

Vol. 4 No. 2

Primary Bible Teacher⁺

SPRING QUARTER

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Dear Primary Teacher,

Welcome to *Primary Bible Teacher*[†]! As witnesses for Christ in a changing world, we have to think creatively about how we minister, while still holding firmly to the Word of Truth.

Our Plus Series contains robust Bible lessons and background information that have been clearly crafted to help you excite your students to learn God's Word.

Primary Bible Teacher* features:

- **Introductory pages** for each unit will connect the units to one another and point toward the quarter's major themes.
- The **Big Idea** is the main point of the lesson. This helps you focus your lesson on the one thing you want your students to take away about God and His Word.
- **Prepare Your Mind** and **Prepare Your Heart** will ready you to teach with background information and a short devotional.
- **Supplies, Suggested Song,** and **Prepare the Room** give you all the practical information you need to prepare for class time.
- Glossary sections key you in to words in the lesson that may be difficult to understand for young students.
- The **Conversation Starter** is an interesting question or object lesson that helps you kick off your class and get your students invested in the lesson. It will always tie in with the first part of the Bible Lesson.
- **Teacher Tips** in the lesson will give you quick tips to involve your students or deal with difficult subject matter.
- Just Curious prepares you to respond to questions students might ask about the lesson.
- **Prop Prompt** symbols notify you when to use a prop listed in the supply list at the beginning of the lesson. All props and supplies are in **bold** the first time they appear.
- **Action** symbols help you see opportunities to invite your class to take part in the lesson.
- **Truths to Stress** are underlined in the Bible Lesson so that you can see the main points at a glance.
- **Activities** get your students' wiggles out while thinking about the lesson.
- **Next Steps** help your students apply the lesson to their lives.
- **Prayer Points** give teachers some prompts for ways to pray for the students.
- The **Christ Focus** encourages thought about how the Scripture passage and lesson point to our loving Savior.

KEY:

Teacher Tips



Just Curious

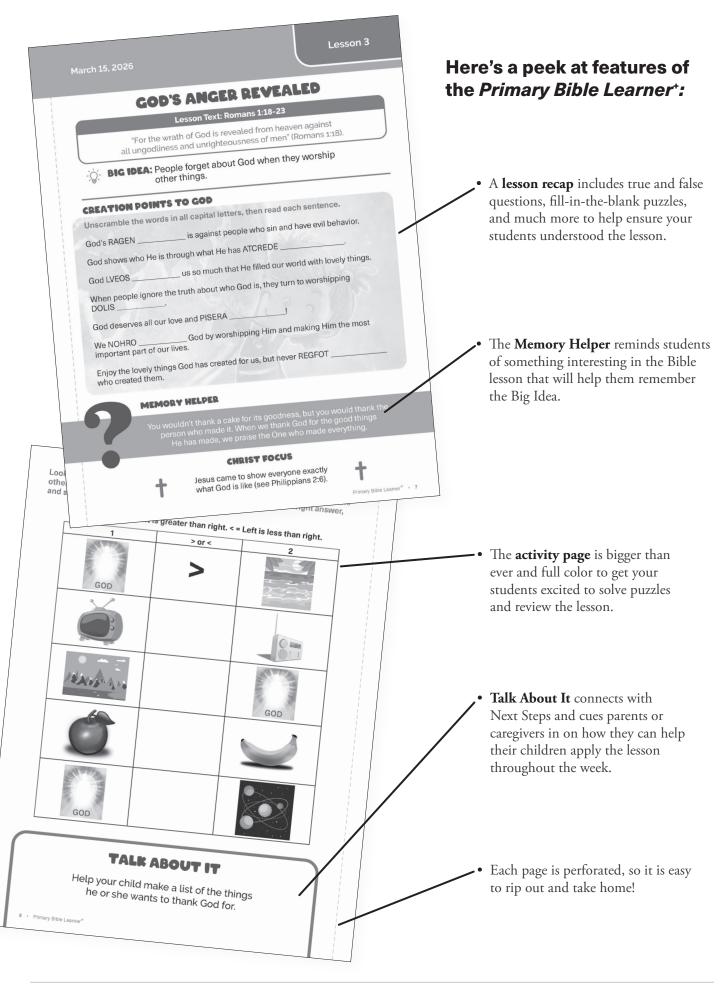


Prop Prompts



Actions





UNIT 1:

God's Wrath on Sin

Lesson 1: Ezekiel 22:17-31

God Will Judge Sin

Lesson 2: Ezekiel 33:12-20Sinners Deserve Death

Lesson 3: Romans 1:18-23

God's Anger Revealed

God is love. He is also holy. Because of His holiness, His love includes a response to sin that many are uncomfortable with—His wrath. Yet for God to be a truly good Father, correction must come to His children. God is slow to anger. Primaries can relate to this as their caregivers may give them warnings about coming consequences for their misbehavior. As you teach the lessons in this unit, emphasize to primaries how long God waited for His people to turn from their sin. He also is patient with them to turn from sin.







God Will Judge Sin

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 22:17-31



Ye shall know that I the Lord have poured out my fury upon you (Ezekiel 22:22).





Big Idea: Israel's leaders made God's people sin.

EZEKIEL 22:17 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

- 18 Son of man, the house of Israel is to me become dross: all they are brass, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the midst of the furnace; they are even the dross of silver.
- 19 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye are all become dross, behold, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem.
- 20 As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt *it*; so will I gather *you* in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you.
- **21** Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ve shall be melted in the midst thereof.
- 22 As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the LORD have poured out my fury upon you.
 - 23 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
- 24 Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation.
- 25 There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls;

they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

- 26 Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.
- 27 Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.
- 28 And her prophets have daubed them with untempered morter, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord God, when the Lord hath not spoken.
- 29 The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.
- 30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.
- 31 Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God.

Prepare Your Mind

After silver is mined, it must be refined using heat. This causes the impurities, or dross, in the silver to rise to the top to be discarded. God said the Israelites had become like dross. This was, in large part, due to their evil leaders.

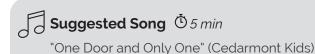


Supplies

- picture of ancient furnace
- · scrap paper, safety scissors, glue
- · buckets, cardboard box
- · marker, pencils
- · brown, red, yellow, and orange construction paper

Prepare Your Heart

Even in His wrath, God is a loving Father who told the Israelites what they have done wrong. He did this to teach them where they had gone astray. There were consequences, however, for the wrongs they had done. His anger burned hot, and the Israelites would pay for their willful disobedience. Reading these words should make us examine our own hearts and lives. We do not want to find ourselves on the receiving end of God's displeasure.





dross: the waste removed from metal to make it pure holy: without sin; God's complete perfection sin: anything that goes against God's rules; sin separates us from God



Conversation Starter

If your teacher told you to stop doing something, but you kept doing it anyway, what do you think would happen?

Bible Lesson 5 15-20 min

For example, imagine if you were throwing wadded up balls of paper at the student next to you, and the teacher told you to stop, but you didn't. It's likely there would be a consequence for disobeying your teacher. In the Bible, God made it very clear what things He does and doesn't want His people to do. If His people chose to disobey Him, there would be consequences. Just as any loving father would, our Father in heaven will correct His people to try to change their bad behavior.

(Hold up ancient furnace picture.) To make a metal pure and strong, it has to be heated up in a furnace to the point that it becomes liquid. Then all the impurities float to the top. These are called dross. In this week's lesson text, God was frustrated with the Israelites because of their bad behavior and wanted them to change. He said that the people had become like dross. God told His people that He would melt them in the fiery furnace of His anger. He was very upset with the Israelites and would punish them for what they had been doing.

God said the people were dirty, like a land that had not been made clean and fresh from a passing rain shower. (Have students use hands to simulate rain.) This was another way that God told them they were not pure. They had not been cleaned and made new again. Their sins had not been washed away. \square

God was especially angry with the way the leaders were behaving. These were the priests, princes, and prophets. God said they weren't treating the people fairly and were not teaching them the difference between what was holy and what was not. God said the leaders were treating the people unfairly and robbing them to make themselves rich, and they had not kept His laws. Worst of all, God said the prophets had lied to the people, telling them that God said things that He never said. They had done all this to trick the people so that the leaders could become rich.

God also blamed the people for being mean to strangers who were passing through the land or living in their neighborhoods. They were being unkind to the poor and needy. Just as God blamed the leaders for not treating people fairly, He said the people were doing the same to others.

God looked everywhere for someone to lead the people in the way that He wanted them to live. Then He would not have to destroy the land. But <u>God couldn't find even one good man to lead His people</u>. He therefore said the Israelites would ruin themselves and eventually be destroyed by their enemies.

We can avoid the outcome that the Israelites had to suffer. We begin by trusting in Jesus to forgive us of sin. Then we learn about the things God wants us to do from the Bible and do them! As we learn more and more about God's way of doing things, it will be harder for bad leaders to trick us into doing the wrong thing. Those who love God will not be worthless dross but will help build His kingdom.



Remind students that Jesus dying on the cross is what washes away the sins of Christians.

Review Questions

- 1. Why was God frustrated with the Israelites? (because of their bad behavior)
- 2. What were the leaders doing to upset God? (treating people unfairly to become rich)
- 3. What did God look for that He could not find? (one good man to lead His people)

Explaining the Memory Verse

In this week's memory verse, God made it clear that He was angry with the Israelites and would punish them for what they had done. They would know for sure that God's wrath was directed toward them.



Activity: Gathering Dross 5-10 min

Divide students into teams of three or four students each. Give each team a bucket. At "Start," have each team work together to gather as many balls of crumpled-up paper as they can and place them in their bucket. At "Stop," have each team count the balls of paper they have gathered. Whichever team gathered the most balls of paper wins. Have all teams dump the contents of their buckets into the cardboard box marked "FURNACE."

SUPPLIES:

- scrap paper
- buckets
- · cardboard box
- marker

PREP: Crumple up **scrap paper** and place them all around the room. Label the box "FURNACE."

Next Steps

This week, have a grown-up help you make a sign that reads "Be Kind and Helpful to Others." Place it someplace you'll see often to remind you to do the things that God wants you to.

Christ Focus

Jesus followed all of God's laws perfectly. He leads His followers to do the same.

Prayer Points

- Ask God how you can live to please Him. •
- Thank God for sending Jesus to wash away sins. •



Handcraft: God's Furnace 5 10 min

Help children as needed.

Instructions:

- 1. **Draw** a large, thick-lined *H* on one half of the brown paper, then cut along the lines.
- 2. Turn the paper, open the doors formed by the sideways H, and crease them back.
- 3. Refold widthwise in the opposite direction, then glue the short edge of the paper to the other edge.
- 4. Cut flame shapes from **yellow and orange paper** and glue them under the doors.

SUPPLIES:

- pencils
- brown, red, yellow, and orange construction paper
- safety scissors
- glue

PREP: Fold each piece of brown paper in half widthwise, crease, and reopen before distributing to children.