

date: 9/17/17**Bible Passage: Genesis 2—3**  
(The Fall and Restoration)

## God Is Redeemer

### REMEMBER VERSE

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory  
and honor and power, for you created all things.

Revelation 4:11a

## Inspire

*Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

As a child I played many games of Hide and Seek. The delightful anticipation of being discovered was almost more than I could bear. Then there were those occasions when I would hide, not because I was playing a game, but because I had done something wrong. I knew there would be consequences for my actions ... there always were.

Once I was concealed and out of sight, I always wondered, “How long will it be before I’m found?” I knew, even as a kid, that I wouldn’t be able to hide forever. I didn’t want to remain under the bed—it was lonely. Finally, my parents entered the room. Knowing fully well where I was, they would call out to me one more time, “Cristi, where are you?” Slowly I would crawl out from under the bed to face what I had only temporarily avoided.

Although I no longer hide under the bed, there are still times when I try to hide from God. I know He sees me, even when I’m trying to avoid Him. I’m also very aware that I can’t remain in “hiding” forever—nor do I want to. I hate the distance my sin creates between God and me. It’s then I’m reminded that He has called us out of the shadows of sin. God provided the way for us to be freed and taken out of hiding: no more shame; no more distance. He defeated sin and death to remove all barriers that would keep us from being with Him. We’re able to come to Him without fear. He is the way, the Truth, and the life.

*Cristi Thomas*  
Tru Team

## Equip

*Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

After God created mankind, He blessed them and gave them rule over every fish in the sea, all the birds of the air, and every living creature that moves on the ground. Of the food in the garden God said, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die" (Genesis 2:16–17).

One day the woman entered into a conversation with the Serpent—the deceiver. As they spoke, he began to question the validity of God's command and assured the woman that she would not die as soon as she ate the fruit, but she would know good and evil just as the Lord knew good and evil. Eve made the choice to eat the fruit of the tree. Adam followed by taking the fruit she offered. And then they hid; sin had entered humanity.

Although Adam and Eve didn't die physically, the moment they ate the forbidden fruit they died spiritually. Death was now a part of the human experience. No longer would they live forever, eating from the tree of life. No longer would they be in perfect relationship with God Himself. They were ushered out of the garden to work the land and bear children—both with pain. However, God had a plan to restore what had been broken and redeem what had been lost.

"In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil"  
(Genesis 2:9b).

In the middle of the garden stood choice—choice between life and death. God's story with mankind would be forever altered by this choice. Death was chosen, but life would be redeemed. God made the way for us to be with Him forever. He is our Redeemer.

## Support

*Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. Psalm 139:7–12

God's story specifically includes you. You are never out of God's sight. He has always known you and loved you. You are never in a place where He cannot reach you. Think of a place in your home or outside where you feel safe and quiet. Go to this place. Take some time to read through these Scriptures again. As you do, pray through them. Where do these words and their meaning direct your thoughts? Is there anything you've been trying to keep from God? Is there anything you've been trying to handle on your own before showing it to Him? Spend some time giving these things over to God. As you do, open your hands and place them palms down on your lap. When you're finished, and you're ready to receive from the Lord, turn your hands and place them palms up in front of you, or on your lap. Wait expectantly on the Lord. He will meet you. God is your Redeemer. He has made the way so that you may know Him and be with Him forever.

## EXPLORE::: 10 min.

### Small Group Leaders

*Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.*

## Finding Home

When God created the world, He designed and provided beautiful places for everyone and everything He created to live. Today children will explore the concept of things that go together as they're encouraged to make observations about the things they see and match the items with their homes.

### SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Finding Home images \(see Resources\)](#)
- Optional: laminator

### PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Finding Home images. If using in multiple services, consider laminating each one.

### SET UP

Scatter the images down the center of the table.

### RELATE

Welcome children and encourage them to look through all the pictures. Ask them questions about what they're observing in each image (shape, color, texture, etc.). **Friends, can you match the things that go together? Let's help the animals, plants, and people find their homes.** Dialogue with the children as they match. Ask about their pairings. **Which home looks the coziest to you? What makes it cozy? What kinds of homes do people have?**

## DISCOVER::: 25 min.

### Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

*Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.*

### Ponder Point

## God Is Redeemer

## Chloe's Rules

### Host/Worship Leader

### SUPPLIES

- [Chloe's Rules videos](#)
- Worship music (suggestions: "I Can Sing," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours* and "He Knows Me," TruWorship *Your Love*)

**RELATE**

Welcome children as they're entering the large group meeting area. *Tech: Cue Chloe's Rules video.* The theme song will play as the Worship Leader/Host enters and makes his way up front, welcoming and greeting children along the way. This should be a high-energy entrance. *Tech: Cue preschool program theme song.* Choose and play two upbeat worship songs of your choice from a worship album that complements the theme and focus of the lesson.

## Mail Time

**Host/Worship Leader****SUPPLIES**

- Remember Verse image (see Resources)
- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- Bibles (your personal and large children's)
- Mailbox

**RELATE**

Choose one volunteer to hide the mail and another to find the mail. Have the "Seeker" close her eyes while the "Hider" finds a good place to hide the Remember Verse. Once the mail has been hidden, the Seeker will begin to look for the mail while the children give clues to its whereabouts by calling out "hot" and "cold."

Once the Seeker finds the mail, the Host invites her to pull out the enclosed Remember Verse. Next, the Host should find the Remember Verse in his Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with the children.

Lead the children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory. For longer verses, approach the verse one section at a time, increasing what the children repeat back each week.

**REMEMBER VERSE**

**You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory  
and honor and power, for you created all things.  
Revelation 4:11a**

**REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS**

**Worthy:** Deserving; only God is worthy of worship

**Glory:** Brilliant, radiant beauty that brings praise to God

**Honor:** Worship, exalt

**REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS**

**You are worthy:** Point to sky then place hands on heart.

**our Lord and God:** Make letter "L" with right index finger and thumb at left shoulder. Move "L" diagonally down to right hip.

**to receive glory:** Hold out open, bent arms, palms up.

**and honor:** Keep arms out and tilt head back to face up to sky.

**and power:** Make strong arms.

**for you created all things:** Cross arms over each other in front of body and then open arms up and out.

## Wardrobe of Wonder

Storyteller/Host/Worship Leader

### SUPPLIES

- **What'slit:** [Leaves \(see optional image in Resources\)](#)
- Wardrobe of Wonder

### What'slit: Leaves

God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed in the garden. They had freedom to eat whatever they wanted—everything but the fruit from one tree. He gave them a choice to be in a relationship with Him. He gave them a choice to obey, but they chose to disobey. Instantly, they were aware of their sin and hid themselves. Adam and Eve hid from one another by using leaves to cover themselves, and they tried to hide from God among the trees. God calls us out of hiding and into relationship with Him.

### RELATE

*Tech:* *Cue image.* Invite a child volunteer to “spy” on the What'slit by peeking into the wardrobe. Each time the wardrobe door opens, *cue the Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect.* Have him whisper the identity of the What'slit in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Invite your assistant to sit on the stools with you. Then lead the group in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What'slit. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What'slit from the wardrobe and bring it to you. Thank your volunteer and encourage him to sit with his small group.

### ASK

**What have we found in the wardrobe today?** Children answer. **It's a picture! Let's take a look.** As you show the picture to the children, ask them to identify the images they see. Interact with and affirm their answers. **There sure are many different kinds of things in this one picture! What do all of these things have in common?** Allow children to answer. **Those are all some very good thoughts. Well, we're about to find out more about this interesting picture, because next our Storyteller is coming to tell us a wonderful and true story from The Big God Story. I'm so excited!**

# The Big God Story

Genesis 2—3

God Is Redeemer

Storytelling Technique: Puppets, Props, and Illustrations

### SUPPLIES

- [The Big God Story intro clip and image \(see Resources\)](#)
- [The Big God Story images: #1 Adam and Eve, #2 Adam and Eve in Garden, #3 Adam and Eve Leave Garden, #4 Adam, #5 Eve \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Staging Sketch template \(for option #1; see Resources\)](#)

- Option #1 props: foam board (3 large sheets), glue, fishing wire (and suspended ceiling hooks if you have ceiling tiles and fluorescent lights) or easels (3, 1 for each sheet of foam board), potted silk trees, fabric (4 yards, blue)
- Option #2 props: construction paper (various colors including green), scissors, glue, craft sticks (8, large), flowerpots (6, small), floral foam, laminator

### PREPARE AHEAD

Option #1: Print the full scenery images of Adam and Eve (images #1–3) to the size of your choice and adhere them to large sheets of poster board or foam board. Also print the Staging Sketch template as a reference for arranging your stage.

Option #2: Print the Adam image and the Eve image (images #4 and #5). Cut out both people and laminate. Use the construction paper to cut out six different trees, bushes, flowers and any other garden items. Secure each to a large craft stick and set aside. Pack flowerpots with floral foam high enough to support the height and weight of the people and shrubbery puppets you've created.

Option #3: Project the provided images as cued during storytelling.

### SET UP

Option #1: Use fishing wire and hooks to hang the large images from the ceiling above your storytelling space. When hanging the boards, stagger them across the stage so there's ample space for your Storyteller to walk. Each board should hang two feet off the ground. (Refer to the Staging Sketch for an example.) You may also place boards on easels and space them across the stage instead. Place silk trees around the stage to create a garden-like feel, then use the blue fabric to run through the garden and images to represent the river(s).

Option #2: Place materials in the storytelling space. You will add the puppets as you storytell.

Note: You may choose to use one of these staging/storytelling options, or a combination of both.

### RELATE

*Tech: Cue The Big God Story intro clip and image.*

Option 1: As the Storyteller shares The Big God Story, walk through the garden, stopping at each image at that portion of the narrative. Use voice inflection, volume, and various body postures to bring the storytelling to life at each of the different "stations." End the storytelling section by sitting downstage center.

Option 2: To create an intimate storytelling experience, gather the children and have them sit as close to the stage as possible. Sit on the floor with the children as you share this portion of The Big God Story. Line up the empty flowerpots in front of you. As you begin to storytell, add a new puppet to the flowerpots. Make sure the puppets are facing children and you're moving in a left to right progression from the children's vantage point.

Storyteller enters and moves downstage as he welcomes children, then leads them in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

**God is the Creator of all things. He made the world and everyone and everything in it. He made you, and He made me. After God finished creating on the sixth day, He looked and said His creation was very good. Then, God rested.** Have children place their hands next to their faces, like a pillow, and close their eyes to "rest."

**Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with God while they lived in the garden.** *Tech: Cue #1 Adam and Eve*

*image.* The garden of Eden was a wonderful paradise with everything they would need to live forever and ever. In the middle of four very big rivers, there were beautiful trees and flowers. *Tech: Cue Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect.* Wait! Did you hear that sound? Where is it coming from? Children answer. It's the Wardrobe of Wonder. What did we see inside the wardrobe today? Did we see something that had to do with trees and flowers? Children answer. Leaves, that's right. And leaves can be found in a garden! Well ... the best part about life in the garden was that Adam and Eve spent lots and lots of time with God and got to know Him. *Tech: Cue #2 Adam and Eve in Garden image.* They learned He is Creator and all-powerful, and they also learned that God is Redeemer. Do you know what it means to redeem something? Children respond; interact with responses. To redeem something means to buy it back. We'll hear in this part of The Big God Story how God makes a plan to redeem all people, to buy us back from sin, after Adam and Eve make a big mistake.

God told Adam and Eve they could eat every kind of fruit in the garden—except the fruit of one tree in the center of the garden. At first, Adam and Eve obeyed. But one day, a very clever snake lied to Eve. The snake told her what God said about the tree wasn't true! Does God ever tell us things that aren't true? Children answer. No! God is perfect, and He always tells the truth!

Eve decided to believe the snake and disobey God. She took a bite of the fruit and then gave it to Adam. He took a bite too. Right away, they knew they'd made a very big mistake. While God was on a walk in the garden, Adam and Eve heard Him. So they hid behind some trees. Do you ever hide? Interact with children and their answers. Maybe you hide when you disobey. Because sometimes when you disobey, you're given a consequence. What does that mean: a consequence? Allow children to think and answer. A consequence is something that needs to happen when we make a mistake or disobey, to help us learn. Why do you think Adam and Eve hid? Interact with children and their answers.

God knew that Adam and Eve were hiding from Him. "Where are you?" God asked. Adam answered and told Him they were hiding because of what they'd done. Even though God already knew, He asked them what happened. When they told God they disobeyed Him and ate the fruit from the tree, God told them they had to leave the garden. *Tech: Cue #3 Adam and Eve Leave Garden image.* God's love for Adam and Eve never changed, but their disobedience had very big consequences. No longer would they get to live with God in the garden or eat from all the beautiful trees. No longer would they get to live forever. Now they would have to find a new home and work very hard for the things they needed. They would experience pain, and someday they would die.

But God is Redeemer, and He never leaves us all alone. God saw and heard what happened in the garden. He had a plan. God made a promise to send a Savior to take away all of our sin so we can be in perfect relationship with Him again. The promised Savior would wipe away the sin of Adam and Eve, my sin, and your sin. He would redeem us! Who is The Promise? Allow children to answer. Jesus is the promised Savior who redeems us from sin. We get to be a part of sharing that good news with others!

## Wonder Questions

Small Group Enhancements, coloring pages, and discussion questions help your group go deeper into today's portion of The Big God Story.

### SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Wonder Questions coloring pages \(see Resources\)](#)
- Crayons

### RELATE

**When God made Adam and Eve, He created a beautiful place for them to live. He would walk with them and talk with them in the garden. And then one day, they made the choice to disobey God's words. Because of this, they had to leave the garden.**

I wonder ... Why did Adam and Eve disobey God?

I wonder ... How did God feel when they disobeyed Him?

I wonder ... How did Adam and Eve feel when they left the garden?

I wonder ... What do I want to say to God today?

## BLESS::: 5 min.

### Small Group Leaders

*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

### SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Remember Verse cards \(see Resources\)](#)
- [HomeFront Weekly: Lesson 4 \(see Resources\)](#)

### RELATE

Gather your small group together in a circle. Read this paraphrase of Psalm 95:1 over the children:

**Let's sing with joy and give a loud shout to God who saves us.** Encourage kids to shout, hoot, and holler in praise to God.

Show the children how to place their right hand on the shoulder of the person to their right, and their left hand on the shoulder of the person to their left. Close with this blessing:

**Children, may you know that God knows everything about you, and He always loves you. May you know God as your Redeemer.**

Send home Remember Verse cards and the HomeFront Weekly with your kids.