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GRADE 8 CRE NOTES – TERM 1

STRAND 1-CREATION

1.1-Origin and Consequences of Sin.

Origin of sin from the creation accounts.

- **Sin** is rebellion against the law of God.
- It is disobedience to God.
- It is also a deliberate and purposeful violation of the will of God.
- **Origin** means source.
- God placed Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden to cultivate and guard it.
- He gave them the freedom to eat the fruit of every tree in the garden except the tree that gives knowledge of what is good or bad.
- God warned them that if they ate the forbidden fruit, they would die the same day.
- The snake being a cunning animal, cheated Eve that if she ate the fruit, she would not die, but be like God.
- Eve was convinced by the snake. She ate the fruit and gave some to Adam Who also ate.
- After eating the fruit, Adam and Eve were given understanding. They realized they were naked.
- Sin originated from the disobedience of Adam and Eve. They disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit, thus, rebellion against Him.

Adam and Eve fell into sin because of the following reason:

- ✓ *They fell in temptation of Satan who appeared to Eve in form of a snake.*
- ✓ *They desired to be like God.*
- ✓ *They disobeyed God's instructions and rebelled against Him.*
- ✓ *They were greedy and selfish.*

Consequences of sin after the fall of man.

Consequence refers to results or effect of an action or a situation.

The following are the consequences of sin from Bible.

- ~ The snake was cursed and given a punishment to crawl on its belly and eat dust.
- ~ Enmity developed between the snake and the woman and their offsprings.
- ~ Woman would experience trouble in pregnancy and increased pain while giving birth and she would also be subject to her husband.
- ~ The ground was cursed and it started producing weeds and thorns.
- ~ Man had to toil in order to produce enough food from the ground.
- ~ Adam and eve were sent out of the garden of Eden.
- ~ Human being would become more prone to sin.
- ~ Human beings started killing one another.

Causes of sin among young people today.

- ~ Failure to keep God's commandments and bible teachings.
- ~ Lack of faith in God.
- ~ Failure to pray to God when tempted.
- ~ Failure to apply teachings of the Bible in their day-to-day life.
- ~ Negative influence from friends.

- ~ Negative influence from social media, radio and television
- ~ Careless living and lack of self-control.
- ~ Lack of respect for oneself and other people.
- ~ Low self-esteem.
- ~ Greed for money and power.
- ~ Imitating negative role models.

Moral values and life skills needed to overcome temptations.

Overcoming temptations shows that we obey God's commands.

We can overcome temptations by:

- ✓ Pray to God for strength when facing temptations.
- ✓ Turn to God in repentance and faith when you fall into temptations.
- ✓ Avoid people and situations likely to lead into temptations.
- ✓ Choose friends that influence you positively.
- ✓ Share with trusted friends or relatives when tempted.
- ✓ Develop self-confidence so that you are to say No to tempting situations.
- ✓ Mediate and obey God's word.

Moral values needed to overcome temptations and sin are as follows:

- *Honesty*-telling truth.
- *Respect*- respecting each other among young people enables them to refuse to engage in actions not acceptable.
- *Responsibility*-young people accountable for all their actions avoid temptations at all costs.
- *Love* -loving yourself and other helps to avoid temptations.
- *Integrity* -having strong moral principles helps one to avoid sin and tempting situations.
- *Empathy* – it helps young people to identify with the feelings and emotions of others. This makes them to avoid putting others into temptations.

Examples of life skills needed to overcome temptations.

- × *Critical thinking*-examine and analyse information before taking an action.
- × *Decision making*-helps to make the right choice and avoid wrong ones.
- × *Creative thinking*-helps people to come up with new ways to carry out tasks and solve problems.
- × *Self-awareness*- helps one to recognize and understand one's own emotions, thoughts, strength and weakness so as to be able to avoid tempting situations.

Other skills needed to overcome temptations:

- ~ Assertiveness.
- ~ Creative thinking.
- ~ Effective communication.
- ~ Self-esteem.

Praying to God to overcome temptations in day-to day life.

- Prayer Is communication to God.
- Through prayer God gives us strength to overcome temptations.
- 1 John 1:9 teaches that we should confess our sins then God will forgive our sins and purify us from our wrong doings.

1.2-God's Plan for Redemption.

How God demonstrated His love for human kind after the fall of man.

- He gave a promise to the woman in genesis 3:15 that “her offspring would crush the serpent’s head” God put enmity between serpent and the woman. This shows that God cared for humankind and did not want evil to take over.
- In the garden of Eden, God looked for Adam and Eve to find out where they were. They had hidden themselves among the trees in the garden. God called out to Adam and asked “where are you?” God called out to Adam and Eve because He loved and cared for them.
- God made clothes for Adam and Eve to cover their bodies.
- In the Old Testament God demonstrated his love for humankind by appointing prophets at different times to bring back his people back to Him.

How God's plan for salvation is fulfilled through Jesu Christ.

- Salvation means deliverance from sin and its consequences.
- Salvation comes through having faith in Jesus Christ.
- Salvation starts in the Old Testament and is concluded in the New Testament through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ died on the cross to redeem us from our sinful nature. His death reconciled us to God.

Lessons we learn about salvation from the Bible.

- ***Genesis 3:15.***
 - Teaches that God brought enmity between snake, the woman and their offsprings.
 - The offspring of woman is Jesus Christ who would defeat Satan and his evil deeds.
 - Crushing the serpents head is a promise fulfilled in Christ's victory over Satan.
- ***Genesis 12:1-3***
 - Gives an account God made to Abraham.
 - God promised to make Abraham great and famous and to bless him so that he would be a blessing to other.
 - God said that through Abraham, all nations of the earth would be blessed.
 - All people on earth are blessed through Abraham. Abraham is looked at as the ancestor of Jesus Christ.
 - Through Jesus Christ, all who believe in Him are blessed and become children of God.

• ***Isaiah 53:5-12***

- Teaches us that Jesus Christ suffered because of our sins.
- His suffering was God's will and was a sacrifice for forgiveness of our sins.
- Jesus Christ's death was meant to reconcile us to God.
- Jesus Christ suffered to bring salvation of humankind.

• ***Isaiah 63:5***

- Teaches us that God in His power overcome the enemy.
- Jesus Christ overcame the devil.

• ***Galatians 1:3-5***

- Teaches us that Jesus Christ obeyed the will of God.
- He gave Himself to die in order to set us free from sin.

• ***Colossians 1:13-15***

- Teaches us that God rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us to the kingdom of His dear son.
- Through Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

• ***2 Peter 3:9***

- States that God does not want any of us to be destroyed by sin.
- He wants all people to turn away from sin and be saved through Jesus Christ.

Importance of Redemption after the fall of man.

Redemption is important in the following ways:

- ✘ We are delivered from sin and its consequences through redemption.
- ✘ Our sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ.
- ✘ Those who believe in Jesus Christ are assured of eternal life.
- ✘ We become part of God's family.
- ✘ Through redemption we become children of God who walk in His light.
- ✘ We are reconciled with God through redemption. We become friends with God.
- ✘ We experience God's love and grace.
- ✘ We recognize that Jesus Christ suffered and died for our sins.
- ✘ Through redemption, we acknowledge that it is important to have faith in Jesus Christ.

Taking part in sharing the love of God with others.

Acts of mercy are actions people do to show kindness and concern to others especially during times of need.

Through acts of mercy, we are able to share love of God as we provide necessary support to other people.

Ways of sharing the love of God to others in school and community through acts of mercy.

- ✓ Praying for and visiting the sick.
- ✓ Providing or giving food to those who are hungry.
- ✓ Providing clothes to those who lack.
- ✓ Building houses for the homeless.
- ✓ Paying school fees for children from disadvantaged families.
- ✓ Providing water to those who are thirsty.
- ✓ Encouraging those who are going through pain.
- ✓ Providing comfort to those whose loved ones have died.
- ✓ Visiting children's homes and orphanages to share the word of God and providing material support.

State the values that guide us in sharing God's love with others.

- × Unity.
- × Respect.
- × Love.
- × Obedience.
- × Empathy.

STRAND 2- THE BIBLE.

2.1- Faith and God's promises.

Background to the call of Abraham.

- Abraham's father was called Terah.
- Abraham had a wife by the name Sarah and a nephew called Lot.
- Lot was a son to Abraham's brother, Haram. They were sematic nomads from a tribe called Amorite.
- They came from the ancient city of Ur, which was near river Euphrates in Babylon.
- In Ur, the god of moon was worshipped. There were also other gods and goddesses worshiped in the area.
- People gave offerings to these gods and goddesses which sometimes included human sacrifice.
- At Ur, Haran (Lot's father) died.
- Terah migrated together with Abraham, Sarah and his grandson, Lot from Ur to Haran.
- Terah later died when he was 205 years old. While at Haran, God called Abraham at the age of 77 years. he told him to leave his country and his relatives and go to a place, which He was going to show him.

Ways in which Abraham demonstrated faith to God.

Faith is complete trust or confidence in somebody or something.

Faith in God therefore mean total trust and confidence in God.

Hebrew 11:1-6 teaches the following about faith in God:

- ☑ Faith is being sure of things we hope for.
- ☑ To have faith is to be certain of things we cannot see.
- ☑ By faith we understand that God created the universe by His word.
- ☑ Faith helped Abel to offer an acceptable sacrifice to God as compared to Cain whose sacrifice was rejected by God.

✗ ***Abraham is referred to as the father of faith. He demonstrated faith in God in various ways as follows:***

- ~ *Abraham obeyed God. When he was instructed by God to leave his land and people to go to an unknown land, Abraham obeyed God without questioning.*
- ~ *Abraham obeyed God without questioning when God appeared to him and promised that He would shield him from all dangers and reward him greatly.*
- ~ *Abraham agreed to circumcise all male members of his household.*
- ~ *Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son Isaac.*

Situations in life where one needs to exercise faith in God.

- Financial instability.
- Domestic violence at home.
- Poor social skills.
- Need to improve in academic performance.
- Poor health of self or relatives.

The promises God made to Abraham and their importance.

A promise is a pledge or a declaration that something will happen or will be done.

When God called Abraham, he made promises to him.

Some of the promised God made to Abraham were:

- ✎ God would give him many descendants who would become a great nation.
- ✎ He would be blessed and his name made famous.
- ✎ God would bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him.
- ✎ Through Abraham, all the nations of the earth would be blessed.
- ✎ God would shield him from danger and reward him.
- ✎ God would give Abraham a son who would inherit his property.
- ✎ Abraham and his descendants would be given the land of Canaan to live in.
- ✎ His descendants would be enslaved in a foreign land for 400 yrs. However, God would punish the nation that enslaves them and free his descendants from captivity.
- ✎ Some of Abraham's descendants would be made kings.
- ✎ Abraham would live to a ripe old age, die in peace and be buried.
- ✎ God would establish an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants.

Importance of God's promises to Abraham to Christians today.

- i. Just like Abraham, Christians today are called from different backgrounds to serve God.
- ii. God's promise to Abraham that He would be his shield of protection is seen in Christians' lives. God continues to protect them in many circumstances.
- iii. From God's dealing with Abraham, Christians learn that God values a personal relationship with human beings.
- iv. As Abraham left his own people, Christians should leave sinful lives and put their trust in God.
- v. The promise to Abraham of Canaan (the promised land) is to Christians the hope of new land (heaven).
- vi. Abraham is the father of faith to Christians in the same way he is to the Jews. This is because Christians are Abraham's descendants through faith in Jesus Christ.

Christian values that help in applying God's promises in day-to-day life.

- ↳ Patience.
- ↳ Love.
- ↳ Respect.
- ↳ Responsibility.

2.2 Abrahamic Covenant.

Meaning of term Covenant.

- A **covenant** is a formal agreement between two people or groups of people.
- **There are two types of covenants namely:**
- Conditional covenant-this type of covenant is made between two equal parties.
- Unconditional covenant-this is a covenant that involves unequal parties for example, a covenant between God and human beings or between a king and his subjects.

Elements (characteristics) of a covenant.

Covenants have the following elements.

- › It involves more than one party.
- › In a covenant promise are made.
- › There are witness present.
- › There is a sign or a symbol.
- › There is a ceremony.
- › The consequences of breaking the covenant are made clear.

Covenants in modern life and their importance.

The following are examples of covenant in modern life:

- a.) Land buying contracts.
- b.) Contracts on employment.
- c.) Agreements signed by learners.
- d.) Oath of loyalty.
- e.) Marriage.
- f.) Baptism.

Covenants in modern life are important because:

- ☑ *They promote peace especially when signed between two fighting communities or nations.*
- ☑ *They show duties and commitments of the people or parties involved.*
- ☑ *They enhance economic growth for example, in cases of business agreements.*
- ☑ *Covenants promote friendship formation and extended social networks.*
- ☑ *They promote order and harmony among people involved.*
- ☑ *They promote integrity in leaders.*
- ☑ *They enhance diligence at work for example people are reminded they will be evaluated according to contracts they signed.*

Difference between a godly and ungodly covenant.

- ☆ A **godly covenant** is one whose purpose and process of making does not contradict the commandment or teachings of God.
- ☆ An **ungodly covenant** is one whose purpose and process of making does not give honour to God.

Examples of ungodly covenants are:

- *Those done by gangs of robbers.*
- *Those done by perpetrators of crimes.*
- *Those done by devil worshippers.*
- *Agreements by drugs and substance abusers or dealers.*

Characteristics of Ungodly covenants.

Ungodly covenants have the following characteristics.

- They do not bring honour to God.
- They are highly secretive unlike Godly covenants.
- They are not legally recognized.
- They may not promote the dignity of human life.
- Sometimes some of the people involved may be forced into the covenant.
- They may lead to loss of life.

Ways in which one can discern (recognize or find out) that a covenant is ungodly.

- ~ If the actions glorify the devil and not God.
- ~ By carefully looking at the actions of the people involved.

Ways of resisting ungodly covenants:

- Trusting in God for strength and power to overcome the temptations.
- Being determined as an individual not to participate in ungodly covenants by submitting to God.
- Reminding oneself of what the word of God teaches.
- Being alert so as to notice the temptations to enter into ungodly covenants.
- Being firm in faith in God.
- Pray for strength to resist the temptations to get involved in ungodly covenants.

Importance of Gods covenant with Abraham.

- Marks God's initiative to enter into a personal relationship with human beings.
- It shows that God can choose an individual and use him or her for His divine purpose.
- The covenant signifies the reward of faith and obedience to God.
- It was a confirmation of God's willingness, commitment and determination to fulfill the promises he made.
- The covenant was a beginning of a lasting relationship between God and all the nations on earth.

Gods covenant with Abraham is important to Christian today because:

- Christians are descendants of Abraham through faith in Jesu Christ.
- As descendants of Abraham, Christians are partakers of Gods promises.
- It shows that Christians today can be chosen by God and be used for His divine purpose.

Circumcision was important to Abraham and his descendants because:

- It was a sign of covenant between God and Abraham.
- It was the mark of identity for all Jews as the chosen people of God.
- It was an outward sign of inner faith in God.
- It was a physical sign that Abraham and his descendants had entered into a covenant with God.
- Through circumcision, Abraham and his descendants were assured of inheriting God's promises.
- Abraham and his descendants were assured of God's blessings through their continuous faith in God.

2.3 Leadership in Israel: Saul.

Reasons for kingship in Israel.

Kingship refers to rule by a king.

The Israelites demanded for a king because:

- ✓ Samuels sons Joel and Abijah were corrupt and they took bribes.
- ✓ The Israelites wanted a warrior king to lead them in wars and battles and bring victory to Israel.
- ✓ They wanted a king so as to be like other nations around them who were led by kings.
- ✓ The Israelites wanted a human king whom they could see and approach.
- ✓ They wanted a stable political government ruled by laws and orders.

Reasons against Kingship according to prophet Samuel.

- There were a number of reasons why it was wrong to establish kingship system in Israel.
- Some of the reasons according to Samuel were:
 - ✗ By demanding a king, the Israelites were rejecting Yahweh as their unseen ruler.
 - ✗ Kingship system in Israel threatened to destroy their true identity as the people of God.
 - ✗ Israelites were forgetting that they were a unique nation and so they could not be like other nations.
 - ✗ Yahweh would reject them when they cried to Him.
 - ✗ The king would not treat the Israelites well.

God told Samuel to warn the Israelites and explain to them that the King would:

- *Force them to serve in the army.*
- *Introduce forced labour.*
- *Grab their land or vineyards for government use.*
- *Force them to pay high taxes to the government.*
- *Turn them into slaves.*
- *Force their daughters to work for his wives and for the royal house.*

King Saul's failures and the consequences.

- When leaders went to prophet Samuel and asked for a king, Samuel prayed to God for guidance.
- God instructed him to go to a man called Saul who was the son of Kish from the tribe of Benjamin.
- Samuel obeyed God and anointed Saul as the king.
- He poured oil on Saul's head and the people shouted "long live the king", hence Saul became the first king of Israel.
- King Saul had both success and failures.
- Saul's failures were as a result of his weaknesses and eventually God rejected him as king of Israel.
- King Saul's failures were as follows:
 - i. He offered sacrifices to God at Gilgal instead of waiting for prophet Samuel.
 - ii. He failed to obey the law of total destruction of an enemy conquered.

Consequences of King Saul's failure.

- Prophet Samuel prophesied the end of Saul's rule. Saul was to be replaced by a man God wanted.
- God regretted making Saul the king and He rejected him as the king of Israel. (I Samuel 15:22-33)
- The spirit of God left King Saul and was replaced by an evil spirit.

Lessons learnt from King Saul's failure.

- ~ Patience is important-king Saul's impatient made him lose the opportunity to lead the Israelites. Christians should be patient as they wait for the fulfillment of God's promises
- ~ Leaders should fully understand the specific duties and responsibilities that relate to their offices-Saul took the responsibilities of priest of priests and prophets by taking up duties of making sacrifices to God.
- ~ Faith and trust in God is important-when Samuel delayed in coming, Saul feared the Philistine and lost faith in God. Leaders should not allow fear to lead them into disobedience.
- ~ Need for obedience-leaders should obey God's instructions.
- ~ Disobedience has consequences- leaders should know that disobedience is punishable.
- ~ There is need to be sincere and honest-leaders should uphold sincerity and honesty.

