Grade 8 Christian Religious Education

Terms 1, 2 and 3 - notes for 18 topics

IN EVERY TOPIC

- What you will learn and the key words.
- Short, clear notes with worked examples.
- Questions to try and a topic test, with the answers at the back.

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Strand 1.0 Creation | Term 1

1.1 Origin and Consequences of Sin

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- explain the origin of sin from the scriptures provided
- examine the consequences of sin after the fall of man
- analyse the causes of sin today
- identify moral values and life skills needed to overcome temptations
- pray to God to overcome temptations in day-to-day life

KEY WORDS

sin, temptation, the fall, disobedience, consequence, confession, forgiveness, self-control, assertiveness.

1. The origin of sin: the fall (Genesis 3:1-13)

Genesis 3:1-13 (summary)

God placed Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and told them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
The serpent questioned God's word and told Eve she would not die but would become like God.
Eve looked at the fruit, desired it, took it and ate; she gave some to Adam and he ate.
Their eyes were opened; they felt shame, covered themselves and hid from God.
When God called, Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent.
Sin began with disobedience to God's clear command.

2. Consequences of sin after the fall

Consequences (Genesis 3:14-24; also Genesis 4 and 11:1-9)

Broken relationship with God: shame, fear and hiding; they were sent out of Eden.
Broken relationships between people: blame between Adam and Eve; later Cain killed his brother Abel.
Suffering: pain in childbirth, hard toil on the land.
Death entered the world.
Sin spread and grew: at Babel people's pride led God to confuse their language and scatter them (Genesis 11:1-9).

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3. Causes of sin today

Why people sin today

Selfish desires and greed (wanting what is not ours).
Negative peer pressure.
Pride and disobedience to parents, teachers and God.
Harmful content on social media, films and music.
Idleness and misuse of leisure.
Drugs and alcohol, which weaken judgement.
Like Eve, people today are tempted by what looks good, without thinking of the consequences.

4. Values and life skills to overcome temptation

Tools for resisting

Values: obedience, honesty, self-control, responsibility, respect, love for God.

Life skills: decision making (stop, think of consequences, choose); assertiveness (saying no firmly and politely); critical thinking; choosing good friends; avoiding risky places.

Spiritual help: reading the Bible, prayer and fellowship.

Role play: a friend pressures you to copy homework; practise an assertive refusal.

5. Prayer, confession and forgiveness (1 John 1:9)

Prayer and confession

1 John 1:9 teaches that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us.

Christians pray for strength before temptation and confess honestly after falling.

Confession also means saying sorry to people we have wronged and putting things right.

Learners write a short personal prayer asking God for strength to overcome a temptation (kept private if they wish).

6. Thinking before acting: review

Summary

Sin began with disobedience in Eden (Genesis 3).

It brought separation from God, broken relationships, suffering and death, and it spread (Cain, Babel).

Causes today: desires, peer pressure, pride, media, idleness, drugs.

Resisting: values, decision making, assertiveness, prayer and confession.

Thinking of consequences first could have stopped Eve and Adam, and can help us.

TRY THESE

1. What command did God give Adam and Eve?
2. How did the serpent tempt Eve?
3. Give two consequences of the fall.
4. How did sin affect human relationships?
5. Name three causes of sin today.
6. How can social media lead to sin?
7. Name two values that help resist temptation.
8. What is assertiveness?
9. What does 1 John 1:9 teach?
10. When should Christians pray about temptation?
11. Where does the Bible describe the fall?
12. Give one consequence of sin.

TOPIC TEST

T1. Name the steps of temptation in the story (look, desire, take, eat).

T2. Give one modern example where one wrong choice led to many problems.

T3. Write a diary entry of a learner resisting one temptation.

T4. Write three assertive refusals for common temptations.

T5. Memorise 1 John 1:9.

T6. Make a poster: "Think before you act".

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Strand 1.0 Creation | Term 1

1.2 God's Plan for Redemption

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- describe how God demonstrated love to humankind after the fall of man
- examine how God's plan of salvation is fulfilled through Jesus Christ
- explain the importance of redemption after the fall of man
- take part in sharing the love of God with others

KEY WORDS

redemption, salvation, grace, prophecy, Messiah, sacrifice, forgiveness, reconciliation.

1. God's love after the fall

Love after disobedience

God still came looking for Adam and Eve ("Where are you?").
He clothed them with garments of skin (Genesis 3:21).
He promised that the woman's offspring would crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15), which Christians understand as the first promise of a saviour.
He called Abraham so that all nations would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:1-3).
God punished sin but did not abandon people.

2. Prophecy of the suffering servant (Isaiah 53)

Isaiah 53:5-12 (summary)

The prophet describes a servant who would be wounded for others' wrongdoing, punished so that others could have peace and healing.
He would be led like a lamb to the slaughter without complaining, and would carry the sins of many.
Christians see this fulfilled in the suffering and death of Jesus.
Isaiah 63:5 also speaks of God himself bringing salvation.

3. The plan fulfilled in Jesus Christ

Fulfilment

John 3:16: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes has eternal life.
Ephesians 1:7: in Christ we have redemption and forgiveness through his blood.
Colossians 1:13: God rescued believers from darkness into the kingdom of his Son.
Galatians 1:3-5: Christ gave himself for our sins to rescue us.
Jesus' life, death and resurrection complete the plan begun in Genesis.

4. Why redemption matters

Importance of redemption

To redeem is to buy back or set free at a price.
Redemption restores the relationship with God broken at the fall.
It brings forgiveness, peace with God and hope of eternal life.
It gives a new start: a person can change their ways.
It shows God's patience: 2 Peter 3:9 says God does not want anyone to perish but all to repent.
It calls believers to forgive and reconcile with others.

5. Sharing the love of God

Showing love

Acts of kindness: helping a classmate, visiting a sick person, sharing food.
Forgiving someone who has wronged you.
Encouraging words; inviting a friend to fellowship.
Using digital media responsibly to share messages of hope.
Class activity: groups make cards with an encouraging Bible verse for patients, the elderly or another class.

6. God's saving grace in daily life: review

Grace

Grace is God's love and favour that people do not earn.
Christians respond with thanksgiving, worship, obedience and kindness.
Summary: after the fall God clothed Adam and Eve and promised victory (Genesis 3:15); he called Abraham; Isaiah foretold the suffering servant; Jesus fulfilled the plan; redemption restores people to God.

TRY THESE

1. How did God care for Adam and Eve after the fall?
2. What promise is in Genesis 3:15?
3. Whom does Isaiah 53 describe?
4. What would the servant carry?
5. What does John 3:16 say God gave?
6. What do believers receive according to Ephesians 1:7?
7. What does "redeem" mean?
8. Give two benefits of redemption.
9. Name two ways of sharing God's love.
10. How can digital media share love?
11. Define grace.
12. Name two ways Christians respond to grace.

TOPIC TEST

T1. Why do Christians call Genesis 3:15 "the first good news"?
T2. Find one event in the Gospels that matches Isaiah 53.
T3. Memorise John 3:16.
T4. Explain redemption to a younger child in three sentences.
T5. Keep a one-week journal of kind acts.
T6. Write a short song or poem of thanks for God's grace.

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Strand 2.0 The Bible | Term 1

2.1 Faith and God’s Promises

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- describe the background to the call of Abraham
- examine ways Abraham demonstrated faith in God
- apply faith in different situations as exemplified by Abraham
- elaborate the promises made by God to Abraham
- explain the importance of God's promises to Christians today
- apply God's promises in their daily lives

KEY WORDS

faith, promise, call, patriarch, Ur, Haran, Canaan, descendants, blessing.

1. Background to the call of Abraham (Genesis 11:24-32)

Abraham's background

Abram (later Abraham) was the son of Terah, from Ur of the Chaldeans in Mesopotamia.
His brothers were Nahor and Haran; Haran died in Ur, leaving a son, Lot.
Abram's wife Sarai (later Sarah) was barren.
Terah took Abram, Sarai and Lot towards Canaan but settled in Haran, where Terah died.
Joshua 24:2 notes that Terah's family had served other gods.

2. The call of Abraham and his response (Genesis 12:1-4)

Faith in action

God told Abram to leave his country, his relatives and his father's house and go to a land God would show him.
Abram obeyed at the age of 75, taking Sarai, Lot and their possessions.
Ways Abraham showed faith: leaving home without knowing the destination; building altars and worshipping God in Canaan; trusting God for a son in old age; being ready to obey God even when it was hard (Genesis 22).
Hebrews 11:1-6 describes faith as being sure of what we hope for and says that without faith it is impossible to please God; Abraham is a leading example.

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3. Applying faith like Abraham

Faith today

Facing exams: preparing well and trusting God for the result.
Moving to a new school or town.
Illness or loss in the family.
Choosing friends and resisting pressure even when it costs popularity.
Waiting for something hoped for, as Abraham waited for a son.
Faith goes with action: Abraham obeyed and walked; faith is not laziness.

4. God's promises to Abraham

Promises (Genesis 12:1-3, later 15 and 17)
A land: the land of Canaan for his descendants.
Many descendants: as many as the stars, though Sarah was barren.
A great nation.
A great name.
Blessing and protection: God would bless those who blessed him and curse those who cursed him.
All nations of the earth would be blessed through him.

5. The importance of God's promises to Christians today

Why the promises matter
They show God is faithful: he kept his word to Abraham.
Christians believe the blessing to all nations came through Jesus, a descendant of Abraham.
They give hope and courage in hard times.
They encourage patience: promises may take time.
Examples Christians hold on to: God's presence (never leaving his people), forgiveness for those who confess, provision for needs, eternal life.

6. Applying God's promises in daily life: review

Living by promises
Pray with confidence, remembering God's faithfulness.
Obey God's word as Abraham did.
Be patient when answers take time.
Keep your own promises, since God keeps his.
Summary: Abraham left Ur and Haran in faith; God promised land, descendants, a great nation, a great name and blessing to all nations; Christians trust these promises fulfilled in Christ.

TRY THESE

1. Who was Abraham's father?
2. Where did the family come from?
3. What did God ask Abram to leave?
4. How old was Abram when he left Haran?
5. Give two situations where young people need faith.
6. How should faith and effort go together?
7. Name three promises God made to Abraham.
8. Which land was promised?
9. What do God's promises show about him?
10. Through whom do Christians believe all nations were blessed?
11. Name two ways to apply God's promises.
12. Why should Christians keep their own promises?

TOPIC TEST

T1. Why might it have been hard for Abraham to leave Haran?
T2. Why is Abraham called "the father of faith"?
T3. Write about a time you or someone you know trusted God.
T4. How was the promise of a son fulfilled?
T5. Write a promise of God on a card to keep.
T6. Write a short prayer based on one of God's promises.