

PROGRESSING TOGETHER

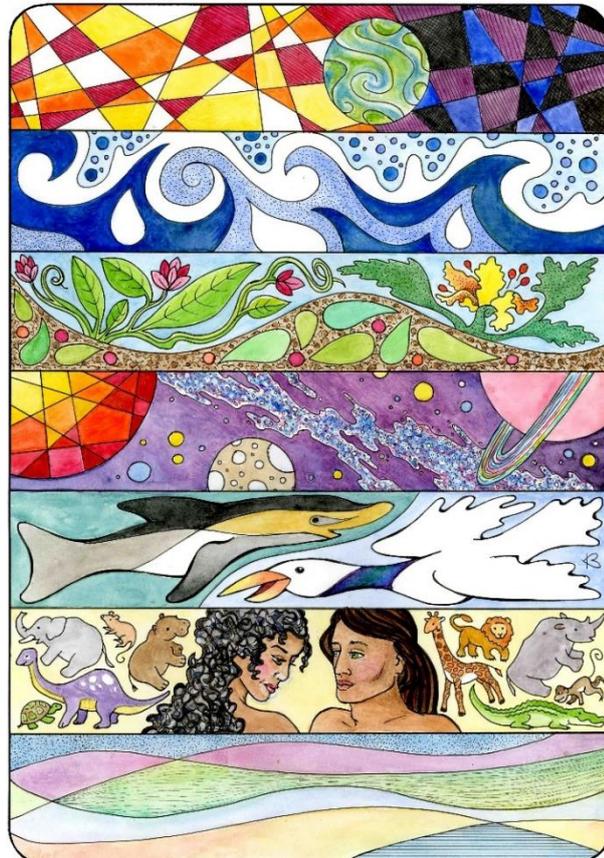


COURSE 106

THE STORY OF SALVATION

(Formerly Course 108 – Foundations of Our Faith)

Group Leader Version with Notes and Answer Key



God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.
Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.
By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing;
so on the seventh day He rested from all His work.

John 15:20a

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COURSE 106: The Story of Salvation

Course Objectives

1. To be able to understand and explain the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. To increase our appreciation of God’s attributes, our confidence in His promises, and joyful obedience to His will.
3. To be able to appreciate the significance of the first three chapters of Genesis as foundational to understanding God’s salvation plan.
4. To look forward with joyful confidence to the return of Christ and His eternal reign in glory.

Lessons

①	There is one God, our Creator.
②	Man, with all creation has been corrupted by sin.
③	God has provided the way of salvation.
④	Jesus Christ is our Saviour.
⑤	Christ will return to earth to complete our salvation.

Introduction

The message of the Gospel is truly good news for all humanity. It is based on grace—not merit—and it stands opposed to manmade religions.

➤ **Religions say:**

“Do! Do this, do that, and hopefully you will merit God’s salvation.”

➤ **True salvation revealed from heaven says:**

“Done! Jesus has already paid the full price for our salvation.”

This message may at first seem foolish and even unjust to most people. Yet the foundational truths of the Gospel have been laid down from the first chapters of Genesis and explained and amplified throughout the Bible.

This series of studies is based on these first three chapters of the Bible. References from other parts of the Bible for comparison and further study are given as appropriate.

Each lesson presents an essential truth of the Good News of salvation from sin and judgment to a restored relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The aim of this course is to enable each participant to both fully understand and confidently explain to others the unique and wonderful Gospel message.

The biblical passages to learn by heart are: Ephesians 2:4-5 and John 1:29.

Testimony

Note for the group leader:

For each Course in the Progressing Together Level 1 program, a story has been provided that illustrates the impact of the Biblical teaching on the life of the disciple. The stories are based on real-life testimonies. They can be used to encourage faith and raise interest in the importance of studying what God's Word has to say on the topic at hand. You can use them in your church fellowship to invite other participants to the Course, or as part of the introduction to the first lesson. Alternatively, you may read the story below to your students:

My name is Huda. I'm now 21 years old. I live with my family – my mother and brothers. My father died when I was 12. I learnt our religion at home, and I became very religious myself. After my father died, I suffered greatly. My older brother imposed his authority on our home, even on my sick mother. It seemed as if he had become a different person and we all suffered at his hands. None of us escaped his wicked and cruel behaviour. Of course, I too fell victim to his violence and harshness. He wanted to get my father's inheritance for himself, in the name of religion.

The strange thing was that he seemed to have two personalities. He could be extremely wicked, both in what he said and did, but then, in front of others, be religious, pious and devoted to God's law. My suffering left a deep inner wound and many questions: How could people be so wicked? Where was God in all this? Does God just say in his law: 'Do this', 'Don't do that'? Is external appearance all that matters? Why is man's heart and thinking so perverted, why is there so much deceit?

Time went by and our family life continued. As I grew older, the questions in my mind and heart only increased. Sometimes, I would turn to God in supplication and prayer according to what I had learnt. But there were no answers. I was only saying words and performing gestures. Even my attempts to understand or to ask questions only received one reply: "God knows..."

At the start of my university education, I had to work with a fellow student on a project. Providentially, she happened to be a believer. I found it difficult to accept this, and, in my heart of hearts, I would have preferred to avoid her. It turned out that our task was to visit a hospital. There, I saw how she helped and showed love, and I was taken aback when she prayed for one of the patients. To me, her prayer was very strange and this set off a whole chain of questions in my mind. She prayed to the one God and asked Him, on the basis that He was her Father, to heal this daughter of His from her sickness, and all this in the name of Jesus!!!

My mind was filled with confusion and doubt. Emotions stirred in my heart, especially when I thought of my father's death. How could God be a Father?

I decided to talk to her and to open my heart to her. We became close friends and spent a lot of time together talking about what each of us believed.

Through our conversations, I began to love Christ and God, but how difficult it was for me to say that God was my Father!

Eventually, I received the Lord Jesus as my Saviour and I prayed with my friend. My heart was filled with joy and comfort. The deep pain in my heart from the loss of my father, the cruelty of my brother, my harsh life experiences and the sickness of my mother was eased.

I rejoiced greatly when I prayed out loud to God and called him "dear Father" for the first time. Now I long to know the living God better and to grasp more fully His plan to save rebellious sinners, so that I can help my loved ones to understand and accept His free gift of eternal life.



Lesson 1: There is One God, Our Creator

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To see the glorious character and triune nature of God in the creation.
2. To appreciate God's perfect and abundant provision for man in creation.
3. To appreciate the intimate relationship man enjoyed with God at Creation.



Read carefully Genesis, chapters 1 to 3.



THESE CHAPTERS TEACH US ABOUT THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTER AND TRIUNE NATURE OF GOD.



How long has God existed? (Genesis 1:1, 3:22)

For all eternity. God has no beginning and no end. He is not affected by the law of time as man is.



What do we learn concerning His Spirit? (Genesis 1:2)

The Spirit too was there at the beginning and had an active role in the creation.



What do we learn concerning His Word? (Genesis 1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26,28)

It was by His Word that all was created. His Word is therefore authoritative.

Now read John 1:1-3 and 14.



Who is the Word of God that became flesh and dwelt among us?

Jesus



Re-read John 1:3. What does this verse teach us about Jesus' work at creation?

God the Father created the world through Jesus Christ.



We worship one God who is three distinct persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In these first verses of Genesis 1, the glorious triune nature of God is introduced. John 1:1-14 helps us understand how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit worked together at creation.

Note for the group leader:

These verses show us the perfect work of the Trinity in creation. Another key passage, Colossians 1:16, further explains that all things were created through Jesus and for Jesus.



What evidence do you see of His wisdom and power in the creation story? (Genesis 1:1-2, 31)

All was created from nothing and it was good. The world and the garden were perfectly designed for mankind's enjoyment.



What evidence do you see of His love and mercy in the creation story? (Genesis 1:27-31, 2:18-25)

- *He established an environment perfectly adapted to man and to each species.*
 - *Woman was created for man.*
 - *He provided food and a nice place to live to mankind.*
 - *He initiated fellowship and interaction with mankind.*
-

②

THESE CHAPTERS DESCRIBE THE CREATIVE ACTS OF GOD.



Before God created the world, what was it that existed?

Nothing existed.



What do you notice concerning the sequential order in which different things were created?

- *The environment was created first and then the living beings were created.*
 - *Man was the crowning glory of all the creatures.*
 - *Man was set apart from the rest of creation and has a special relationship to God.*
-

③

THESE CHAPTERS TEACH US THAT GOD HAS A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP TO MANKIND.



What is it in these passages that shows God desires a close relationship with human beings? (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:1-3,16-20; 3:8-9)

- *He made man in his own image.**
- *He blessed the seventh day and put it aside as a special day for man to rest.*
- *He spoke with Adam and gave him an order.*
- *He provided all that man needed to live well.*
- *He searched for Adam and Eve in the garden, as he had the habit of doing in the evening. (3.8)*

Note for the group leader

The image of God in man is rich and many-faceted concept. It includes human abilities to reason, to plan, to make moral choices, to love, to communicate with other persons who are similar to himself. He can likewise understand something of God's nature and be able to represent Him as a steward to care for His creation (v26).

For further study, you could ask a participant to study this idea in Scripture and report to the group briefly next time. See also Progressing Together's Bible 202 Genesis course, Lesson 2, Section C.



What provisions did He make for their well-being? (Genesis 1:29-30; 2:8-9,15-25)

Every seed-bearing plant and fruit tree (food), a garden (a nice place to live), and a partner (companionship).

④ **THESE CHAPTERS TEACH US ABOUT GOD'S WILL AND PURPOSE FOR THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY FOR MANKIND.**



What blessings were given to mankind? (Genesis 1:22, 28)

Direct fellowship with God, a beautiful garden to manage and to live in, abundant food and provisions, authority to rule over all the creatures.



What responsibilities were given to mankind? (Genesis 1.28; 2.15,17,20)

To procreate (have children), to work to take care of the creation and look after the garden, to obey God by not eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, to name the animals and to reign over them.



What was God's assessment of the world when creation was completed? (Genesis 1:31)

He saw that everything was not just good, but "very good". He had created the world as a perfect place where He could live in uninterrupted harmony with man.

⑤ **THESE CHAPTERS TEACH US THAT LIFE IS PRECIOUS TO GOD.**



What type of food did God make available for animals and man? (Genesis 1:29-30; 2:9)

Seed-bearing plants and fruit trees



What may this indicate about His attitude towards bloodshed and killing?

God's design for creation did not include death, and so He did not allow the shedding of blood and the killing of animals for food. This shows that all life is precious.



Optional activities

1. Watch the video '[Cosmic eye](#)'. Then, spend some time worshipping God for his power, his wisdom and his loving kindness as shown in his creation.
Wordless video – 3 minutes
2. Romans 1:20a says: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made." Share as a group what people can see about God as they look at what He has made.
3. In what way should the teaching of the first three chapters of Genesis affect our moral choices, particularly with regards to the respect of human life? (Think in particular of the issues of abortion, of euthanasia, of our attitude towards people with disabilities, foreigners, the elderly, etc.) Discuss this as a group.
4. In what way should the teaching of the first three chapters of Genesis affect our attitudes towards the environment, the resources of our planet and man's responsibilities as 'caretaker' (Genesis 2:15) of these resources? Discuss this as a group.



Applications

1. If possible, go to a place where you can observe God’s creation using your eyes and other senses (like hearing, touch, smell, etc.). Meditate for ten minutes on everything God made. Then, share with the group what you noticed and how you felt. After that, spend a few minutes in prayer and worship, thanking God for his power, his loving care and his provision as is manifested in creation. In the coming days, keep meditating on God’s invisible qualities shown in creation and give thanks to him.
2. God planted a garden that was beautiful and full of delicious food for Adam to enjoy (Genesis 2:8-9). He also saw that Adam was alone and that it was not good. So, He made a ‘helper suitable for him’ (Genesis 2:18). What does this tell you about God’s desire to love man? What does this tell you about God’s desire to love you? Share a time in your life where God provided something for you that you needed. In the coming days, keep thanking God for his loving kindness towards you and his provision in your life.
3. Sing a worship song about God’s wonderful creation. You can choose your own song or one from the list below:
 - [Creation Song](#), by Fernando Ortega
Modern worship song, 4 minutes
 - [God of Wonders](#), by Chris Tomlin
Modern worship song, 4 minutes
 - [Behold Our God](#), by Sovereign Grace
Modern worship song, 5 minutes
 - [Great is Thy Faithfulness](#), by Maranatha Music
Modern rendering of a traditional hymn, 3 minutes

Note for the group leader:

Tell the students that there will be a revision activity at the end of this course. They will be asked to draw a panorama together, showing God’s plan from creation as narrated in Genesis to the new Jerusalem presented in Revelation. Ask them to start thinking about this.



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



Lesson ②: Man, with All Creation, Has Been Corrupted by Sin

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To recognize the impact of the Fall of man on creation, the nature of man and all his relationships.
2. To understand death as a physical and spiritual consequence of sin.
3. To be able to recognize the tactics of our adversary in provoking us to rebel against God's good will for us.



How are you getting on?

1. What were the main points of the last lesson?
2. What happened when you shared with others what you learned?
3. What changed in your lives as a result of these teachings?



Read carefully Genesis chapters 1-3.

①

TODAY'S WORLD COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL CREATION: WHAT CHANGED?



We learned in lesson 1 that the original creation was 'very good' and perfectly adapted for man. Explain briefly (according to chapter three) why the world that we know today is no longer the way it was originally and what has changed.

- *Because of Adam and Eve's sin, everything has been ruined.*
- *From now on evil exists in man; he is dominated by sin (3.15). The relationship between humans is spoilt. Suffering and sickness are normal parts of life. Weeds push out the good plants, making working the ground tedious rather than enjoyable.*

②

FROM TEMPTATION TO SIN: HOW WAS MANKIND TEMPTED TO REBEL AGAINST GOD?



What did the serpent promise would happen to Adam and Eve if they ate some fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? What happened in reality? (3:4-5)

- *The serpent said that they would not die, but after the fall Adam and Eve died both spiritually and physically.*
- *As the serpent had said, their eyes were opened, meaning that they came to understand good and evil; this made them ashamed.*
- *However, they did not become like God in every way. They did not become all knowing or all powerful. Neither did they gain the ability to live forever.*

Note for the group leader:

To the contrary, by listening to the serpent, man lost his domination over creation and became enslaved to the serpent and to the power of evil.



How did they react to their nudity when they ‘saw’?

They sewed fig leaves together to cover their nakedness.



What emotions did this new knowledge produce in them for the first time?

Shame (they wanted to cover their nakedness), guilt, fear (they hid from God).



What does Genesis 3:1-7 teach us as to the tactics of temptation?

The serpent was crafty and his tactics were persuasive:

- *He sowed doubt on God’s word.*
- *He made God out to be a liar who wanted to deprive man of certain good things.*
- *He lied.*
- *He aroused covetousness of the eyes.*
- *He aroused in man the desire to become more than a creature of God by taking God’s place.*



THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN: HOW DID THE DISOBEDIENCE OF ADAM AND EVE AFFECT THEM AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?



In the chart below, compare the condition of humanity before and after Adam and Eve sinned based on the passages provided.

Spheres of human existence	Before they sinned	After they sinned
Quality of Life / Longevity	<u>Genesis 1:31; 2:17</u> Life in the garden was very good and eternal (no death).	<u>Genesis 3:19,22-24; 5:5,11,17...</u> <i>They were banished from the garden and the Tree of Life and their bodies eventually returned to dust.</i>
Work and productivity of the earth	<u>Genesis 2:9, 15-16</u> <i>They were to work and care for the garden and enjoy its fruit.</i>	<u>Genesis 3:17-18</u> <i>The ground became cursed and the work painful and wearisome.</i>
Dominion over creation	<u>Genesis 1:28</u> <i>They ruled over all living creatures.</i>	<u>Hebrews 2:14-15</u> Man was subjected to Satan through the fear of death.
Image of God in man	<u>Genesis 1:27; 2:7</u> <i>God created mankind in his own image (male and female). He breathed in man the breath of life.</i>	<u>Genesis 5:1-2; 9:6</u> <i>God’s image remained in humanity after the Fall*</i>
Relationship with God	<u>Genesis 2:18-24; 3:8</u> God enjoyed speaking directly and interacting lovingly with them.	<u>Genesis 3:8-10; 6:5-6</u> <i>Man is ashamed and estranged from God. God is grieved by man and his constant bent toward evil. He regrets creating him.</i>

**Note for the group leader:*

Although the image of God has been corrupted in human nature, man still has a certain capacity to care for creation, to recognize and appreciate moral goodness (justice, respect, honesty, etc.), to associate with others (seek, maintain relationships), to be creative (music, art, inventions...) etc.



God said that the day that man disobeyed, he would die. And yet Adam and Eve lived on physically for a long time. What had, in fact, 'died' when man sinned? Read also Ephesians 2:1-3. *From the moment of their disobedience, their relationship with God was broken, what we call 'spiritual death'. Man's life is now marked by hatred or distrust of God, dominated by sin, lust and rebellion against the will of God.*



The events of Genesis chapter 3 are referred to as the Fall of Man. How does a proper understanding of the sin and fall of mankind affect the way one views God, himself and the world we live in today?

Open answer.

Some typical responses:

- *God did not create sin and evil and He is not responsible for it.*
- *God loves us very much and is patient and forbearing. He does not deal with us as our sins deserve.*
- *Man is not basically "good" but rather his inclination is toward evil and he stands in need of a saviour.*
- *The world we live in is not as it was created. It is irreparably corrupted and in need of redemption.*

Note for the group leader:

We will study the Gospel message more fully in lesson 4. However, if any of those present need to hear the Gospel message today, do not miss this opportunity. Consider the optional activity n°2 below.



Optional activities

1. Listen to a recording of Genesis 3. Choose five actors (the narrator, God, Adam, the woman and the serpent) and act out the scene as you listen. You can do this twice or more, changing actors each time. Then, discuss the following questions: What do we learn about the woman? How are we like her? What do we learn about Adam? How are we like him? Then, spend some time in silent prayer and confess your disobediences to God.
2. The story doesn't end with man experiencing physical and spiritual death or separation from God. There is more to the story. Ask someone in your group to share the Gospel of Jesus dying on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and look forward to learning more about this in lesson 3.



Applications

1. Satan tricked Adam and Eve into sinning by enticing them with false promises. How do modern day temptations promise us one thing but fail to deliver on that promise? Discuss this as a group.

2. Are you feeling shame, fear and separation from God due to sin? Spend some time alone, quietly confessing that sin and asking for forgiveness. This week, make it a habit to confess your sin regularly and to thank God for his forgiveness.
3. When we sin, we tend to hide from God like Adam and Eve in the garden. However, God desires to have fellowship with us and seeks us out. Are you hiding from God today? Spend a few minutes alone, thanking God for seeking you out to have a relationship with you. This week, continue to thank God for welcoming you back into relationship with him when you confess your sin.



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



Lesson ③: God Has Provided a Way of Salvation

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To recognize the helpless condition of fallen humanity and the need for redemption.
2. To recognize God's first promise of redemption to Adam and Eve.
3. To appreciate more fully the holiness, mercy and steadfast love of God through his wonderful plan of salvation.



How are you getting on?

1. What were the main points of the last lesson?
2. What happened when you shared with others what you learned?
3. What changed in your lives as a result of these teachings?

Read carefully Genesis, chapter 3.

God does not abandon man in his state of spiritual death. He provides the way to true life through forgiveness, the new birth and restored fellowship with God.

① **THE HOPELESSNESS OF THE HUMAN CONDITION**

In lesson 2 we learnt that God had said that Adam and Eve would surely die the day they ate of the forbidden tree of knowledge. What signs do we see in verses 7-13 that they did indeed die spiritually?

Man's relationship with God was broken. He no longer enjoyed fellowship with God, but instead hid from God in fear.

② **MANKIND'S RESPONSE**

What did Adam and Eve do to hide the results of their sin and make themselves acceptable to God?

They sewed fig leaves together to cover their nakedness.

Note to the group leader:

You could point out that mankind tends to hide from God for fear of exposing his sin. Man also tends to try to cover their sins through their own means – whether it be fig leaves or good works.

Was their attempt successful?

No

③ GOD'S PROVISION



In verse 3:21, what did God do to cover man's nakedness?

He covered Adam and Eve with an animal skin.



What had to take place to provide them with the coats of skin?

An animal was sacrificed (killed).



Compare this verse with John 1:29. Who is the Person announced as the 'Lamb of God'?

Jesus



What did Jesus accomplish?

He took away the sin of the world.



What does the expression 'the lamb who takes away the sins of the world' mean?

Jesus died in our stead, just as an innocent lamb was offered in sacrifice to cover the sin of the people under the first covenant (the Old Testament).

Note for the group leader:

You could explain (or ask them to do so) that in the Old Testament a lamb was used as a sacrifice in the temple so that the sins of the worshiper could be forgiven by God. The animal, who had no physical defect, was sacrificed in the place of the sinner to make atonement for his guilt and to remove his sin. The death penalty that man deserved fell on the lamb. This was a sign to foreshadow (show beforehand) that the true Lamb that God had promised would take away the believer's guilt once and for all. For it is written that it is impossible for the blood of animals to take away sins. (Hebrews 9:11-14 and 10:4)



What connection do you see between Genesis 3:21 and John 1:29?

An innocent victim gave his life to redeem the guilty.

Note for the group leader:

Many religious systems have practices of blood sacrifice. It is helpful to think about these practices and to explore whether they can, in some way, point people to Jesus. For instance, the Eid al Adha celebration can be a stepping stone to help them understand the sacrifice of Christ. The need for blood sacrifice for sin is imbedded in our conscience. This helps point men and women to the centrality of the cross of Jesus Christ, God's remedy for sin. God's covering of skins were adequate to remove their shame of sinfulness, albeit as a temporary covering. However, God did not remove the consequences of their sin. The earth would produce thorns, they would have to work hard, and eventually die.

④ MANKIND'S PART



We have noticed in 3:7,10 that man's attempt to cover his own sin by what he could do proved worthless. We have also noticed in 3:21 that only what God would provide was sufficient to cover the nakedness of their sin.



What part did Adam and Eve play in receiving this covering?

They played no part. They simply received what God gave them.



What does this tell us about God’s attributes of justice and holiness?

God is perfectly just and holy and did not overlook the penalty that had to be paid for sin. Jesus died on the cross in our place which satisfied the just demands of the law and maintained God’s holiness.



How do these coverings show God’s compassion and love for mankind?

Adam and Eve were wholly guilty before God and deserving of death as duly warned. God Himself graciously provided animals to be put to death in their place and removed their shame by providing coverings for them. This pointed to the day his own Son would die for them. What a sacrifice of love!

Note for the group leader:

See also Romans 3:25 and Hebrews 9:11-14, where God showed his patience to the Old Testament saints through offering animal sacrifices in anticipation of the day Christ would pay the price once for all.



GOD’S PROVISION IN CHRIST



Read carefully Ephesians 2:4-10.



Explain how receiving the coats of skin symbolizes how we receive God’s provision of salvation through Christ. Complete the chart below:

	Genesis 3:21	Ephesians 2:1-13
Man’s guilt and shame	Genesis 3:8-13: Adam and Eve hid from God’s presence in shame. They were guilty of breaking God’s only restriction and deserved to die.	<i>We all were dead in sins, disobedient, overcome by evil passions, and enslaved to Satan. We deserved God’s righteous wrath. (Verses 1-3)</i>
Means of covering sin	<i>Animals were slaughtered to cover the sin of man.</i>	The Son of God died (on the cross) in our place and was raised to life for us.
God’s part	God slaughtered animals, made clothes and covered man’s body.	<i>God put us to death with Christ and raised us up with Him. (See also Romans 6:8)</i>
Man’s part	They accepted God’s gift freely.	<i>We believe in Christ’s gracious provision for us and accept His free gift by faith.</i>



Now explain briefly in your own words how Genesis 3:21 helps us understand God’s plan to save mankind.

Adam and Eve were powerless, sentenced to death and horrified by their guilt before God, until He covered their nakedness and their sin by sacrificing an animal and clothing them with a skin. It is God who provides and man who receives.

It is the same with us, we were powerless, dead in our sin and under the wrath of God, but in His love, He raised us to life and seated us in the heavenly realms in Christ. By this union with Jesus-Christ, God justified us by Christ’s work alone. So again, it is God who provides and man who receives.

Salvation is by grace, through faith. No human work can merit salvation. Salvation is the work of God alone.



Optional activities

1. Watch this [video from The Bible Project summarising Genesis 1-11](#). Note particularly how sin is infecting and corrupting all of humanity and how God deals with it. Discuss this as a group.
The Book of Genesis Part 1 by the Bible Project – 5 minutes
2. Object lesson: Take a glass of clear water representing Adam and Eve before they sinned. They were pure, without any sin. Now, put a drop of dark liquid into the glass of water representing a very powerful poison called 'sin'. Then, discuss the following questions, drawing the parallels with the story of the fall: Would anyone like to drink some of this water? Why not? How much poison did it take to contaminate the whole liquid? If someone drank this lethal poison, when would they die? (Not necessarily straight away) What does this teach you about the consequences of sin?



Applications

1. Like Adam and Eve, we constantly try to cover our shame before God. What are some of the futile ways we attempt to do this? Discuss this as a group.
2. Adam and Eve played absolutely no part in receiving a covering after they sinned. They simply received what God gave them by grace. Compare this message of grace with what religions teach us about earning God's favour through good works.
3. Think of the different ways God could have responded to the disobedience of Adam and Eve. What do we learn about God (his attributes) in the way He did respond in providing for their redemption? After you have discussed this as a group, spend some time in thanksgiving and worship. This week, keep thanking God for covering you with the blood of Jesus.



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



Lesson 4: Jesus Christ is Our Salvation

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To be able to understand how Jesus Christ alone could fulfil God's promise to Adam and Eve of salvation from Satan's power.
2. To rejoice in the total liberty of Christ's victory over Satan for the believer.
3. To be able to explain the gospel message through the fulfilment of God's promises in Genesis 3.



How are you getting on?

1. What were the main points of the last lesson?
2. What happened when you shared with others what you learned?
3. What changed in your lives as a result of these teachings?



Read carefully Genesis 3:15,21 and Philippians 2:5-11.



OUR ENEMY



Look closely at Genesis 3:15. Who in the creation have now become enemies? How does this animosity affect us today?

On the one side, we find Satan and all his 'offspring': those born into this world who remain under his influence and control. On the other, the woman and her offspring: Jesus-Christ and all who by faith in Him are freed from Satan's bondage.

Today, we see this conflict raging in the world with Satan and his followers resisting us as we announce the Gospel of Christ, which can save people and give them victory over Satan.

Note to the group leader:

Although Satan often incites those under his power to hate and persecute us, we should consider them not as enemies we must crush, but as victims who need to be rescued.

You could ask participants which camp they are in and perhaps how they know, both as an opportunity to ground their faith in the promises of the gospel, and to help them identify with the battle and the significance of God's victory.



What will the seed of the woman do to the serpent?

He will conquer the Serpent by taking away his power (crush his head).



Who is the only One in all of history who was born of a woman, but not of a man?

Jesus Christ

② THE NATURE OF JESUS



What did you learn from Philippians 2:6-7 concerning Jesus Christ?

He was in very nature God, but made himself nothing, taking the nature of a servant made in human likeness.

③ THE REASON OF HIS COMING



What do you learn from Philippians 2:8 concerning the main reason for which He came to this earth as a man?

He came to give his life on a cross.



What did this accomplish for us? See Hebrews 2:14-15.

His death destroyed the devil who holds the power of death and freed those who are held in slavery.

Note for the group leader:

You could compare with 1 John 3:8, which says the Son came 'to destroy the works of the devil.'



Why was it necessary for him to become a man (and to suffer so)? See Hebrews 2:16-18.

Liberating us required that he become like us, a man, so that he could represent us before God as high priest and as one who could take upon himself the penalty for our sin through his death on the cross.

④ JESUS' PRESENT POSITION



What do you learn from Philippians 2:9-11 concerning the present position of Jesus Christ?

He has been exalted to the highest place. He has received the name that is above every name. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. Every tongue will confess that He is Lord.



Having died, is He still dead?

No



Where is He? (Compare with Hebrews 1:1-4.)

Seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly realms.

⑤ THE FINAL OUTCOME



In Genesis 3, it is obvious that Satan tried to usurp the place of God in relation to mankind. In verse 15, in light of Philippians 2:9-11, what do we learn concerning the final outcome of this conflict?

Satan is defeated. He must recognize Christ as Lord of all and bow to him alongside all other created beings.



What are the essential elements concerning the person and work of Jesus that we have dealt with in this lesson?

- *He was in glory, equal to God the Father.*
- *He became a man and submitted himself to the Father's will on earth.*
- *He gave his life in sacrifice, dying on the cross to take away the sin of the world.*
- *He was resurrected from the dead and ascended to the Father.*
- *He reigns at the right hand of God, in glory and every knee shall bow before him.*



Optional activities

1. Think of a recent situation where you sensed there was clearly a spiritual battle between God's people and the forces of darkness. Describe it to the group and, if still current, present this situation to God in prayer, proclaiming the total victory of Christ over every power of darkness.
2. Take a piece of paper and a pen. As you listen to Philippians 2:6-11, draw what the passage says about Jesus. Spend some time meditating on what it cost Jesus to save you. Express your gratitude to Him and worship Him who is now exalted above all other names.



Applications

1. Starting with Genesis chapter 3, explain humanity's rebellion and sin against God and how God provided salvation in Jesus Christ. Pray that you will be able to explain the plan of salvation clearly to someone this week.
2. Sing a worship song thanking God for his wonderful salvation through Christ's death on the cross. You can choose your own song or one from the list below:
 - [Worthy is the Lamb](#), by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir
Modern worship song, 6 minutes
 - [Lord, I lift your name on high](#), by Maranatha! Music
Modern worship song, 3 minutes
 - [Thank you, Jesus, for the blood](#), by Charity Gayle
Modern worship song, 5 minutes
 - [In Christ alone](#), by Keith and Kristin Getty
Modern worship song, 4 minutes
 - [Living hope](#), by Phil Wickham
Modern worship, 6 minutes



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



Lesson 5: Christ Will Return to Earth to Complete Our Salvation

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To be able to explain how our perfect fellowship with God will be restored and our salvation will be completed.
2. To recognize God’s sovereign rule over all of history and the daily events of our lives.
3. To look forward with confidence to the return of Christ and His eternal reign in glory.



How are you getting on?

1. What were the main points of the last lesson?
2. What happened when you shared with others what you learned?
3. What changed in your lives as a result of these teachings?



Read carefully Genesis 1:26-28; 3:15, 21 and Revelation 19-22.



Jesus says in Revelation 22:13 that He is “the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” In Hebrews 12:2, we see that He is “the author and perfecter of our faith.”

From Creation, to the Fall, to God’s provision in the sacrifice of his own Son, the Scriptures reveal God’s working sovereignly and graciously to restore mankind and the creation under His authority.

In lesson 5, we will study the last few chapters of the Bible to see what God will do to complete the salvation story and bring his creation back to its original state. We will see that God truly is the author and perfecter of our faith and the Alpha and Omega.



MAJOR EVENTS DESCRIBED IN REVELATION 19-22



There are 5 main events that take place in Revelation 19-22. Read the verses for each event and offer a brief description explaining the event.

The event	The description
The feast (19:7-10)	<i>There will be a feast to celebrate the wedding of the Lamb to His bride.</i>
The battle (19:11-21)	<i>Jesus and His armies will come from heaven to do battle on earth with the beast and his cohort. Jesus will be victorious.</i>

The abyss (20:1-10)	<i>Satan will be bound in the Abyss (for a 1000 years), then thrown into the lake of burning sulphur for ever and ever.</i>
The judgment (20:11-15)	<i>The dead will be judged and those condemned will be thrown into the Abyss to be with Satan.</i>
The eternal reign (21:1-4, 22:1-5)	<i>There will be a new heaven and a new earth. God’s chosen ones will serve Him and reign with Him forever.</i>

② **CHRIST VICTORIOUS**



Who is being referred to in 19:11-16?

Christ, victorious and righteous.



What names and titles are ascribed to Him?

Faithful, True, Word of God, King of kings, Lord of lords.

Note for the group leader:

Help participants to reflect on the significance of each of these titles.

③ **SATAN’S DEMISE**



What will be the lot of Satan and his forces at that time? (20:1-10)

An angel will seize him. He will be bound and thrown into the Abyss. He will no longer deceive the nations. He will be thrown with his cohort (followers) into the lake of burning sulphur where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

④ **THE JUDGMENT**



Upon what criterion will each person's eternal destiny be decided? (20:11-15)

Whether or not their names were written in the Book of Life. (Verse 15)

The dead were judged according to their deeds (their sins) which were written in the books. (Verse 12)

Note for the group leader:

These verses do not teach a works-based salvation. The books that were opened contained all of man’s works. By this measure all fall short of the glory of God and deserve to die in the second death (Romans 3:23 and 6:23). However, there was another book opened: the “Book of Life”. If your name was found in that book you were saved. This Book of Life includes all the names of the people who had put their faith in Christ and His perfect sacrifice, which cleansed them from their sins. Salvation is by grace alone through faith in the finished work of Christ.



Comparing this passage with 21:1-8, describe the two possible destinies for each person.

<i>A dwelling place with God and a perfect relationship with Him</i>	<i>The lake of fire which is the second (eternal) death</i>
----------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------

⑤ **THE NEW JERUSALEM**



After this great white throne judgment, John saw the New Jerusalem descending from heaven in glory! (21:1-2). Complete the table describing the different aspects of this eternal kingdom of God. (Chapters 21 and 22)

God	God will dwell with His people and will reign. He will be the light for the city. He will wipe away every tear.
The People	<i>The people will live in total security, symbolised by the doors and the wall. They will see the face of God and will worship Him. There will not be any more mourning, crying, or pain. They will walk in fellowship with God again.</i>
The Temple	<i>There will not be a temple. For God and His Lamb are the temple and the people will dwell with them and worship in their presence.</i>
The Gates and Walls	<i>There were 12 gates with 12 angels. On the 12 gates were the names of the 12 tribes of Israel. The walls were high and had 12 foundations on which were the names of the 12 apostles.</i>
The River of Life and the Tree of Life	<i>The River of life will flow from God’s throne through the middle of the city. The Tree of Life will be placed next to the river and will be yielding fruit for the inhabitants of the city. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (There will be no illness).</i>
Death	Death will be no more. The curse is removed.

Note for the group leader:

The ‘New Jerusalem’ is a brand-new city that comes down from heaven. The current Jerusalem will ‘pass away’ with the rest of the earth (Rev 21:1) and these verses promise that God will create a new heaven and a new earth of which this new Jerusalem will be as beautiful as a bride adorned for her husband.



What similarities do you find between this kingdom and the originally created world as we find it in Genesis 1 and 2?

- *God lives in the midst of His creation. (No need for a temple)*
- *Everything and everyone is in perfect security.*
- *The light of God shines (Gen 1.3).*
- *The tree of life is present.*
- *Man has a perfect relationship with God.*
- *There is no sin, no illness, no death.*



Who will be excluded from this kingdom? (20:11-15; 21:8, 27; 22:15)

- *All whose name is not written in the book of life.*
- *All who are cowardly, unbelieving, vile, murderers, sexually immoral, who practice magic, are idolatrous, liars, impure, shameful and deceitful.*



Who will be included? (20:12,15; 21:27)

All whose name is written in the Lamb's book of life.



Optional activities

1. Listen to a recording of Revelation 21:1-27, a few verses at a time. Draw a picture of heaven as described in this passage. What aspect of the future kingdom of God moves you the most. Why? Share this with the group. Then, praise God together that your name is written in the Book of Life in heaven.
2. Sing a worship song about the kingdom to come. You can choose your own song or one from the list below:
 - [Is He worthy](#), by Andrew Peterson
Modern worship song, 5 minutes
 - [One day](#), by Cochren & Co
Modern worship song, 3 minutes
 - [I can only imagine](#), by MercyMe
Modern worship song, 4 minutes
 - [Agnus Dei](#), by Michael W. Smith
Modern worship song, 6 minutes
 - [Bless the Lord](#), by Matt Redman
Modern worship song, 6 minutes
 - [What a beautiful name](#), by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir
Modern worship song, 6 minutes



Applications

1. We started this course in the Garden of Eden with Adam, Eve, the serpent, and God. (Genesis 1-3) The story ends with a final victory over all those who persecuted and challenged God's people and the work of Christ (Revelation 19-22). Discuss the following questions as a group:
 - a) What confidence does this give us concerning the future?
 - b) How can understanding this victory help us face our daily challenges?
2. There are two possible destinies for each person: A dwelling place with God and a perfect relationship with Him or the lake of fire which is the second (eternal) death. Spend some time in prayer, interceding for those who are dear to you but who have not yet accepted their Saviour Jesus Christ. This week, continue to pray for them.



Review of Course 106

Review the five lessons of this Course. What is the most helpful thing you have learned? Share your discoveries with the group.

Then, ask the students to draw a panorama together, showing God's plan from creation as narrated in Genesis to the new Jerusalem presented in Revelation.



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



End of Course Evaluation

Please note:

This End of Course Evaluation is there to help you improve your skills as a group leader.

Put a check next to the issues that you need to work on.

You may want to discuss some of these with your mentor/coordinator.

Number of the Course that you finished teaching:

Title of the Course:

Think about the following questions:

A. This course

Is there something that was not covered sufficiently or that you need to cover again in this course? What are you going to do about it?

B. Your role as a group leader

Is there anything you should change in the way you prepare your lessons?

Is there anything you should change in your teaching method? (Are you leading the students to discover the answers for themselves?)

Is there anything you should change in your attitude as a group leader? (Are you dominating or moderating the group?)

C. Preparation and participation

Are the students attending the meetings regularly? If this is not the case, why not? Is there anything that can be done to enable them to do so?

Are the students preparing their answers thoughtfully before coming and eager to share what they've learned? What can you do to encourage and further motivate them?

D. Group dynamics

Are there students who do not participate or do not feel free to share at a deeper level in the group? If this is the case, why?

Are there some who cause problems in the group? In what way? How can you deal with that?

Are the students taking responsibilities within the group and serving others using their gifts? If not, what can you do to encourage this?

E. Review & progress evaluation

Are you ensuring students can understand and express what they have studied? If so, how?

- Answers in class Review questions Oral exam Written exam

Are you keeping a record of the students' progress? If so, how?

- Attendance Students' workbooks Exams Course register Student register

Are students achieving in their evaluations? If not, why not? How can you help them improve?

F. Application

Are your students putting the biblical truths into practice? If not, why not?

What difficulties are your students facing on their spiritual journey? How could you help them overcome these difficulties?

Does anyone need personal follow-up? If you cannot do this, whom could you ask?

G. Multiplication

Are the participants sharing with others about what they learned? If not, how could you help them to do this?

Are others seeking to join a study group? If so, how can you best integrate the newcomers?

Have you identified any participants who could become future group leaders? How are you going to equip them?

H. Further group leader training & equipping

Note any areas you would like to receive further training in.

What else would you like to discuss with your mentor/coordinator?

What next?

- ✓ Praise God and intercede for each of your students.
- ✓ Pray for your own ministry as a discipleship group leader.
- ✓ Look at each of the issues that you want to work on. Decide what you have to do to address these issues. Then start implementing the necessary changes.
- ✓ If you want to discuss something, make an appointment with your mentor/coordinator.

We would love to hear about your experiences as you taught this Course.
Please contact the Progressing Together team: info@progressingtogether.com