

Eyewitness News Report (Primary)

You need two people for Part 1—either two teachers or, if teaching alone, a teacher and a dive club leader or older child you ask to help out. One of you will be Teacher One, and one will be Teacher Two. Teacher One will be doing the Teacher One parts and putting up (or holding up) the posters. Teacher Two will be behind a makeshift TV. Teacher Two needs the script and a couple props as listed in the supply list, or Teacher Two can use puppets to be the people mentioned in Teacher Two's part. (Only one puppet is up at a time, so Teacher Two can work various puppets.)

Teacher One: Have you heard about the beautiful world God created back at the beginning of time? When God first made the world, it was a beautiful place.

Put up Poster 1: Beautiful World

Teacher One: In fact, it looked quite a bit different than it does today. Let's go to a live newscast from Eyewitness News Channel 7 to hear more about this.

Teacher Two (as anchor person): Welcome to Eyewitness News. I'm Stan the Man reporting (or Ima Talker). Our top story today has to do with a quirky time warp we seem to be experiencing. We're no longer in the year _____. Instead, we've been zapped back about 6,000 years to a place called the Garden of Eden. Our reporters are telling us the Garden of Eden is an amazingly beautiful place, sort of like a rainforest or tropical island. Let's check in with Sunny Smith in the ForeWarned Weather Center to hear more about this. Sunny?

Teacher Two (as Sunny): Pick up an umbrella and hold it over your head. You may want to talk in a different accent and move over a little into a different position. Thank you, _____. Well, this IS a beautiful place, and the weather is beautiful, too. The weather pattern in this long ago world seems to be quite nice. In fact, I don't think I even need this umbrella. Throw it over your shoulder. Now back to you, _____.

Teacher Two (as anchor person): That sounds great, Sunny. Continuing on in our newscast, let's head over to our test kitchen and visit our in-studio chef, Chef Bon Appetit. The Chef is planning to whip up a delicious dish today called "Vegetarian Surprise." Of course, in this early world, people eat only fruits, vegetables and grains, so no meat can be included in any of the Chef's concoctions.

Teacher One: Excuse me, Stan the Man, but I need to get back to my account now. Would you mind if we do the cooking segment a little later in the show?

Teacher Two (as anchor person): Oh, sure. Another time!

Teacher One: Thank you. As I was saying, and as Eyewitness News reported, the early world was a beautiful place. In fact, it was a perfect paradise, made by God, with nothing bad in it. But can anyone think of something that happened in this early world that was NOT so beautiful? Take answers. Sin entered the world. The evil Satan, in the form of a serpent, came into that perfect, beautiful world and messed it up. He tempted the first two people, Adam and Eve, to eat fruit that God told Adam not to eat—and they ate it.

Put up Poster 2: Broken World

Teacher One: When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they were not obeying God's command. Not obeying God's commands is called sin, and sin is a big deal. It was a big deal for Adam and Eve, and it's a big deal for us. In fact, every person from that point on is born sinful, or disobedient to God. That includes you and me! And God said the punishment for sin is death. As a result of this, God placed a curse on His creation, and now suffering and disease and sickness and violence and thorns and thistles are in the world. Let's cut back to Eyewitness News to hear more about this.

Teacher Two (as anchor person): Welcome back, everyone. This just in. Wickedness and sin have just entered this beautiful paradise. Someone has stolen something. It's reported that it's a piece of fruit. The suspect's name is Adam. We have no last name. He apparently just goes by the name of Adam. At least one animal has been killed to provide a covering for him and his wife, who goes by the name of Eve. Up until this time, they didn't need a covering of clothes, but now that sin has arrived, they do. This is the first death in this paradise, and it involves the shedding of blood. Even though this place is still beautiful, we see results from the curse God placed on His creation starting to happen.

Teacher One: Thank you, Stan, for that sad report. Okay, boys and girls, now let's fast forward a little in time. After the Garden of Eden incident, the world continued on its way. Adam and Eve had many children, and their children had many children, and their children had many children, and the earth began to fill up. The people were very smart and were busy building cities, making music, and forging works of iron and bronze.

Put up Poster 3: Intelligent Pre-Flood World

Let's tune back in to Eyewitness News to hear the latest on this situation.

Teacher Two (as anchor person): Hello, again. An update on the quirky time warp. We have now moved through time and are stuck around 4,400 years ago—a little before the big Flood of Noah's time. We're guessing that during this early period in earth's history there must be some primitive apemen somewhere who are evolving and becoming more sophisticated—although we already talked about Adam and Eve, who certainly weren't primitive but were very intelligent. And they were fully human from the beginning. But, books nowadays certainly show pictures of primitive apemen, so we've sent out our investigative reporter, Willy Find-It (Wilma Find-It), to see if he can locate any. Let's check in on Willy and see what he's found. Willy, are you there?

Teacher Two (as Willy): Put on a hat and a "press pass"—a lanyard of some kind. Hold a play microphone. Yes, _____, I'm here! And boy, am I amazed! You know how we picture the early people as dumb and unintelligent? Well, that's totally wrong! I'm finding them to be highly intelligent people. In fact, I think they may be smarter than I am! They have built great cities, made beautiful sounding instruments, and created awesome works from bronze and iron. They are far from apelike.

I've also found people living in a variety of different places. Some live in tents, some in cities, some in houses made from bricks, and even some who live in caves. They are highly intelligent people who have chosen caves as their homes.

Teacher One: Thank you for that report. Divers, let's read some passages from the Bible that tell us what it was like back then. I'm going to throw this beach ball, and if you catch it you may choose either to read one of the verse references, which are numbers (one that hasn't been read yet), or to throw the ball to someone else to read. Here we go!

Tell them they all start with the word "Genesis." They will read the reference (the numbers), and you read or summarize the accompanying verse.

Note: We suggest reading only the end of Genesis 4:17 about Cain building the city, and not the beginning of that verse.

- **Genesis 4:17 tells us Cain built a city. If primitive apemen really existed, they wouldn't be building cities!**

- Genesis 4:21 tells us Jubal was the father of all who play the harp and flute. Those are pretty amazing instruments, if you ask me! If primitive apemen really existed, they wouldn't know how to build or play instruments like that.
- Genesis 4:22 tells us a guy named Tubal-Cain was an instructor of all the craftsmen who made things out of bronze and iron. If primitive apemen really existed, they wouldn't be crafting things out of bronze and iron.
- Genesis 5:5 tells us Adam lived a total of 930 years. That's a whole lot older than we live! People lived long lives because the world wasn't so polluted and sin hadn't affected their bodies as drastically as it has ours. So think about being an artist or a builder for 400 or 500 or more years and how good you would be at your job. Your skills could be amazing and definitely not primitive!

So do you see how the world was quite smart? But sad to say, the people in that time were very wicked. Here's another beach ball. It shows us how the Bible describes it back then. Let's read it!

Once again, have them read the reference numbers and you read or summarize the verse.

- Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways (Genesis 6:11–12).
- Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every thought of his heart was only evil continually (Genesis 6:5).

Put up Poster 4: Wicked World

Divers, can you imagine living in a world where every thought of every person was only evil always? Wow! We hear a lot of bad news nowadays, and we sure would have been hearing it constantly back then. How many people does the Bible say were wicked? Take answers. **ALL!**

Oh, wait. There seems to be a late-breaking news story at Eyewitness News 7. Let's head back there one last time.

Teacher Two (as anchor person): This just in. We've had our investigative team searching the world over to see if they could find even one person standing for God. Exciting news! One such man has been found. His name is Noah. He seems to be the only person left on the face of the earth who still follows after God. We will keep following this story and see what more we can find out about this man Noah.

In the meantime, we're out of time for today. Eyewitness News 7 signing off.

Teacher One: So, out of a world with millions of people, only one could be found who still followed God—Noah. By God's grace, he stood for God, even when it meant he was the only one in the whole world who did. Sometimes we have trouble speaking up for God even in a small group of friends or classmates or neighbors. Can you imagine standing alone for God like Noah did? We're going to read a little more about Noah in our Bibles as we break into small groups now.