

Aim of lesson

To show the meaning of temptation, sin, death and redemption; and our part in them all.

Bible background

Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-19; James 1:13-15; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Corinthians 15:21,22.

Outline of lesson

Right and wrong

Ask the class if they think that right and wrong is just a matter of opinion. Do they think that Hitler was entitled to his view that old, weak or disabled people should be 'disposed of' or do they think he was morally wrong? If the latter, then they are accepting that there is a standard of right and wrong outside themselves, it is not just a matter of opinion. Lead to the conclusion that God has built into us an appreciation of his values of right and wrong – Paul refers to this in Romans 2:14-16. However, many choose to ignore them.

Temptation

Turn to Genesis 3 and read together verses 1-6. Help the class to answer the questions in the box on temptation, using their answers to generate discussion. They may need help to see the difference between God testing to build character, and not tempting (James 1:13) in the sense of inciting to do wrong. The example of Jesus is helpful when looking at overcoming temptation and seeing the difference between temptation and sin. (See James 1:14-15).

Sin

Read together Genesis 3:7-13. In the section on sin, encourage them to see that sin is choosing our own way and that Adam and Eve's sin had a bad effect on their relationship with each other (compare 2:23 with 3:12) and their relationship with God (3:8), though these were not specific punishments. In the same way all sin, even if no one else knows about it, is damaging to us and to our relationship with God who always knows what we do.

Death

Read together Genesis 3:14-19 and in the same way use the questions on death to encourage the class to discover what it is. Psalm 146:4, Ezekiel 18:23 and Romans 5:12-19 may be useful here.

Redemption

The last section is important in showing that, whilst Adam and Eve were still passing the blame and making excuses, God declared his plan of rescue from sin and death. He knew that man could never climb out of this mess by himself and that it would involve the death of his Son, who would be a descendent of Eve.

Hebrews 4:15 tells us that Jesus understands our temptations because he was tempted himself.

Digging deeper

Cain and Abel

The narrative of Cain and Abel, not otherwise covered in these lessons, shows the importance of doing things God's way, and his patience with us.

Relevance to our lives

You may like to ask the class to cut out of newspapers and magazines, during the week, anything which illustrates the world of temptation, sin and death in which we live. This could be made into a large display next week.

Prayer

Dear Lord, please forgive us for our sins. Help us to choose your way when we are faced with temptation. Thank you for giving your Son to rescue us from death.

Other suggestions for activities

The class could make a poster showing the effects of Adam's sin and the redemption achieved by Christ. Key elements could be



The class may like to follow Paul's argument in Romans 5:12-19 in more detail, putting into their own words the parallel between Adam and Christ.