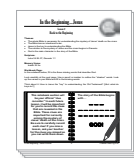
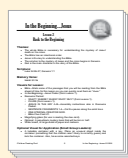
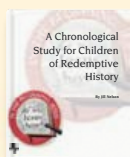
Think about it: How is Jesus the "key" to understanding the Old Testament? [Hint: what do keys do?]

This notebook section will be your official "clue recorder." In each future lesson, it will be important for you to record the clues that are revealed in the Bible. These clues are important for correctly solving the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross. Be sure to carefully record each clue! If you miss a lesson, ask your teacher for the clues you missed so you can write them down.

The story of the Bible begins with ...

GOD!





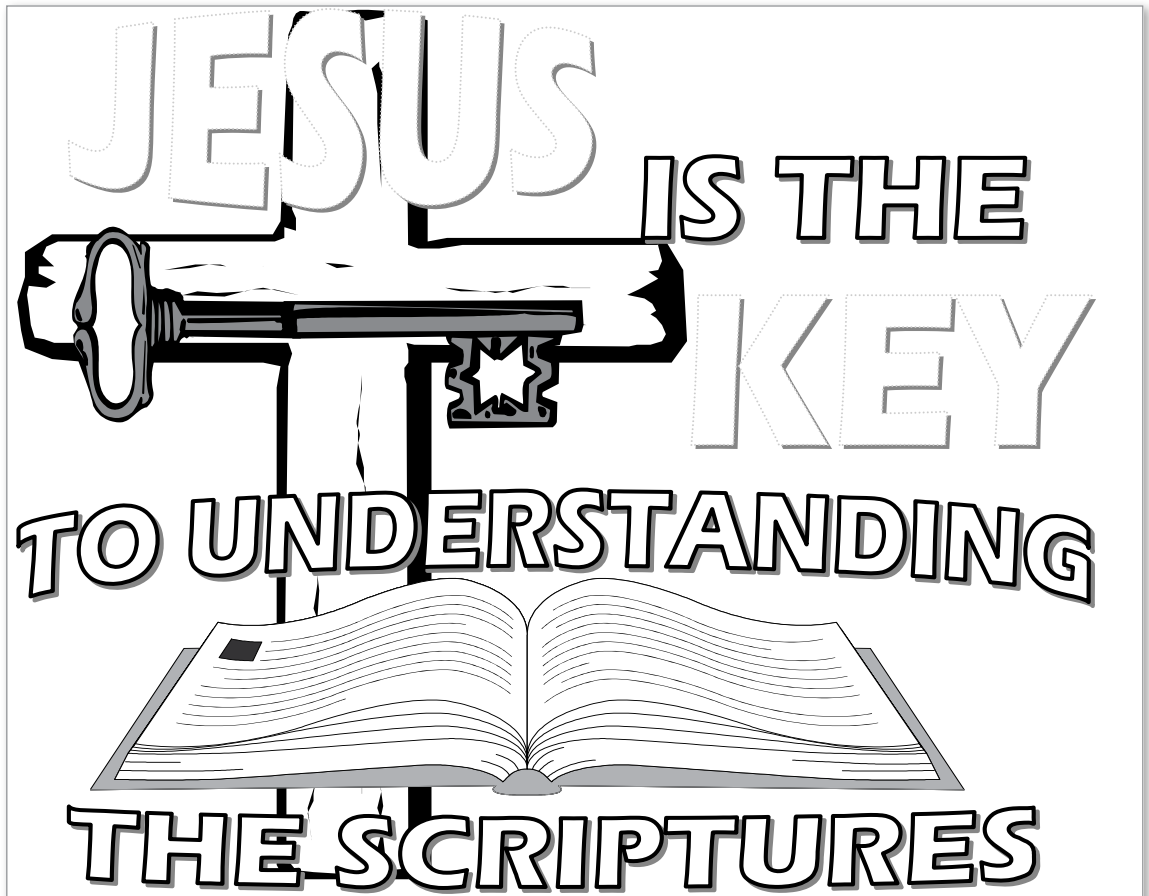
Student Workbook

Student Workbooks reinforce lesson truths and encourage discussion and review. It is recommended that you store workbooks in the classroom during the year. Then, at the end of the year, students can take the workbook home and continue to review the lessons. Workbooks are printed on heavy, marker-friendly cardstock and are spiral bound.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Order one workbook per student. Copies of a lesson can be made for visitors.
- Electronically downloadable workbooks are available if you prefer to print your own copies.

The right-hand page of the workbook contains activities designed to help students process what was presented in the lesson, relate the truths to everyday situations, and apply the concepts in their own lives. Activities include filling-in-the-blank, answering short questions, drawing, matching, and decoding secret messages.



Hebrews 1:1-2

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the _____, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His _____.

Luke 24:27

And beginning with _____ and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the _____ the things concerning Himself.

Curriculum Introduction

Curriculum Scope & Sequence

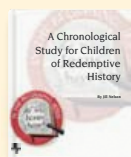
What You Need to Start

Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition

Color Resource Packet

Student Workbook

Parent Resource Pages



Parent Resource Pages

Parent Resource Pages provide an overview of the lesson so parents can discuss the material with their son or daughter. Parents are also able to reinforce the lesson themes throughout the week with their child. These pages can be photocopied and distributed after class or emailed to parents each week.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Parent Resources Pages are included in the Teacher's Kit, both printed in the binder and as PDF files on the Visuals CD.

An introduction page provides an overview of the curriculum so parents know what their children will be learning throughout the year. It is essential for teachers to connect with parents in order to effectively partner with them throughout the year.

In the Beginning...Jesus



Introduction for Parents

The Bible is one complete, true story. Although it consists of 66 separate books, which make up the Old and New Testaments, it has one central and comprehensive message. What is this message? The saving work of God to reconcile sinners to Himself through Jesus Christ, that God may be glorified forever. Because Jesus is central in God's eternal plan of salvation, Jesus is central in all of the Bible, from start to finish. Although Jesus is not mentioned by name in the Old Testament, His presence is everywhere. In fact, the purpose of the Old Testament is to set the stage for Jesus' arrival.

In the Beginning...Jesus was written to assist children in understanding the "big picture" of the Bible. This curriculum has been designed to help children see that the focus of the Bible centers around the Person and work of Jesus. Through this study we hope that children will better comprehend the intentional flow of the Bible—the progressive revelation of God's plan of redemption and the eternal, sovereign nature of that plan. Furthermore, by beginning the study with Jesus and His death on the cross, we will emphasize the necessity of Jesus in fully understanding the Old Testament.

Finally, our prayer is that through the presentation of the Scriptures, the explanation of the gospel, and the work of the Holy Spirit, the children will recognize their own sin and helplessness, and turn and embrace Jesus Christ as their only hope, and be reconciled to God through His shed blood on the cross!

A Word about the Parent Resource Pages

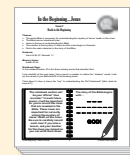
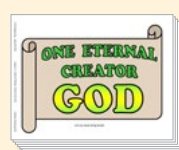
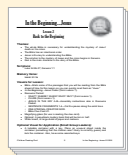
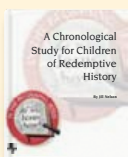
As Deuteronomy 6:5-9 says,

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (ESV)

Clearly the responsibility, as well as the privilege, of nurturing the faith of children rests primarily on parents. Parents have the greatest opportunity for teachable moments—everyday situations in which the truth of God's Word can be applied. Faith nurturing should not be seen primarily as a classroom experience, but rather as a consistent weaving of spiritual truth into everyday life. Parent Resource Pages have been provided for each lesson to help the church and home partner together.

Using the Parent Resource Page

The front side of each Parent Resource Page lists the following information for the corresponding lesson: Lesson Title, Themes, Scripture, Memory Verse, Today's Clue, and a section called *Home and Heart*. Please use this information and the questions listed to talk with your children about the



Parent Resource Pages

Parent Resource Pages provide an overview of the lesson so parents can discuss the material with their son or daughter. Parents are also able to reinforce the lesson themes throughout the week with their child. These pages can be photocopied and distributed after class or emailed to parents each week.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Parent Resources Pages are included in the Teacher's Kit, both printed in the binder and as PDF files on the Visuals CD.

Special aspects of the curriculum such as the "clues" are explained so parents can understand what the students are learning and can help answer their questions.

Parents are challenged to memorize two passages of Scripture along with their children during the year.

biblical truths presented. Encourage your child to think and pray about his response to hearing God's Word and what it reveals about God's character. The back side of each Parent Resource Page has an additional activity for your child to complete. As much as possible, we want to encourage your child to be reading and studying the Bible during the week. The *Discover More* section has additional scripture references to help your child go beyond what is covered in the classroom, along with a variety of means for recording what he or she has learned. Your child's teacher has an Answer Key for many of these pages to check your child's work. Please note that some of the answers are "translation specific," meaning that they are specific to the English Standard Version of the Bible.

A Note Concerning the "Clues"

According to Jesus, from the very beginning of the Bible narrative in Genesis, God carefully and intentionally wrote the "clues" concerning Jesus and His redemptive purposes into the storyline (Luke 24:27). Jesus' death on the cross was not some random act in history or even a plan God made up along the way as people and circumstances warranted. Jesus was God's plan from the very beginning. To help your child understand this important truth, the curriculum has been developed within the overall theme of a mystery.

As your child's class progresses through Lessons 1-30, the children will be collecting "clues" that hint at the solution to the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross. An example of a *clue* would be Isaiah 7:14 where we are told of a virgin who will give birth to a Son (which in the New Testament is then fulfilled by the birth of Jesus to Mary). Most of the clues listed in this study are not what are commonly called "prophecies" concerning Christ. (The example of Isaiah 7:14 would be considered a prophecy.) Rather, many of the clues are examples of *typology*. Bible scholar Graeme Goldsworthy defines typology as "the recognition that within Scripture itself certain events, people, and institutions in biblical history bear a particular relationship to later events, people, or institutions. The relationship is such that the earlier foreshadows the later, and the later fills out or completes the earlier" (*Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2000, 77). An example of typology in the Old Testament would be Abraham sacrificing his one, loved son Isaac, as recorded in Genesis 22. As important as this event is within its own historical and theological context, namely, the example of the patriarch Abraham and his complete faith in God, the more important aspect of this story is that it points us ahead to God's sacrifice of His one and only Son Whom He loved so that sinners might be reconciled to Him.

Lessons 30-39 look at the New Testament to understand how the Old Testament clues find their fulfillment and completion in the Person and work of Jesus. These lessons also show the unity of the Bible narrative as we progress from the Old to New Testament. Through these lessons your child will see that the message of Jesus and His death on the cross was God's design from the very beginning of the Bible. The triune, sovereign God directed all people and events to serve His perfect purposes.

A Note about Memory Verses

During the year, your child will be encouraged to memorize two larger scripture portions in small increments—Isaiah 53:3-12 in Lessons 2-20, and John 1:1-18 in Lessons 21-39. The children will learn these scriptures verse by verse and week by week. Please encourage your child in daily Bible memory. If possible, memorize these verses along with your child. In doing so, you will be demonstrating the importance of memorizing God's Word, whether we are young or old. If you do not have a copy of the Bible in the English Standard Version, you can look up the scripture passages on the internet, using a website such as Bible Gateway or the Blue Letter Bible, which both offer free access to the scriptures in several different translations.

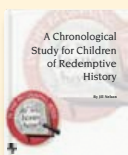
Curriculum Introduction



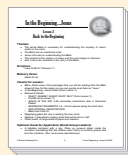
Curriculum Scope & Sequence



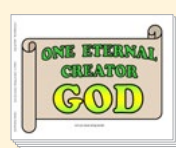
What You Need to Start



Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition



Color Resource Packet



Student Workbook



Parent Resource Pages



Parent Resource Pages

Parent Resource Pages provide an overview of the lesson so parents can discuss the material with their son or daughter. Parents are also able to reinforce the lesson themes throughout the week with their child. These pages can be photocopied and distributed after class or emailed to parents each week.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Parent Resources Pages are included in the Teacher's Kit, both printed in the binder and as PDF files on the Visuals CD.

Students are given a sheet at the end of each class to take home to their parents. The front side of the page provides parents an overview of the lesson and key themes, Scripture, and memory verse, as well as suggestions for how to prompt conversation about the lesson. The goal during the week is for the lesson themes and facts to transfer from knowledge in children's heads to cherished beliefs in their hearts.

In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 2 Back to the Beginning

Themes:

- The whole Bible is necessary for understanding the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross.
- The Bible has an intentional order.
- Jesus is the key to understanding the Bible.
- The solution to the mystery of Jesus and the cross begins in Genesis.
- God is the main character in the story of the Bible.

Scripture:

Luke 24:26-27; Genesis 1:1

Memory Verse:

Isaiah 53:3a

Home and Heart:

Read together the story of Jesus on the road to Emmaus from Luke 24:13-27. (You may have already read verses 13-21 in Lesson 1.) What did Jesus do to explain to the disciples what had happened to Him on the cross? What does this tell us about the purpose of the Old Testament? What does this tell us about Jesus? How is Jesus the "key" to understanding the Bible—including the Old Testament? Read and talk about Hebrews 1:1-3 and John 1:1-3. How do these passages connect Jesus with the very beginning of the Bible?

Read Genesis 1:1 with your child. This verse is the starting point for solving the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross. What questions does this verse answer? Who is the main character of the Bible? What did He do? When did He do it? Read Psalm 90:2. What does this verse tell us about the one Creator God? [God is eternal—He has no beginning and will have no end.] As we read through the story of the Bible, why is it important to know God is eternal? Is the story of the Bible about someone who lived a long time ago but is now dead or will be dead in the future? How does this matter for your own life? How do you think this might help us to solve the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross?

Read Hebrews 11:3 with your child. What do the words "by faith" mean? (Read verse 1 for help.) Ask your child: *Do you have faith that makes you sure God created the whole world? Is it still hard for you to understand? Can you believe something to be true even though you can't fully understand it? Is it hard for you to understand God is eternal—He had no beginning and will have no end? Can you still trust it is true? Why is it important to know God is eternal? Have you ever been in a situation when someone tried to tell you God didn't create the world? How did you respond? Can you depend on the Bible, or should you trust the ideas of other people?* Read and discuss Psalm 119:89,160; 1 Corinthians 2:13-14.

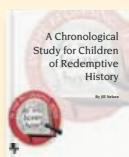
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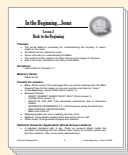
Curriculum Scope & Sequence



What You Need to Start



Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition



Color Resource Packet



Student Workbook



Parent Resource Pages



Parent Resource Pages

Parent Resource Pages provide an overview of the lesson so parents can discuss the material with their son or daughter. Parents are also able to reinforce the lesson themes throughout the week with their child. These pages can be photocopied and distributed after class or emailed to parents each week.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Parent Resources Pages are included in the Teacher's Kit, both printed in the binder and as PDF files on the Visuals CD.

The back side of the parent resource page has a fun "Discover More" detective activity related to the lesson for children to complete.



DISCOVER MORE The Old Testament

In the coming weeks, we will be searching the Old Testament for clues to solve the mystery of Jesus' death on the cross. All the words in the Old Testament are God's words. God gave these words to men called "prophets," who wrote them down. The Old Testament contains 39 separate books. With the 27 books of the New Testament, these 66 books form one complete, true story—the whole Bible. Now is a good time to become familiar with the books of the Old Testament. Below you will find scrambled words. Each word, when correctly unscrambled, will spell out a book in the Old Testament. After you have unscrambled all of them, use the table of contents in your Bible to put them in the correct order. Draw a line matching each book to the correct number.

BUREMNS	_____	1
RESPOVRB	_____	2
CAMIHAL	_____	4
HISAIA	_____	6
HIJEMARE	_____	16
SIGNEES	_____	20
USHOJA	_____	23
SHOEA	_____	24
HENEHIMA	_____	28
ODEXUS	_____	39

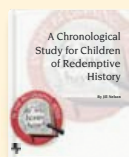
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Visuals, along with any preparation needed, are explained to teachers. Some visuals are available on the Visuals CD in the Teacher's Kit (or in the printed Resource Packet). Other visuals—such as a mystery book—may need to be gathered by the teacher.

In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 34

Jesus: Perfect Law Keeper

Themes:

- Jesus is fully God and became fully human.
- Jesus was tempted just like Adam, but did not sin.
- Jesus kept God's holy and righteous commands, succeeding where all other people have failed.
- Jesus was victorious over Satan, fulfilling the Old Testament promises.

Scripture:

Matthew 4:1-11; 5:17; Romans 5:12; Genesis 3:15

Memory Verse:

John 1:14b (and review verses 1-14a)

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
- Resource Packet:
 - GOD—MAN visual (from previous lessons).
 - COVENANT—Make a copy for each student and one for the teacher.
 - 3 CHECK MARKS.
 - JESUS: PERFECT LAW KEEPER.
- A small prize (e.g., candy or a small toy that would appeal to either boys or girls).
- Two large balls (e.g., soccer balls or basketballs).
- White board or large piece of paper and markers.

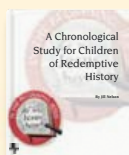
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Lesson

Tell the children you are going to have a contest between the girls and the boys. Choose a boy and a girl to come to the front. Explain that these two contestants will represent their corresponding team. If the girl wins, all the girls will get a prize to share, and if the boy wins, all the boys will get the prize to share. **Display** the prize. Then give each child a ball. Explain to them that when you give the signal to begin they must take the ball and balance it on tip of their nose for 10 seconds. They may not use their hands to balance the ball, and they may not spin the ball. The ball cannot rest on their foreheads. If the ball falls down, they may pick it up and try again. The first child able to do this within 30 seconds will be the winner. Give the signal to begin. When 30 seconds are up, ask the children why neither one of them succeeded. Suggest that maybe someone else from each team could succeed and win the contest. Quickly choose two more children to attempt the contest. Why did they fail also?

Because your team "representatives" failed, you, too, failed to win the prize. And if each of you tried this contest, you would fail, too.

How does it make you feel to know you can't win the contest and the prize?

Point out that as frustrating and disappointing as this might be, there is a much bigger contest we each have failed to win and can never win no matter how hard we try. One of the reasons we can't win is because our first "team member" who represented us failed. What is this contest? Who is this "team member" you are talking about?

Using a white board and marker, make two columns. Title one "ADAM" and leave the other untitled for now.

Who was Adam? [The very first man God created.] Adam was God's image bearer and, as the very first man, he represented the whole human race—our "team." Where did God place Adam after he was created? [In the garden of Eden.] Write "Garden" underneath ADAM on the whiteboard. Was this garden filled with good things to eat? [Yes.] Write "Plenty to eat" underneath "Garden." Was there anything Adam was not allowed to eat? [Yes.] What was it? [Fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.] Who gave this command to Adam? [God.] Does this seem like a hard command to obey? Why not? However, what creature came to tempt Adam to disobey this command? [The serpent (the devil).] Write, "Tempter=the devil" underneath "Plenty to eat."

Explain that the serpent (the devil) was making Adam's obedience to God into a type of contest or challenge. Adam would lose the contest if the serpent could persuade him to disobey the true and right command of God. How many times was Adam tempted? [One time.] As we have learned from the book of Genesis, did Adam succeed in this

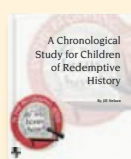
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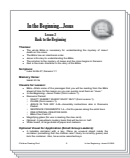
Curriculum
Scope & Sequence



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Student
Workbook



Parent
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contest against the tempter? [He failed.] Write "Adam failed" underneath "Tempter=the devil" in the ADAM column.

Was Adam the only loser in this contest?

Point to the torn **COVENANT** on the **GOD—MAN** visual. Ask the children if they remember whom God made this covenant with. [Israel.] Were the people of Israel descendants of Adam? [Yes.] They were all part of Adam's "team." Were they able to succeed in keeping God's commands? [No, they failed also.] Write the words "Israel failed" under the words "Adam failed." Was anyone else a loser?

Pass out a copy of the **COVENANT** to each child and keep a copy for yourself. Hold up your copy and ask:

What about you? Because you are a descendant of Adam, whose "team" are you a part of? And if you were to take the challenge, would you succeed? When you have been tempted, have you ALWAYS kept God's commands? Or, have you failed just like Adam and just like Israel? (Tear your copy down the middle.) What do each of you also need to do? (Instruct them to tear their visuals.)

Was this a problem for Adam? Was this a problem for Israel? Is this a problem for you?

Have a **Sword Drill** with **Romans 5:12**:

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

What does this verse mean? What is it telling us about ourselves?

Explain that not only did Adam and Israel fail, all men—all people—failed. (Write "All people failed" under the words "Israel failed.") Failure to keep God's holy, righteous, and good commands is sin. What is the consequence of sin? DEATH (write "Death" under the words "All people failed").

Point to **CAPTIVES** on the **GOD—MAN** visual. Remind the children that God's people had a problem that couldn't be solved by simply having a temple, or a throne, or a king, or land. They were held captive by sin. Even great men like Abraham, Moses, and King David failed in the challenge—they were sinners, too.

However, there was another contestant who stepped in to take on this challenge. Point to the second column, which does not yet have a title.

Have the children turn to **Matthew 4:1-11**:

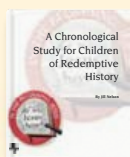
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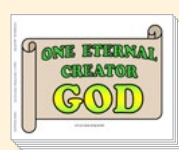
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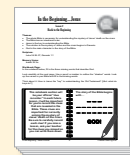
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Student
Workbook



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Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But He answered, "It is written,

'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took Him to the holy city and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command His angels concerning You,

and

'On their hands they will bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written,

'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.'"

Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to Him.

Title the second column "JESUS" and ask the following questions:

*Who was Jesus? (Point to the signs on the poster: **JESUS: SON OF GOD, JESUS: SON OF MAN.**) Was Jesus in a garden like Adam had been? [No, He was in the wilderness.] (Write "Wilderness" under JESUS on the white board.) How would the wilderness be different from a garden? Did Jesus have good things to eat? [No. Jesus had been without food for 40 days and 40 nights.] (Write "Nothing to eat" underneath "Wilderness.") If you were really, really hungry, would you have a strong desire to eat some food? But who was trying to persuade Jesus to do*

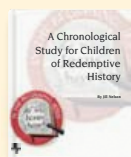
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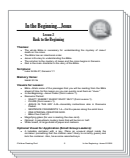
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this? [The devil—the same one who had tempted Adam.] (Write, “Tempter=the devil” under “Nothing to eat” in the JESUS column.)

Explain that the devil was once again making obedience to God into a type of contest or challenge. This time, instead of tempting Adam, he was tempting Jesus. Jesus would lose the contest if the devil could persuade Jesus’ to obey his words instead of His Father’s word.

How many times did the devil tempt Jesus to try to make Him sin? [Three times.] *Did Jesus win or lose the first contest?* [He won.] *Did Jesus win or lose the second contest?* [He won.] *Did Jesus win or lose the third contest?* [He won.] *Every time the devil challenged Jesus, Jesus won.* (Write “Jesus succeeded” under “Tempter=the devil” in the JESUS column.)

Emphasize that Adam and Jesus each had a challenge. A challenge against temptation, the devil, and sin. Who had the more difficult challenge, the man who only had to keep himself from eating one kind of fruit in a garden filled with plenty, or the very hungry Man who had nothing to eat? The man who was only tempted once, or the Man who was tempted three times?

Was this all that Jesus had to do? Did He just have to obey God and succeed against the devil while He was in the wilderness? Could He just go home after this and take it easy?

Point to the torn **COVENANT** on the **GOD—MAN** visual again and ask:

What about God’s holy, righteous, and good laws? Was Jesus an Israelite? Was He required to keep the covenant God had made to Israel at Mt. Sinai? Yes! Was Jesus able to succeed when the rest of Israel had failed?

Have the children turn to **Matthew 5:17**:

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

What does it mean that Jesus came to fulfill the law? [He came to obey it. He was perfectly righteous, holy, and good.]

Point out that we had a clue about this covenant, which included the Ten Commandments. What is it? [**GOD’S HOLY LAW.**] Tape a **CHECK MARK** on the picture clue: **GOD’S HOLY LAW.** Explain that unlike Israel, Jesus was a perfect law keeper and perfect covenant keeper.

Emphasize again that “Jesus succeeded” (write the words underneath the JESUS

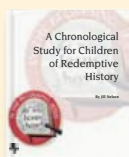
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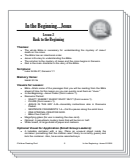
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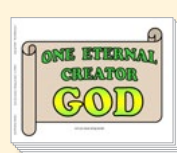
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column again) where all other people failed. **Display JESUS: PERFECT LAW KEEPER** and tape it on the poster over **JESUS: SON OF GOD**.

Because Jesus was a perfect law keeper and never sinned, is there anything He would have earned for His perfect obedience? Did we have a clue on our poster that had something to do with what is gained by perfect obedience?

Hold up a **CHECK MARK** and choose a child to tape it on the picture clue: **PERFECT OBEDIENCE—LIFE**. Write the word "LIFE" under the JESUS column.

The final columns should look like this:

ADAM	JESUS
Garden	Wilderness
Plenty to eat	Nothing to eat
Tempter = the devil	Tempter = the devil
Adam failed	Jesus succeeded
Israel failed	Jesus succeeded
All people failed	Jesus succeeded
DEATH	LIFE

Remind the children that Jesus came to earth as a real person—just like us. And just as the first man was tempted to sin, Jesus was also tempted. But where Adam failed and sinned, Jesus succeeded and won. Where Israel failed, Jesus succeeded and won. Where you and I failed, Jesus succeeded and won. How was He able to do this? Because, unlike Adam or Israel or us, Jesus is the Son of God and fully God. In being perfectly obedient, Jesus also did something else very important. What was it?

I want you to think of another kind of contest for a moment—a wrestling match between two men. In a wrestling match, the winner is the one who can pin down his opponent. The winner is the one who ends up on top.

If we thought of Jesus' contest with the devil, sin, and death as a type of wrestling match, who would have ended up on top? [Jesus.] Have we had a clue that would have shown something like this? A clue that shows Jesus "pinned down" the devil and defeated him, along with sin and death?

Give the final **CHECK MARK** to a child and have him tape it on the picture clue: **HEEL AND SERPENT'S HEAD**.

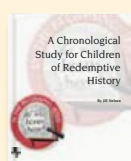
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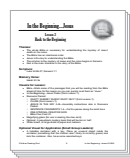
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*Do you remember the circumstances in which God gave this clue? [After Adam and Eve had sinned (**Genesis 3:15**)] After God told the serpent and Adam and Eve what their punishment would be for their sin, He made a promise—a promise that some day the offspring of Eve would bruise or crush the head of the serpent. Jesus is the offspring of Eve who came to do this. He was the fulfillment of that promise. How is this good news for sinners? [Allow the children to respond.]*

Application

- Review the contest from the start of this lesson (balancing the ball). *What was the outcome of Adam's contest? He sinned, and death entered the world. Was Adam the only one impacted by this? Did you think you could have done a better job than Adam? Why or why not? Read **Romans 3:23**. How is this made evident in your own life? How is **Romans 5:12** proven to be true in the world?*
- *Why did Adam's failure become our failure? How did Adam's sin become our sin? Ask the children if they know what the word "inherit" means. If possible, show the children a picture of a parent and child who look alike. Explain that children inherit things from their birth parents, such as shape of nose and ears, kind of smile, eye color, etc. Explain that when Adam and Eve failed and sinned against God, their hearts became darkened—meaning they were sinful. (See **Romans 1:21**.) A darkened heart is a heart that no longer sees, understands, and treasures God as it should. It can't obey God as it should, and it doesn't want to. (See **Romans 8:7**.) When Adam and Eve had children, their children inherited that darkened heart. (See **Romans 5:19a**.) Can people—all of us—ever win against the devil with a sinful heart? Can we ever keep God's perfect commands with a sinful heart? Does God know and understand our problem? Is there any way Jesus' success can help us? Read **Romans 5:19**. How do you think that could happen?*
- **WORKBOOK**—Have the children turn to Lesson 34 in their workbooks. In the notebook space, have the children write the three clues Jesus fulfilled. Review the contest between the devil and Jesus from **Matthew 4:1-11**. Who won the contest? Have the children fill in their workbook page. What did Jesus use as a "weapon" to defeat the devil? [God's Word.] Have you ever used God's Word to keep you from sinning in a certain situation? Can you give an example of a verse that has helped you? Are you ALWAYS successful? Why not? Is there a way that Jesus' success can also cause you to succeed? (Review the example of a pinch hitter in a baseball game from Lesson 32.) For example, what if you are on a team in which only one of the players is able to score runs and goals? Are you still a winner if your team wins, but you personally fail to score even once? When the first

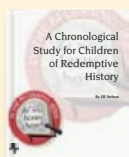
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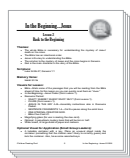
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- In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
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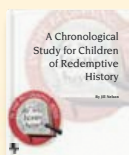
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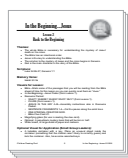
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Visuals help explain illustrations and make lessons more interesting, impacting, and understandable. These visuals can be re-used for years, so it is important to store them carefully.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Order one (color or black and white) resource packet per classroom if you prefer to use professionally printed visuals.
- You can also print your own visuals from the Visuals CD, which is included with each Teacher's Kit.

COVENANT
GOD'S HOLY,
RIGHTEOUS, AND
GOOD COMMANDS

JESUS! PERFECT
LAW KEEPER

JESUS! THE
FINAL WORD

COVENANT
GOD'S HOLY,
RIGHTEOUS, AND
GOOD COMMANDS

In the Beginning...Jesus © 2008

Lesson 34—COVENANT

Children Desiring God

In the Beginning...Jesus © 2008

Lesson 34—JESUS: PERFECT LAW KEEPER;
Lesson 35—JESUS: THE FINAL WORD

Children Desiring God

Curriculum Introduction

Curriculum Scope & Sequence

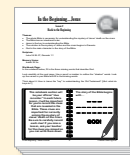
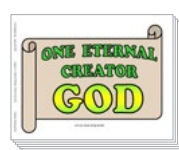
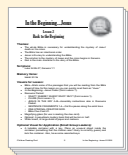
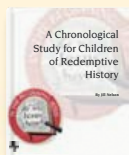
What You Need to Start

Teacher's Notebook and Leader's Edition

Color Resource Packet

Student Workbook

Parent Resource Pages



Student Workbook

Student Workbooks reinforce lesson truths and encourage discussion and review. It is recommended that you store workbooks in the classroom during the year. Then, at the end of the year, students can take the workbook home and continue to review the lessons. Workbooks are printed on heavy, marker-friendly cardstock and are spiral bound.

ORDERING TIPS:

- Order one workbook per student. Copies of a lesson can be made for visitors.
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In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 34 Jesus: Perfect Law Keeper

Themes:

- Jesus is fully God and became fully human.
- Jesus was tempted just like Adam, but did not sin.
- Jesus kept God's holy and righteous commands, succeeding where all other people have failed.
- Jesus was victorious over Satan, fulfilling the Old Testament promises.

Scripture:

Matthew 4:1-11; 5:17; Romans 5:12

Memory Verse:

John 1:14b (and review verses 1-14a)

Workbook Page:

In the notebook below, write the clues Jesus fulfilled. Why would Jesus' fulfillment of these clues be good news for sinners?

Review the "contest" in Matthew 4:1-11. Fill in the missing words on your workbook page. What did Jesus use as His weapon in this contest? Do you use this same weapon to combat temptation and sin? Why or why not? Do you always succeed against the tempting of the devil? Why not? Read and think about Romans 5:12-17.

Jesus Fulfilled These Clues:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Children Desiring God

70

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Curriculum Introduction

Curriculum Scope & Sequence

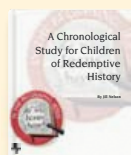
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THE CHALLENGE!

ADAM

In the garden of Eden

Plenty to eat

Tempter = the devil

Adam failed



Israel failed

All people failed

DEATH

JESUS

In the _____

_____ to eat

Tempter = _____

Jesus _____



Jesus succeeded

Jesus _____



Who did Jesus defeat in this challenge?

Complete the picture in the box. →



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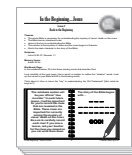
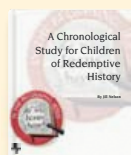
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In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 34

Jesus: Perfect Law Keeper

Themes:

- Jesus is fully God and became fully human.
- Jesus was tempted just like Adam, but did not sin.
- Jesus kept God's holy and righteous commands, succeeding where all other people have failed.
- Jesus was victorious over Satan, fulfilling the Old Testament promises.

Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11; 5:17; Romans 5:12

Memory Verse:

John 1:14b (and review verses 1-14a)

Jesus Fulfilled These Old Testament Clues:

GOD'S HOLY LAW, PERFECT OBEDIENCE—LIFE, HEEL AND SERPENT

Home and Heart:

Review the events of Genesis 3:1-19. What was the outcome of Adam's "contest" with the serpent? Read Romans 5:12. How is this verse proven to be true in the world? Was Adam the only one affected by this? Do you think you could have done a better job than Adam? Why or why not? Explain to your child what the word "inherit" means. When Adam and Eve had children, their children inherited their guilt and *sin nature*. Read Romans 5:19a and 3:23. Why is this a problem for us, too? Read Romans 5:18. Does God know and understand our problem? Is there any help for us? Read Romans 5:19b-21. How can Jesus' perfect obedience (righteousness) help unrighteous sinners? Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Review the contest between the devil and Jesus from Matthew 4:1-11. What did Jesus use as a "weapon" to defeat the devil? [God's Word.] Have you ever used God's Word to keep you from sinning in a certain situation? Can you give an example of a verse that has helped you? Are you ALWAYS successful? Why not? Is there a way Jesus' success can also cause you to succeed? For example, what if you are on a team in which only one of the players is able to score runs or goals? Are you still a winner if your team wins, but you fail to score even once? When the first place ribbons are handed out, will you get one along with the other team members? What was the "prize" Jesus earned because of His perfect obedience to God? [Eternal life.] How does a person become a member of Jesus' winning "team"? Read and discuss Ephesians 2:4-9. What does God do for those on Jesus' "team"? Is the prize something we have earned? What is "grace"? [Grace is God's kindness to undeserving sinners. Grace is a free gift from God.] What is "faith"? [Trusting in and depending on Jesus for Who He is, what He has done, and what He has promised to do.]

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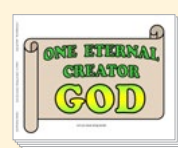
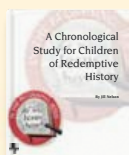
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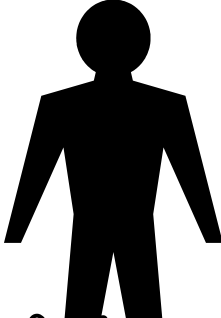


DISCOVER MORE



ROMANS

Romans is a very special book. It explains the importance of Jesus' perfect righteousness—His perfect law-keeping—and how this was necessary for Him to save unrighteous people (sinners). This week, read Romans 5 and look at the figures below, representing Adam and Jesus. Read the eight words or statements in the middle box. Draw lines connecting each word or statement to what each man had rightfully *earned*. Then, look at the figure in the box labeled, "A sinner saved by GRACE through FAITH in CHRIST JESUS." According to Romans 5, which underlined words or statements from the middle box would belong to a person trusting in Jesus alone for his salvation? Write the correct underlined answers in the bottom box.



Adam

peace with God

condemnation

death

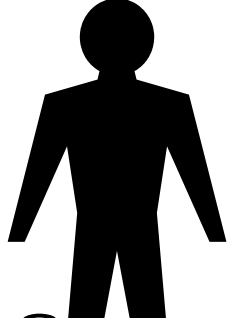
sin

unrighteousness

righteousness

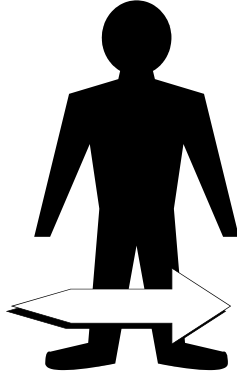
ungodliness

eternal life



Jesus

A sinner saved by **GRACE** through **FAITH** in **CHRIST JESUS**



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