

In **Genesis 1-3** we read how God made Man (Adam and Eve) in His own image and breathed His breath into them – not the way He made all the animals, by just speaking His Word. God could have made Man like a puppet, who HAD to obey, but instead He gave Man free choice – to obey or disobey, and to love or hate God. God's desire is for us to love Him as he loves us – but the choice is ours!

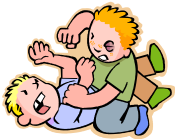
1a

When we talk of sin we usually think of things like murder or stealing, but in **Exodus 20** the Ten Commandments show that dishonoring our parents is also a sin.

Jesus went on to explain (starting in **Matthew 5:21**) that even if we get angry or THINK about sinning it is the same as doing it!

2a

As we read and come to understand more about sin, we soon realize that we ALL start sinning from a very young age! In fact **Romans 3:23** says: **"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."**



3a

There are many stories in the Bible about how God tried to teach His people obedience. He blessed them when they did obey, but punished them when they still went on sinning after he had warned them.

Maybe you've read the story in **Numbers 11:1** when He sent down fire from heaven to destroy the Israelites who kept on complaining in the desert!

4a

In the Old Testament, God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses to teach the people to recognize when they sinned. He also told Moses how those who repented and wanted God's forgiveness should give a special sacrifice to God.



5a

This doesn't mean that we all have to leave home and go overseas! It means that other people should be able to recognize that we are different – that we are Christians and trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. And we tell people about Jesus every chance we get!



19b



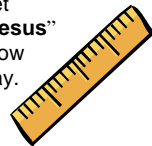
We are now part of the Body of Christ all around the world! We have brothers and sisters we may never meet until we get to Heaven, but we are all working together to serve God and follow Jesus!

18b

Baptism is a special ceremony performed by a pastor or Christian leader, where the new believer is pushed down under water then brought up again. It helps us understand that our old sinful life is buried and we have started over with a new, clean life. **"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life has gone; a new life has begun!"** **2 Corinthians 5:17:**

17b

If you have a bible you can read Jesus teachings in the Gospels – like the Golden Rule in **Matthew 7:12** which says: **"Do to others as you would have them do to you."** If you don't have a bible, try to get our little booklet **"God sends Jesus"** to help you follow Jesus every day.



16b

You need to go to church each week if your parents permit it, so that you can hear preaching, and learn in Sunday School. But if you cannot go to church, maybe you can find a Christian children's club or attend special Christian events from time to time like a Vacation Bible School or a kids' crusade.

15b

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The sacrifices were to help the people learn about sin, and the need to repent and receive God's forgiveness.

But in **Psalms 51:16,17** David wrote: **"You do not delight in sacrifice...the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."**

King David knew that most of all God wants us to repent humbly before Him.

6a

Jesus grew up and taught the people about God, and also did many miracles. But he NEVER sinned and so God chose him to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. Remember the punishment for sin is death, and the sacrifice has to give up its life.



7a

Jesus died on the Cross and his body was buried in a tomb with a large stone closing the entrance. But his soul went to Hell, just like everyone else did who died then. The Devil thought he had beaten Jesus, but God's power is SO GREAT that He resurrected Jesus from the dead! Hell couldn't hold him and his soul went back into his body and Jesus came out of the tomb after three days!

8a

Jesus' resurrected body could pass through walls yet his disciples could touch him and see the scars in his hands from the nails. He taught his followers many things for six weeks before ascending into Heaven, where he lives today, waiting for the day when he will come back to earth for his followers. He promised that all who are saved and follow him will also live in Heaven with him forever.

9a

So Jesus' death on the Cross makes it possible for ANYONE to be saved, but we all still have a choice! Jesus explained it this way in **John 3:16,17:**

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His son into the world, not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."

10a

Romans 10:9,10: If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."

6. Now you should go and tell someone like your parents or teacher at church.

14b

You can believe God DOES forgive you because the Bible says He will. That is called having faith in God.

If we believe that Jesus is our SAVIOR and died in our place, we are grateful, and want to serve him and follow him for the rest of our lives. We want to make a commitment and make him LORD of our lives.

13b

1 John 1:8,9: If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."

3. Are YOU ready to confess your sins and ask God's forgiveness?

12b

Here are some simple steps according to the Bible:

James 4:17: "It is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it."

Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

1. Do you admit that you have sinned and deserve to be punished?

11b

Jesus went on in **John 3:18:** **"There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only son."**

It is OUR choice whether or not we believe that Jesus has saved us. He has done his part, and now we must decide!

10b



Now that you have become a Christian, you will want to learn more about Jesus and the Bible. You can start reading the Bible yourself at home, and it's good to find some Christian friends to discuss it with.

15a

That means we no longer want to do things our OWN way, but instead we want to do things just as Jesus would. We can trust that Jesus loves us and has a perfect plan to guide us through life here – even if we don't always understand it!

5. If YOU want to make Jesus LORD of your life, just pray and tell him! Then EVERY DAY you have to remember to keep your promise to him!

14a

4. If you are ready now, you simply need to go to a quiet place and talk to God. Tell him your sins and ask him to forgive you.



13a

1 Peter 3:18: "Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit."

2. Do you believe that Jesus Christ died in YOUR place on the Cross?

12a

Now that we have explained about salvation from the Bible, it's time for YOU to make a choice! Maybe you never knew before that you were sinning, or that Jesus loves you and wants to save YOU! But what should you do NOW?



11a

If the people obeyed exactly what God said they should do with the sacrificed animal (which had to be PERFECT), He accepted their sacrifice and forgave their sin. You can read about the rules for the sin offering in **Leviticus 4**.

So every time someone sinned and wanted to ask God's forgiveness, they went to the priest and gave another sin offering to be sacrificed. Sadly this didn't stop people sinning!

5b

So God had a plan to send His Son, Jesus, to finally make a way for any and everyone to have their sins forgiven so that they could again have a personal relationship with God, Our Heavenly Father.



2,000 years ago Jesus was sent by God and born in a special way to a young girl, Mary, and her husband Joseph.

6b

Because of our sins, EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US should be punished by death. But Jesus loves us all so much that he took our place to save us. When Jesus gave up his life on the Cross in our place, God accepted his death as payment for OUR sins!

"Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

7b



When Jesus' disciples went to visit the tomb, it was empty! Later, Jesus appeared and spoke with them in many different places, proving to them that he is alive.

8b

He told his followers that they should wait and receive power from God through the Holy Spirit, and then go out and preach the Gospel (the Good News about Jesus) to everyone around the world. Jesus wants EVERYONE to be saved and have their relationship with God restored!



9b

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Learn about the Old Testament of the Bible in the booklet **"God prepares the way!"**

Learn about the Life of Jesus in the booklet **"God sends Jesus"**

Now we have a new purpose in life – the last words Jesus said to his followers before he went up into Heaven were:

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to everyone." Mark 16:15



19a

It is also a way of announcing to others that we are now a Christian, and part of God's family. We are responsible to be good examples of Jesus and should not want to let Jesus down or disappoint him!

1 Corinthians 12:13: "...But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit."

18a

As you learn more about Jesus and being a Christian, you will learn about water baptism. Jesus taught his disciples to go and preach the message of salvation and baptize the new believers in the name of Jesus Christ.



17a

Something you CAN do (and SHOULD do!) every day is spend some time praying and talking with Jesus. At first it may seem strange, but as you read and learn more about Jesus, you will see him as your special friend who is always there to help you. As you ask him, he will show you how to live each day; how to obey your parents, handle difficult situations, and obey God.

16a

Introduction

At the beginning of the Bible we read that Man had only one rule to obey, but when he disobeyed that, his sin broke his special relationship with God. But God loves us so much that he had a plan to restore that relationship through His Son, Jesus Christ. This booklet tells how YOU can have that special relationship restored again with Our Heavenly Father.

But when we sin, it makes a barrier between us and God, because God is good and knows the truth, and cannot fellowship with evil. When Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God and lying, they were sent out of the Garden forever.



1b

A very simple definition of sin is found in **James 4:17** – **"It is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it."** (New Living Translation)



2b

Even when we TRY to do good and not sin, we find that we still mess up! It is part of our human nature to want our OWN way; or to get angry and fight back! But that does not make it alright!

Often our parents try to teach us to obey and do right, by punishing us when we do wrong or disobey. That is to help us learn – and God is the same!

3b

God loves us and knows that if we keep on sinning, we will get farther and farther away from Him. He wants us to learn from the Bible stories, and He also sent Jesus to help us.



Romans 6:23 says: **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

4b

Instructions for assembly of Mini Books

1. Print Page 1 and then Page 2 on the back of it
2. Trim top and bottom borders
3. Cut vertically in half
4. Cut horizontally along lines
5. Lay out page 1a/19b on table, then place on top in order 2a/18b, then 3a/17b and so on
6. Fold in half*
7. Add colored cover and staple. Trim edges even.

*(It is best to fold each little double page in half separately before you staple it as sometimes the printing is not quite even and part of the words could be lost. At the end after you've put on the cover and stapled it all together you can just trim off the extra on the outside edge of the pages to make them even.)

Here are some of the other mini-books planned:

