

MENU

BIBLE REFERENCES

1

Sin and evil ruin God's creation

SIN

Genesis 8:21 Psalm 51
Romans 5:12,19 Romans 8:7
Galatians 5:19–21 Ephesians 2:1
James 4:17

FEELINGS ABOUT SIN

Psalm 32 Psalm 38
Psalm 40 Psalm 130

2

God rescues people from sin and its consequences

OLD TESTAMENT STORIES

Adam and Eve disobey God Genesis 3
Cain kills Abel Genesis 4:1–16
Noah Genesis 6:9 – 9:17
Moses and the Israelites Exodus 6:2 – 15:27
Isaac blesses Jacob Genesis 27:1–45; 28:10–15
David and Bathsheba
2 Samuel 11:1–27; 12:1–14, 24,25
Jonah Jonah 1:1 – 4:11

GOD'S PROMISED MESSIAH

Isaiah 7:14 Isaiah 9:6,7
Isaiah 42:1–4 Isaiah 52:13–15
Isaiah 53:3–10a,12

JESUS' BIRTH, DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Matthew 1:18–25; 2:1–18
Matthew 26:47 – 28:10
Luke 2:1–40

JESUS' HEALING MIRACLES

Boy with a demon Mark 9:17–29
Paralysed man Luke 5:18–25
Crippled woman Luke 13:11–13

Ten men with leprosy Luke 17:11–19
Blind man Luke 18:35–43
Sick man, pool of Bethesda John 5:1–9

JESUS TAKES AWAY FEAR

Disciples in a storm Matthew 8:23–27
Jairus and his sick daughter
Mark 5:21–24, 35–43
Lazarus John 11:1–44
The women at the tomb Matthew 28:1–10
Jesus returns to heaven
Luke 24:50–53 Acts 1:3–11
Jesus' promise to be with his people
Matthew 18:20 Matthew 28:20b
John 14:1–6 John 14:18
Jesus' promise to be with Paul Acts 18:4–11

GOOD NEWS FOR THE WORLD

John 3:16,17 Acts 10:36–43
Romans 5:6–11 Galatians 1:4
Galatians 4:4,5 Colossians 1:19–22
1 John 1:9 1 John 2:1,12
1 John 4:9,10

3

God offers eternal life to all people

JESUS BRINGS THE GIFT OF LIFE

Mark 16:16 John 3:15–17
John 3:36a John 5:24
John 6:40 Romans 5:18
Romans 6:23 1 Peter 1:3–5

ETERNAL LIFE

Isaiah 65:17 John 6:40
John 10:10b John 11:25,26
1 Corinthians 2:9,10 1 Corinthians 13:12
1 Corinthians 15:35–43 1 Thessalonians 4:14
Revelation 21:4

KEY BIBLE VERSES TO HEAR AND REMEMBER

*For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.* John 3:16 (Good News)

My Father wants everyone who sees the Son to have faith in him and to have eternal life.
John 6:40a (CEV)

*Christ obeyed God our Father and gave himself as a sacrifice for our sins
to rescue us from this evil world.* Galatians 1:4 (CEV)

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INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

1

Sin and evil ruin God's creation

WHAT IS SIN? Students brainstorm what they understand by the word 'sin'. Use Bible dictionaries to develop a definition of sin. Find references in Psalms to sin (see Bible References) and discuss the feelings of the writer. Compile a list of feelings associated with sin. Make masks which illustrate these feelings. (1b,1c)

SIN IN THE WORLD Students investigate evidence of sin in the world by examining newspaper articles or television news reports of bad news. Sort articles under headings such as world, national, local, family, environmental. Students suggest consequences, possible motives and feelings associated with these events. (1b,1c)

GOOD GUYS, BAD GUYS Students examine video games which they enjoy playing. Identify the 'good guys' and 'bad guys', the 'good acts' and the 'evil acts'. What is the criterion for distinguishing good and bad? Which is more realistic: good winning over bad or bad winning over good? (1c)

2

God rescues people from sin and its consequences

ROLE OF PROPHETS Students investigate the role prophets played in God's plan for rescuing his people. They use Bible dictionaries and handbooks as resources. Develop a prophet file about different prophets or prophet information cards. Investigate their messages and the different techniques they used to communicate, eg 'visual aids' used by Jeremiah (see Jeremiah 19). (2a)

IN NEED OF RESCUE Students share stories of times when they have been in a difficult, scary, or dangerous situation and needed help. Describe the 'rescue' which took place and their feelings throughout the ordeal. (2a, 2b, 2c)

WHO DOES GOD LIKE? Students discuss or debate the statement, '*God only likes good people*'. Make a list of some of the questions or issues which result from the discussion. Students use biblical references

and other resources (including a pastor) to find answers to the questions. (2a, 2b, 2c)

MAKING PROMISES As an introduction to a study of God's promises of rescue, role-play situations in which people make promises. Prepare two endings, one where the promise was kept, the other where the promise was broken. Discuss consequences of keeping or breaking promises. Identify thoughts or actions which help or hinder keeping promises. (2a, 2b)

PROMISES IN ADVERTISING Students find examples of advertisements in magazines, or the teacher views and selects television advertisements to share with the students. Examine the promises made in the advertisements and the reliability of these promises. This can lead to an investigation of God's rescue promises. (2a, 2b)

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God offers eternal life to all people

LIFE SPANS Discuss how all living things have life spans. Using non-fiction texts, students investigate and graph the life spans of various animals. Include pets, eg goldfish, cats, birds, dogs. Compare their findings with human life spans. Students discuss their experiences of coping with the death of a pet. (3a)

BOOKS DEALING WITH DEATH

Read a story to the students which deals with the topic of death (see Recommended Resources). Identify feelings experienced by the characters in the story. (3a, 3c)

DEATH AND LIFE AFTER DEATH

Ask students to discuss their ideas about death and life after death. Make a list of the questions and/or fears students have about death and life after death. (3a)

IMAGES OF HEAVEN Students view artists' impressions of heaven or life after death. Identify some of the ideas about heaven the artists have described. (3a)

GOOD NEWS Students find examples of 'good' news stories in the paper. Students share or write about personal events which have resulted in 'good' news stories. Make a mural of these stories. (2c, 3a, 3b)

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DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

1 Sin and evil ruin God's creation

THE FALL Students read Genesis 3. Choose from the following suggestions:

- Prepare and present a dramatisation of the story. *It's a banana* from *Let's Make a Scene* by V. Johnson is an excellent model.
- Retell the story in a contemporary setting.
- Design an advertisement Satan might have used in order to get Adam and Eve to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Include the important message the devil wanted to get across to Adam and Eve and the promise he was making.
- Summarise the events by presenting an interview with Adam and Eve. Characters could reflect on the events, the motives of their actions, the consequences of their actions, their feelings, their concerns/hopes for the future. (1a, 1b)

DAMAGED RELATIONSHIPS Make a list of wrongdoing (thoughts, words, actions) which takes place at school, home, or with friends. Identify the way these can damage relationships. Students dramatise or illustrate an example of the damage sin can cause to relationships.

Read the story of Isaac blessing Jacob (Genesis 27:1–45; 28:10–15). Identify the wrongdoing and the relationships which were damaged. Draw each of the characters in the story and record their feelings and responses to Jacob's actions. Identify God's response to Jacob. (1b, 1c, 2a)

CONSEQUENCES OF SIN Make a comic strip which illustrates how one sin can lead to another. Role-play the situation. (1b, 1c)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS Read the story of God giving the Ten Commandments to the Israelites (Exodus 19, 20). Investigate the reasons God gave these commandments to his people. What would have happened to God's people if there were no rules? Illustrate life for the people without the commandments and life with the commandments. (1b, 1c, 2a)

PETER AND JUDAS Compare the stories of Peter and Judas, who both sinned against Jesus. Look at what they did, how they felt about what they had done, and how they attempted to set things right. Students could

express these ideas in the form of imagined diary entries from Peter and Judas. Research some of the things Peter went on to do in the early Christian church. (1b, 1c, 2b, 2c)

2 God rescues people from sin and its consequences

GOD'S RESCUE Investigate Bible stories in the Old Testament in which God rescues people, eg:

- Noah
- Moses and the Israelites
- Jonah and the people of Nineveh.

Make posters which illustrate the 'before' rescue and 'after' rescue situations. (2a)

PROPHETS Students research a prophet from the Old Testament and the message he/she communicated. They make a prophet 'puppet' and use the puppet to present the message to the class. They may also give some information about the life and work of the prophet. Alternatively, the students could create storyboards about the prophet and God's message. (2a)

COMMUNICATING GOD'S

MESSAGE God used prophets to communicate his message. Students investigate people whom God uses today to communicate his message about God's love through Jesus. They may research different technologies which can be used to communicate God's message.

Students imagine they are a present-day prophet. Plan a creative way of communicating God's message of love and forgiveness through Jesus to as many people as possible. (2a, 2b)

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

Students read Luke 2:1–40. They tell the story of Jesus' birth from the perspective of a character in the story, eg Simeon or Anna, who have been waiting for God's promised Saviour. The character should explain what this promised gift from God means to them, talking about such things as their anticipation of this promise and what they hope God's chosen servant will bring. (2a, 2b, 2c)

JESUS TAKES AWAY FEAR Explore New Testament Bible stories in which Jesus

took away the fear of people who were in scary situations, eg the disciples in the storm, Jairus and his daughter, Mary, Martha and Lazarus, the women at the tomb. Identify Jesus' actions and the impact he had on the people. (2b,2c)

THE CREED Students read and discuss the explanation to the Second Part of the Apostles' Creed in Luther's *Small Catechism* (especially the second and third paragraphs). Identify and record

- what Jesus did for all people
- the reason he did this
- what it cost Jesus
- the benefits of his actions for all people.

Students write a summary of this information in their own words and a personal response to Jesus' actions. (2b, 2c)

RESCUE FROM SUFFERING

The consequences of sin include illness and suffering. Students explore examples of Jesus' healing miracles (see Bible References). Students choose one of the stories and present it in oral or written form, as a puppet play or dramatisation, from the perspective of the person who has been healed by Jesus. The character describes their suffering and the effect Jesus' 'rescue' had on their life. (2b, 2c)

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THE ASCENSION Students read the story of Jesus' ascension (see Bible References). Create a storyboard which describes the possible responses or thoughts of the disciples as Jesus was about to leave them, eg fear, doubts, confusion. Include Jesus' words of reassurance, *I am with you always*. (3b)

JESUS AND PAUL Students read Jesus' promise in Matthew 28:20 and discuss situations when these words can be very reassuring. Students use Bible story books to discover some of the dangerous situations the apostle Paul found himself in as a result of telling the good news about Jesus. Read Acts 18:4–11. Students identify

- what had happened to Paul
- Jesus' words to Paul
- Paul's response.

Students imagine that they are Paul and write a letter to a friend, describing

- things that had been happening to Paul
- his feelings about these events
- Jesus' words to him
- the impact these words had on him and his work. (3b)

SONGS Examine lyrics of songs which tell about Jesus being with people always, eg *Step by step (Gospelling to the Beat, Book 2)* or *In the house of God and Walkin' down the road (All Together Now)*. Identify what the song writer says about

- situations when Jesus is with people
- Jesus' response to people
- the impact of knowing Jesus is always with you.

Students record the information and illustrate a particular line or verse from the song. (3b, 3c)

QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE AFTER DEATH

Provide students with a variety of resources to help them to answer their questions and concerns about life after death (see Introductory Activities). The resources might include: Bible verses (see Bible References), a Bible encyclopedia or handbook, books (see Recommended Resources), tracts, and a pastor who is willing to talk with the class or individual students about these concerns.

Students compile what they discover into an *'Everything you wanted to know about what happens after death but were afraid to ask'* presentation, in one of these forms:

- an interview in which a panel of students contribute various information
- a computer multimedia presentation
- a big book. (3a, 3c)

HEAVEN IS . . . Students read what the Bible says about heaven in 1 Corinthians 2:9,10 and/or read a book about heaven, such as *If I Should Die If I Should Live*.

Ask students to imagine the following:

- *Think of the people you most like being with, those people who make you really happy. Imagine you are with them now.*
- *Think of activities you like to do most of all. Imagine you are doing them right now.*
- *Think of the place where you would most like to be. Imagine you are there now.*

Tell students that heaven is even better than all these scenarios. Students choose an art form, eg collage, painting, diorama or computer drawing program, such as Kidpix, to illustrate their response to *Heaven is . . .* Write a brief summary to accompany the illustration. (3a)

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

BIBLE VERSE Students learn an appropriate Bible verse (see page 10)

SONGS Students learn songs about God's rescue.

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RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

1 Sin and evil ruin God's creation

CONFESSION OF SIN Students read a psalm in which the writer confesses his sin to God, such as: Psalm 51, Psalm 130 and Psalm 32:1–5.

Students write a personal confession of sin in their own lives. Encourage students to think about those thoughts, words and actions which have been hurtful to God and people. Students discuss or write what God might say to them in response, based on 1 John 1:9. (1b, 1c, 2a)

SIN AND RESCUE MURAL Students create a painting, drawing or mural which illustrates the contrast between sin and God's rescue. Encourage students to select colours, techniques and images carefully to communicate these concepts. (1a, 1b, 1c, 2b, 2c)

CELEBRATING FREEDOM FROM SIN Students plan and prepare a presentation which could be used for a class or school worship session. Dramatise a Bible story or a contemporary situation to illustrate the consequences of sin. Show God's saving actions and demonstrate the impact of God's actions on people's lives. (1, 2)

2 God rescues people from sin and its consequences

THE GOOD NEWS REPORT Students produce a newspaper or television report entitled *The Good News*, which tells the events of Jesus' birth, his important teachings about God's love and forgiveness, and his death and resurrection. Identify the 'good' news for people in each of the articles. (2b, 2c)

THE STORY IN MUSIC Students select pieces of music or create their own music to 'tell the story' of Adam and Eve and the first sin, or to tell other Bible stories which deal with sin and God's rescue.

This could be developed further by using liturgical dance, overhead transparencies, and readings of selected Bible passages. Make the mood, tempo and intensity of the music relate to sections of the story. (1, 2a, 2b, 2c)

GOOD NEWS HEADLINES Prepare and display headlines depicting Bible passages

which tell the good news of God's saving action (see Bible References). (2a, 2b)

INTERVIEW AND RESEARCH

Students find out about famous Christians today whom God has rescued from sin and its consequences. They may read Christian biographies, eg in *The Gods of Sport*, or interview Christians, to examine the impact of the good news of God's rescue on their lives. (2a, 2b, 2c)

GOD'S SOLUTION TO SIN Students produce a class 'currents affairs' report which looks at the solutions to sin in the world. This could be presented at a school worship or assembly. Include

- the problems sin causes in the world
- the problems sin caused people in the Bible, and how God rescued his people
- the permanent solution to sin God provides
- how God's solution is good news for the world. (1c, 2a, 2b, 2c)

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GOD'S GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

Students produce an advertisement for God's free gift of eternal life for all people. Include information about the gift, the problem it solves, the price it costs people, the price it cost God, and how to claim the gift. (3a, 3c)

GIFT BOXES Students make 'gift' boxes. Students place inside the boxes messages which tell about the free gift of eternal life God offers to all people (include important Bible verses, eg Romans 6:23). Students can give these boxes to family members, friends, or keep them as personal reminders of God's free gift to them. (3a, 3c)

HEAVEN TRACT Students make a tract or pamphlet which gives information about heaven. Include important Bible verses (see Bible References). (3a, 3c)

'I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS' Students make a book or write a song or poem which identifies times when Jesus is with people, eg *When it's dark and stormy, Jesus is with me. When I'm feeling sad and lonely, Jesus is with me.* Highlight Jesus' promise: *I am with you always* (3b, 3c)

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RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The Introduction to LIFE contains suggested general resources for all LIFE concepts.
The following resources may be used to develop a unit about *God saves people from sin and evil*.

Some of the items may be out of print,
but they are listed because they are still found in many school libraries.

Preview these and any other resources you intend using
to be sure that they are appropriate for your students.

LITERATURE – FICTION

FEARS

Ayers B *Even If* 1992 Lutheran Publishing House

Cate D *Scared* 1991 Simon and Schuster Young Books

Hunt A *The Singing Shepherd* 1992 Lion Publishing

McKissack P *Lights out, Christopher* 1984 Augsburg Publishing House

Rubinstein G *Melanie and the Night Animal* Omnibus/Ashton Scholastic

DEATH AND HEAVEN

Barker P *What Happened When Grandma Died* 1984 Concordia Publishing House

Bowen S *Laura's Granny* 1995 Scripture Union

Buchanan Smith D *A Taste of Blackberries* 1987 Puffin Books

Burningham J *Grandpa* 1984 Jonathan Cape

Crew G *Lucy's Bay* 1993 Jam Roll Press

Joslin M *The Goodbye Boat* 1997 Lion

Nystrom C *Emma Says Good-bye* 1990 Lion

Thiele C *Timmy* 1993 Walter McVitty

White E B *Charlotte's Web* Penguin

Wild M *The Very Best of Friends* 1989

Margaret Hamilton, Sydney

Wild M *Toby* 1993 Omnibus

Wilhelm H *I'll Always Love You* 1985 Hodder

THE LIFE OF JESUS

Hunt A *The Tale of Three Trees* 1989 Lion Publishing

Wild M & Huxley D *Light the Lamps* 1994 Margaret Hamilton Books

LITERATURE — NON-FICTION

BIBLE STORY BOOKS

Hastings S *The Children's Illustrated Bible* 1994 RD Press, Surry Hills

Hastings S *The Birth of Jesus* 1994 RD Press, Surry Hills

PROPHETS

Jacklin M ed. *The Great Bible Discovery: Hosea and Isaiah* 1995 Openbook Publishers

Kent D *The Time of the Prophets* 1981 Grisewood and Dempsey, London

DEATH AND HEAVEN

Mellonie B *Beginnings and Endings and Lifetimes in Between* 1983 Hill of Content

Marxhausen J *If I Should Die If I Should Live* 1975 Concordia

Nystrom C *What Happens When We Die?* 1992 Seed Books

Thamm P *The Legless, Egghead, Green, Fluffy-haired Monster* 1988 Lutheran Publishing House

GENERAL RESOURCES

Alexander D&P ed *The Lion Handbook to the Bible* 1983 Lion Publishing, Oxford

Alexander P ed. *The Lion Encyclopedia of the Bible* 1986 Lion Publishing Oxford

Nystrom C *Who Is Jesus?* 1980 Anzea, Homebush West

SIN

Nystrom C *Why Do I Do Things Wrong?* 1981 Anzea, Homebush West

Thamm P *The Bald-headed, Bashful, Bow-legged, Baggy-pantsed Brain Bug* 1988 Lutheran Publishing House

Weiss N *Follow Me* 1982 Lutheran Publishing House

MUSIC

All Together Now 1980, *All Together Again* 1983, *All Together Everybody* 1991, *All Together OK* 1996 Openbook Publishers
Gospel to the Beat Book 2 1997 Scripture Union

AUDIO-VISUAL

COMPUTER/CD ROMS

The Jesus Story Begins Lion Multimedia 1996
Lion Publishing, Oxford

Risen Jesus: The Week That Changed History
Lion Multimedia 1995 Lion Publishing

VIDEO

The First Christmas and Other Bible Stories
and *Jesus and his Kingdom* The Oxford Vision
Children's Video Bible 1988 Lion Publishing

Good Friday (with Easter Sunday) Scripture Union

The Children's Story of Jesus Part 1 and 2 The Open Book (video)

Jesus Here's Life Ministries (video)

FOR TEACHERS

Chapman C & Clifford R *The Gods of Sport*
1995 Albatross Book

Children and Grief Lutheran Tract Mission

Johnson V *Let's Make a Scene* (series)
Lutheran Publishing House

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