

Creation and Fall



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Materials

Bibles, seven thin sticks, a piece of string, Reproducible Activity

Surveying the Source

Gen. 1:26–28; 3:16–19; 11:1–9; 15:5, 6; Gal. 3:29

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Understand the unity that originally existed at creation.
- ▶ Learn about the fall, its consequences, and the plan of salvation.

▶ Discover how we too can be heirs of the promise given to Abraham.

Preparing to Lead

Football (or soccer) is a sport played in over 200 countries and has become one of the world's most popular sports. Two teams of eleven players kick a ball with the intention of scoring a goal through their opponent's goal posts. Interestingly, each of the eleven players have different

functions, but they work together to assist their team to score goals. Similarly, even though we were all created to be unique, our purpose in life is to unite in Christ and to love one another in order to collectively prepare for the Lord's return.

Getting Started

A. One of the most valuable paintings is Rembrandt's "The Return of the Prodigal Son." Imagine that this painting was vandalized and sold at an auction. As people bid for this painting, outdoing each other by a few dollars, Rembrandt bids to reclaim his painting at its original value before it was vandalized. The artist returns home with it and begins to restore it to its original magnificence.

Similarly, God is an artist and we are His masterpieces, destroyed by sin. However, He sent His Son to pay the price to restore us to our original splendor.

B. In Genesis 12:1–3 the Lord spoke to Abraham and promised to make him into a great nation. At this time Abraham and Sarah were old and childless. Abraham became known as a man of tremendous faith, but the true test of his faith occurred in Genesis 22 when God asked him to sacrifice his son, Isaac. It didn't seem logical that God would ask him to sacrifice his son after being promised that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. How important is it to trust God even though we cannot make sense of what He asks of us?

Delving Into the Word

A. As a class, read Genesis 1:26–28. This scripture reveals that the Godhead was united in the way they created the world when it says, “Let Us make man in Our image according to Our likeness ...” (Gen 1:26). Adam and Eve were created with the unified purpose to have dominion over the world as well as to be fruitful and multiply. As soon as sin entered the world, the mood in the garden changed. The couple that once walked freely in the Garden of Eden felt naked, sewed fig leaves to cover themselves and they hid when they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden.

When they were confronted by God after they had eaten the forbidden fruit, the man blamed his wife for giving him the fruit and the woman in turn blamed the serpent for the deception. For the first time, there was discord in their harmonious marriage relationship and their relationship with God was also affected by their sin.

B. As a class, read Genesis 1:28 and 15:5. The word of the Lord came to Abraham in a vision and asked him to look up at the sky and to count the stars. The promise given to Abraham was that his seed would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. God's original plan at creation according to Genesis 1:28 was that Adam and Eve would have dominion over the earth and that they should be fruitful and multiply. We see here that this original role that was entrusted to Adam and Eve became a promise given to Abraham.

As a class, read Galatians 3:29 informs us that by belonging to Christ, we too are Abraham's seed and heirs of the promise given to him. So despite our differences in gender, age, and ethnic group, we are heirs of the promise through Christ and therefore unified to fulfill a common purpose.

Discussing the Ideas

1. What were the consequences that Adam and Eve experienced after they ate the forbidden fruit?

2. Why do we sometimes have to still suffer consequences of sins even after we have been forgiven from them?

3. Is it possible for us to use the power of unity in an ungodly manner? If so, how can we prevent the misuse of the power of unity?

4. We were all created to be unique. How can we still unite despite our differences?

5. In Mark 12:28–31, why was love for God and love for our neighbor listed as the most important commandments?

6. A seed is a link between one generation and another. How can we preserve Abraham's seed to prevent its DNA from being compromised by the world?

Closing the Activity

Jesus commanded His followers to love one another just as He loved us. There are four ways that we can use to show love to one another.

- Forgive one another.
- Encourage one another.
- Bear one another's burdens.

- Confessing sin and praying for one another.

Let us make a personal commitment to follow each of the four steps on a daily basis so that we can spread the love of Christ amongst us.

Solwazi Khumalo, Pretoria, Gauteng, South Africa

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Give seven thin sticks to seven different members of your class. Ask each of the students to break the stick into half. They should easily break. Collect the now 14 sticks, tie them together with a piece of string, and then ask the strongest member of the class to try and break the sticks after they have been tied together. Similarly, unity strengthens us. When we put God at the center of our lives and unite in love, we will be a strong force that cannot be broken.

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