

MEETING 4

GOD CREATED 

THE BOOK OF GENESIS DETAILS, AS ITS NAME IMPLIES, THE VERY BEGINNING OF TIME. IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS ONLY GOD. FROM NOTHING, GOD CREATED EVERYTHING: THE EARTH, WATER, LIGHT, AND ANIMALS. TO RULE OVER IT ALL, GOD CREATED A MAN AND A WOMAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE. SOON, SIN ENTERED THE WORLD. EVIL ARRIVED IN THE GARDEN IN THE FORM OF A SERPENT. A THOUGHTFUL EXPLANATION OF HOW THE EARTH WAS CREATED AND HOW SIN FIRST ENTERED IN PROVIDES BELIEVERS WITH THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS OF BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING.

BIBLE VERSE

Colossians 1:16b

BIBLE STORY

The Creation of Man and The Fall (Genesis 2:5-9, 15-17; 3:1-13, 22-24)

**LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING**

- Younger Kids: Bible truths never change.
- Older Kids: The truths in the Bible are without error and will last forever.

TEACHER SUPPORT

Go deeper into the Bible Story and life application by reading this meeting's "Teacher Support" (Item 23).



WARM-UP (10 MINUTES)

- As kids arrive, assign each child to a table. Explain that they may make any object(s) they they'd like with the dough they were given. The only rule is that they must not use the red dough/clay. Kids can use any of the other colors.
- After everyone has arrived, ask the following questions:
 1. How did it make you feel when you were told that you were not allowed to use the red? (*Answers will vary.*)
 2. Did you follow the rule of not using red? Why? (*You obeyed the coach.*)
- Explain that when something is forbidden, sometimes people want to do it even more. Today we will learn about the first people God created, Adam and Eve. They both sinned when they ate of the one fruit in the garden of Eden they were told not to eat. Encourage kids to listen closely to today's workout to find out what happened.

PROVIDE:

- Various colors of modeling dough or modeling clay, including red

TO DO:

- Place various colors of dough or clay of at tables.
- Place a container of red dough at the center of each table and instruct kids that they may use any color except the red.

WORKOUT (25 MINUTES)

- Teach kids the American Sign Language (ASL) sign for *God*, *woman*, *man*, and *snake*.
 1. Woman: touch the thumb-tip of your dominant hand (holding up all five fingers) to the chin and then bring it down to the chest.
 2. Man: place the dominant hand with fingers spread and thumb pointing toward the middle of the forehead. Make an arc from forehead to the center of the chest.
 3. God: swipe the dominant hand in front pulling, downward from forehead to chin
 4. Snake: form hand into a "bent V" hand shape. Slither the hand forward a few inches similar to the way a snake slithers on the ground.
- Instruct kids to sign the four words whenever they hear them in the story. Then put Genesis 2:5-9, 15-17; 3:1-13, 22-24 in your own words. Use the following as a guide.

TIP:

- For help making these signs, consult the videos at handspeak.com.



THE CREATION OF MAN AND THE FALL BASED ON GENESIS 2:5-9, 15-17; 3:1-13, 22-24

God created the heavens and the earth.



God formed a man from the dust of the earth. God breathed into the man, and the man became a living being.

God placed the man in the Garden of Eden. The garden had trees and plants for food. The garden also had two special trees, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God told the man to work in the garden. God said, "Eat from any tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Do not eat from that tree."

God knew that the man should not be alone. God made a woman. The man was Adam and the woman was Eve.

One day the serpent asked Eve, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Eve explained that God had told them that they could eat from any tree except for the one in the middle of the garden.

The serpent told Eve she would be like God if she ate the fruit from that tree.

Eve believed the serpent and chose to eat the fruit. She gave some to Adam, and he chose to eat it, too. Immediately, Adam and Eve knew they had done wrong. They had disobeyed God.

Later, God was walking in the garden, so Adam and Eve hid from Him. God called out for Adam, and Adam told God they were hiding. God knew that they had eaten fruit from the forbidden tree.

Adam and Eve had to leave the garden because they disobeyed God. God gave them skins to wear for clothes and sent them to a new place to live. They would have to work to get food for the rest of their lives.

Even though He sent them from the garden, God still loved Adam and Eve.

- Review the Bible story by asking the following questions:

1. What wrong choice did Adam and Eve make?
2. What were the consequences of that choice?
3. How did Adam and Eve's choice affect all people from that day on?



4. Think of a time when you disobeyed. How did it make you feel to know that you had disobeyed?
5. Is there any sin that can cause God to stop loving you? (*No!*)

- Clarify that Adam and Eve's sin was the first ever committed on the earth. Because of it, they were removed from the beautiful garden of Eden forever. Their sin would affect every other person who would live on earth after them.
- Lead kids in a short prayer. Ask God to help them to be obedient, and to recognize sin and the consequences of sin as well. Thank Him for loving us all, no matter what!

STRETCHING (10 MINUTES)

- Begin by leading kids to recite Colossians 1:16 together in your version of choice. For younger children, have them repeat small segments of the verse after you until the verse is complete.
- Next, explain that God made everything on earth including plants (*hold up the piece of fruit*), animals, and people.
- Instruct participants to sit in a circle. Pass the fruit around, having each child say one word of the Bible verse and reference, until the verse is complete. The person sitting after the person who said the last word must say the entire verse. If she cannot, the fruit is passed to the next person to try.
- Continue for several rounds until all children have been involved and the verse is memorized.

PROVIDE:

- A piece of fruit, fresh or artificial

REACH OUT (20 MINUTES)

- Say, "People all over the world have needs. One that we all share, no matter where we come from, is salvation through Jesus. We need salvation because of our sin. Christians need to tell others about Jesus so that they, too, can have eternal life in heaven. Most people in Central Asia do not know about Jesus. Christian workers are living among them to love them and let them know about the good news of Jesus. Kazakhstan is one country in Central Asia where the people need to hear about Jesus."
- Give each kid a map of Kazakhstan. Point out that Kazakhstan is the largest country in Central Asia. Show the video.
- Explain, "Since the people of Kazakhstan don't celebrate Christmas, your group is going to give them the gift of your prayers." Distribute one lunch/gift bag per kid. Have them cut out the map of Kazakhstan and glue it on the outside of the bag. Next have them write *To: ...* Instruct kids to write one way they can pray for the people of Kazakhstan on each strip of paper.

PROVIDE:

- Gift bags (lunch size) for each child
- Strips of paper to write prayer requests, 2 or 3 per child
- Glue sticks
- DVD-ROM
- Activity Books (1 per child)

TO DO:

- Cue the "Christmas in Kazakhstan" video (DVD-ROM).
- Print Map of Kazakhstan for each child (Item 22).



- Go around the room and read several of the prayers and pray them together if time permits. Instruct kids take the gift bags home to remind them that a great gift they can give the people of Kazakhstan is their continued prayers.
- Lead kids to complete "Live for God" in their Activity Books.

TOURNAMENT (20 MINUTES)

1. FRUIT TREES (This game is a variation of the traditional game "Four Corners.")

- Designate four corners (or areas) in the room as fruit trees. For example: apple, pear, orange, peach. The player designated to be *It* sits in the middle of the room with eyes closed and counts to ten. While *Its* eyes are closed, the remaining players choose any one of the corners/trees and quietly go and stand. When *It* calls out the name one of the four fruit trees, all players who chose that corner are out of the game, and they sit down. If *It* calls out a corner containing no players, then instruct *It* to call out another number.
- The last person still standing wins then usually becomes the new *It*. If *It* calls out a corner containing no players, she calls out another number.
- Say: "In this game, you had to make choices. Your choices were just for fun, but each choice had a consequence. Your choice either kept you in the game or took you out of the game. Adam and Eve had a much more serious decision to make. They choose to disobey God. Because of that, they had to leave the garden forever."

2. GRAB SOMETHING

- Form two equal teams and assign a number to each student. To start the game, announce the item to be grabbed and call out a number. The players on each team with that number are the only players who can attempt to grab something. However, the player who doesn't grab the object first can still earn a point by tagging the other player before she crosses her line. The players cannot try to tag each other until one of them touches the object.
- The round is over when all numbers have been called or all objects taken. Continue for as many rounds as time allows. Whoever has the most objects at the end of the game wins.
- Explain: "In this game, a good tactic is to wait for what might be the other player's weakest moment, so they can be tagged. Because we are all human, we all have weaknesses, but God promises to be our strength when we are weak."

PROVIDE:

- Three small recreation objects (tennis ball, bandana, pool noodle, beanbag etc.)
- Dome cones

TO DO:

- Place items in the center of the playing area.
- Assign a starting line.



- Remind players that our greatest weakness is sin, and God has given us strength for that too—through Jesus.

3. GROUP JUGGLE

- Instruct the group to form a circle and designate one player to start. The player begins by tossing a ball across the circle to another player. That person then throws the ball to another player (not right next to him or her). The ball continues until it has been passed to each person in the circle and then returns back to the starting player. Then instruct the group to repeat this pattern exactly the same as before. It sometimes helps if players say the name of the person to whom they are throwing the ball.
- Add another ball and follow the same pattern when the group is comfortable with the order and has successfully passed the ball a couple of times. Additional balls may be added depending on the size of your group and their ability. Time each round for added excitement.
- Say: "Was it hard to remember everyone's name in the game? God created us all and loves us so much. He not only remembers us, He knows everything about each one of us and never forgets."

PROVIDE:

- Six tennis and/or soft rubber balls

COOL DOWN (5 MINUTES)

- Say, "God created the world and provided Adam and Eve with everything they needed to live and be happy in the garden of Eden. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, like we all sometimes do. The choices we make have consequences, and Adam and Eve's disobedience caused God to banish them from the garden."
- Review Bible verse together if time allows. Then ask a volunteer to lead a closing prayer, thanking God for His creation and love, and asking Him for strength to make good, obedient choices.
- Distribute "Parent Connection" as the children are dismissed.

PROVIDE:

- A church-approved snack

TO DO:

- Print Allergy Alert (Item 7).
- Print "Parent Connection" (Item 24) (1 per child).

TIP:

- Serve fruit snacks or fresh fruit to represent the different kinds of fruit in the Garden of Eden. Consider including graham crackers or pretzels to form a tree trunk. Allow the kids to "create" a fruit tree on their plate before they eat it.