

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY PRESENTS

GENESIS

B I B L E S T U D Y

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 1

WHAT IS THE BIBLE AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

If you were allowed to only have and read one book for the rest of your life, what book would it be?

If you were to ask this question of the entire world, the book that came out on top of that list would likely be the Bible. No book has had more influence and effect on the history of the world than the Bible. More copies of the Bible have been printed and sold than any other book in the history of mankind.

To put it in perspective, if you were to stack every copy sold of *The Hunger Games* (30 million) one on top of the other, the stack would reach 800 miles high. If you were to do the same thing with every copy of the Bible ever printed (6 billion), the stack of Bibles would reach 142,045 miles high, halfway the distance to the moon. No book in the history of mankind has been printed, sold, passed out, distributed, shared and read as much as the Bible. There is no arguing that it has been and will always be the most influential, controversial and celebrated book of all time.

▶ DID YOU KNOW? ABOUT 50 BIBLES ARE SOLD EVERY MINUTE!

So, what exactly is the Bible? Who wrote it? And why was it written?

These are very necessary questions to answer if we ever want to understand why this book is so important and why we should spend our time reading it.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

First, it's helpful to know that the Bible is actually a collection of many books and writings that form one big story. The word "Bible" actually comes from the Latin word *biblia* which means "books." So right there in the name we learn that the book we have called the Bible is made up of many books that all contribute to one epic story.

And what is that story?

Simply put, the Bible is a story of salvation. It's the story of a Hero who rescues His people. To quote a famous theologian (a theologian is a person who studies God), "God himself is the Savior (hero) of his people; it is he who confirms his covenant-mercy with them. The bringer of salvation, the mediator of the covenant, is Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

Think of another famous story or fairy tale. Does that story have a hero? Who is he/she?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 1, Day 1

Like the hero in your fairy tale, God is the main character in the Bible. It's primarily about Him. In fact, it starts with Him. Check out Genesis 1:1:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

The Bible opens with God because He is the Star, the Hero, the main character and person in the story.

Now flip to the end of the Bible and read the last sentences in Revelation 22:20-21:

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon. Amen. Come Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen."

The beginning of the Bible starts with God as the Star and the end of the Bible finishes with God (Jesus) as the Star. And all the books, chapters and verses in between point to God as the Hero of history, the Savior of story.



**DID YOU KNOW? DOGS ARE MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE 14 TIMES!
BUT CATS ARE NEVER MENTIONED AT ALL.**

Who do we get to thank for writing the greatest of stories? What author should get credit for writing the most popular book of all time?

WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

Look on the cover of a Bible. Do you notice anything missing? Most, if not all books, have on their cover at least two things: the title of the book and the author of the book. But look at the cover of as many Bibles as you can find and one thing you won't see on the cover is the author. Does that seem strange? It's the most popular book of all time, but the author, doesn't get credit. His or Her name isn't on the cover. Why do you think that is so?

The answer to the question "Who wrote the Bible?" can be answered in two different ways. If you mean "Who is the person or persons who sat down and first wrote out the words that we now have on paper in the Bible?" that answer is, **the Bible has many authors who tell us which parts of the Bible they wrote.**

To give an example, read the first verse in Nehemiah:

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Nehemiah is a book in the Old Testament that tells the story of how God used a man named Nehemiah to rebuild a city wall in Jerusalem. Nehemiah is the author of this book in the Bible and begins his story by telling us that he wrote down all of the words we are about to read.

Here is another example. Read this verse from Revelation 1:4, the last book in the Bible:

John, to the seven churches that are in Asia...

Revelation is a book written by John, one of Jesus' apostles. He was writing to the seven churches that are in Asia, and we now have his messages to them because what he wrote to them is important to us too.

In all, the Bible is made up of **66 different books** split up into two parts that we call the Old Testament and the New Testament. The **Old Testament** has **39 books** written by a total of more than 30 different people. The **New Testament** has **27 books** written by a total of more than 10 different people. Imagine trying to fit more than 40 different names on the cover of a book underneath the title!

But as wild as that is, what really makes the Bible special and more unique than any book ever written is the answer to this question: "Who inspired the words we read in the Bible?" To inspire means to influence or to bring about. To help us understand and answer this question, let's read 2 Timothy 3:16:

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

When this verse says Scripture, it is talking about all of the words written out in the Bible. Scripture is another word for the Bible. And this verse says that all of the Bible is "breathed out by God." This may sound like a strange phrase and paint a picture in your mind of God blowing the words of the Bible from out of His mouth, but it is actually a pretty good way to describe where the words and ideas in the Bible come from. They all come from God. God breathed them out. He inspired them.

A theologian put it this way: "In other words, Scripture has a double authorship, and man is only the secondary author; the primary (main) author...under whose superintendence (direction or guidance) each human writer did his work, is God the Holy Spirit."

So basically, the Bible came to be as people-led guided and directed by God-wrote down His words, thoughts and message to the world. This idea is the reason why you may have heard the Bible called "God's Word." The words, sentences and stories you find in the Bible are from God Himself. Reading those pages are the same as listening to God speak directly to you.



DID YOU KNOW? THE LONGEST WORD IN THE BIBLE IS MAHERSHALHASHBAZ. TRYING SAYING THAT THREE TIMES FAST!

WHY WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?

The Bible was written so that men and women and boys and girls could hear from God, know what He is like and learn how He is the Savior, the Hero, the Rescuer of all mankind. The Bible answers all of life's big questions, like:

- How did we get here?
- Why are we here?
- How are we supposed to live?
- And what happens after we die?

More importantly, it teaches us about God. Things like:

- Who He is
- What He is like
- Why He is great
- And how He is the Savior of all men

This first week of study and reading will help you understand more about the Bible that you hold in your hands, how to read it and how to study it.

And it's important that you do read it and study it. Because the bible is the most valuable thing you can possess on this earth. King David wrote about how valuable the Word of God is in one of the many psalms he wrote, Psalm 119:14:

In the way of your testimonies (note: another way to say God's Word) I delight as much as in all riches.

Main points to remember from today:

- ▶ The Bible is a collection of many books and writings that have been gathered together to form one big story.
- ▶ The Bible is a story of salvation. It's the story of a Hero who rescues His people.
- ▶ The Bible came to be as people-led, guided and directed by God-wrote down His words, thoughts and message to the world.
- ▶ The Bible was written so that men and women and boys and girls could hear from God, know what He is like and learn how He is the Savior, the Hero and the Rescuer of all mankind.

End your time with the Lord today by thanking Him for giving us the Bible. Thank Him for giving us the Bible so that we can know more about Him and what He is like. This passage from Psalm 119:89-95 can help you know what to pray:

*Forever, O Lord, your word
is firmly fixed in the heavens.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.
By your appointment they stand this day,
for all things are your servants.
If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.
I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have given me life.
I am yours; save me,
for I have sought your precepts.
The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,
but I consider your testimonies.*

WHAT IS THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Yesterday you learned answers to the big questions about the Bible: What is it? Who wrote it? And why is it important? Today, you are going to learn about the two halves of the Bible.

The books that make up the Bible are divided into two parts: the Old and New Testaments. The word “testament” is another way of saying “covenant,” which means a solemn agreement or contract. The closest thing that describes what this word “testament” or “covenant” means is a marriage. When a man and woman get married they “covenant” with each other. They make a promise to relate and interact together in a special, certain way.

So the Old Testament, or Old Covenant, talks about how God relates to His people before Jesus, and the New Testament or New Covenant talks about how God relates to His people after Jesus. Jesus makes all the difference. But before we get ahead of ourselves, let’s take a closer look at the Old Testament.

▶ **DID YOU KNOW? THE SHORTEST BOOK IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IS OBADIAH. IT ONLY HAS 21 VERSES. THE SHORTEST BOOK IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS 3 JOHN.**

The Old Testament has 39 books and makes up more than three-fourths of the Bible. Starting with Genesis, the books in the Old Testament are as follows:

Books of the Law ▶ Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Historical Books ▶ Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings

Historical Books
continued



1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Books of Wisdom



Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Song of Solomon

Prophetic Books



Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

The reason the books are grouped like they are is because there are different sections or types of books within the Old Testament.

Genesis Bible Study

Week 1, Day 2

The first five books, Genesis through Deuteronomy, were written by Moses and are called the books of the Law, or the Pentateuch, which means five books. These five books tell the story of creation and contain many people you might have heard of before—people like Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Moses.

The second section of books, Joshua through Esther, are called the historical books because these books tell us the history of the nations of Israel and Judah. Similar to your Texas or American History textbook, the historical books tell us the stories of people who existed in these nations and the promises God made to them. In Genesis, God promised Abraham that He would make a nation out of his descendants, and that nation would be special among the nations of the earth. The people of that nation would be God's chosen people, and He would have a special relationship with them. The historical books of the Old Testament tell us what happened to that nation and its people as they related to God.

▶ **DID YOU KNOW? YOU'LL NEVER FIND THE WORD "GOD" IN TWO BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: ESTHER AND SONG OF SOLOMON.**

The third section of books, Job through Song of Solomon, are called the books of wisdom. These books contain stories, poems, songs and wise sayings. The wisdom books tell God's people how to live rightly and wisely on the earth and to love God above all else.

The fourth section of books, Isaiah through Malachi, are called the prophetic books. The prophets were men whom God hand-picked to speak to His people for Him. When God had a message to deliver about any number of things, He would give that message to one of His prophets, and they would deliver it to the people by saying, "Thus says the LORD..." Thankfully, either the prophet himself or someone close to him wrote down these words from God, so now we can hear them too, thousands of years later.

▶ **DID YOU KNOW? THE LONGEST CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE IS PSALM 119. THE SHORTEST CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE IS PSALM 117.**

WHAT IS THE MAIN POINT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Yesterday you learned that the Bible is a story about salvation, about a Rescuer who comes to save His people. The Old Testament begins this story by introducing us to God and the people group (nation of Israel) out of which the Savior would come.

Only three chapters into the first book, Genesis, man's great enemy, sin and Satan, destroy the perfect

relationship man had with God. A huge, vast separation now exists between man and God, but the good news is that God promises to bridge the gap one day. That separation will close and once again God and man will be together.

But that day won't come without a price, without some payment. And the Old Testament prepares us for what that payment must be and will look like.

This is the main storyline of the Old Testament, but there are hundreds of smaller, shorter stories that make up the bigger story. God has given us these stories to teach us about Himself, what He is like and His character. We can also learn a lot about ourselves as we read about the people in the Old Testament. We learn about their flaws, their strengths and how they sometimes obey God and how sometimes they don't.

Have you ever been watching a show and, right before an important part, the show cuts to a commercial and leaves you hanging? This is what people in the TV business call a cliff-hanger. Before the important scene plays out and the show finishes, you are left wondering what will happen.

Well, the Old Testament kind of ends this same way, with a cliff-hanger. Take a look at the last chapter in the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi:

For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.

In the last chapter of the Old Testament, the prophet Malachi delivers a message from God to His people about a day that's coming. A day when God will come and make everything right that is wrong and take those who are arrogant and do evil and make them answer for what they've done. And for those who love God and fear His Name, they will celebrate because hope has come. God has answered their prayers.

But that day has not come yet. It's ahead, some time in the future, and when you finish the Old Testament, you think to yourself, "That can't be the end! There's got to be more to the story. When and how will this happen? How does rescue come and God fix everything that is wrong?" The New Testament contains the answers to those questions. And we will look at it more closely tomorrow.

Main points to remember from today:

- ▶ The books that make up the Bible are divided into two parts: the Old and New Testaments.
- ▶ The Old Testament, or Old Covenant, talks about how God and His people relate before Jesus and the New Testament, or New Covenant, talks about how God and His people relate after Jesus.
- ▶ The Old Testament has 39 books.
- ▶ The Old Testament begins the story of salvation by introducing us to God and the people group (nation of Israel) out of which the Savior would come.

End your time with the Lord today by thanking Him for giving us the Old Testament and for the people, stories and truths we learn about as we read and study it. And remember that just like these people, God is active and involved in your life as well. Thank Him for that. Read Psalm 23 and make it your prayer to God today.

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*

WHAT IS THE NEW TESTAMENT?

The second main section of the Bible is called the New Testament. And starting with the book of Matthew, the New Testament has 27 books. The books of the New Testament are:

The Gospels

▶ Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Book of Acts

▶ Acts

The Epistles

▶ Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

Book of Revelation

▶ Revelation

The reason the books are grouped like this is because within the New Testament there are different types of books, just like in the Old Testament.

The first section is made up of the books that we call the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These four books tell us the story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. They are called the Gospels because they contain the story and "good news" about Jesus. Gospel comes from the Greek word that means (good news).

▶ **DID YOU KNOW? THE SHORTEST VERSE AND SENTENCE IN THE WHOLE BIBLE IS LUKE 11:35. IT'S TWO WORDS: "JESUS WEPT."**

The second section is made up of the book of Acts. Acts is a lot like the Gospels in that it tells us the history of something. Only instead of telling us the history of Jesus' life, it tells us the history of what happened right after Jesus left the earth and ascended (went up) to heaven. Acts tells us how the first disciples (followers) of Jesus told other people about Jesus and how the first Christian churches were started and spread around the world.

The third section of books in the New Testament, beginning with 1 Corinthians and ending with Jude, are called "the Letters" or "the Epistles" (another word for letter). These books are all letters written from early Christians to other Christians or groups of Christians (churches). They contain instructions about how to follow Jesus and what it looks like to be a disciple (Christian).

The fourth section in the New Testament contains one book. It's called Revelation. Revelation is the last book in the entire Bible and it talks about what is going to happen during the End Times. Revelation tells the end of God's great story of salvation and how one day all of God's enemies (namely Satan) will be defeated and God's people will live with Him in heaven forever and ever.

▶ **DID YOU KNOW? THE LAST WORD IN THE BIBLE IS "AMEN."**

WHAT IS THE MAIN POINT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT?

The main point of the New Testament is that the Savior of the story has come and His name is Jesus.

The Old Testament points us to Jesus, and the New Testament tells us about Him. The Old Testament makes promises and predictions about Jesus and the New Testament tells us how Jesus fulfills them.

By reading the New Testament, we learn how to become a disciple of Jesus (Christian) and what it looks like to live as one.

▶ **DID YOU KNOW? THE WORD “CHRISTIAN” IS ONLY USED IN THE BIBLE THREE TIMES: TWICE IN ACTS AND ONCE IN I PETER.**

Main points to remember from today:

- ▶ The New Testament has 27 books.
- ▶ The main point of the New Testament is that the Savior of the story has come, and His name is Jesus.
- ▶ By reading the New Testament, we learn how to become a disciple of Jesus (Christian) and what it looks like to live as one.

End your time with the Lord today by thanking Him for sending Jesus as our great Savior. Read the following verse from 1 Timothy and think about what Jesus has done:

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

HOW DO I READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE?

Have you ever wanted to read the Bible but had no idea how or where to even start? Don't worry—you're not alone. Because the Bible is so thick and divided into books and not numbered chapters all the way through, many people get confused on how to even begin reading it. Do you start at the very beginning in Genesis? Can you start in the New Testament? What if you read Revelation first? How much should you read?

▶ **DID YOU KNOW? THE BIBLE HAS 31,173 VERSES. IF YOU READ ONE VERSE A DAY IT WOULD TAKE YOU 85 YEARS TO FINISH THE ENTIRE BIBLE.**

These are very good questions, and today we you'll learn how to read and study the Bible in a way that best helps you.

When and Where

First, it helps to decide when and where you are going to spend time reading your Bible. If you stick to the same time and the same place every day, you will find that it becomes a habit and part of your daily routine—just like brushing your teeth or eating breakfast.

Find a time that works for you. And find a nice, quiet place, somewhere free from distractions and interruptions. If you decide to read at home, let your family know what you are doing and politely ask them if you can be left alone for a few minutes. I'm sure if you tell your parents to give you some alone time because you're reading your Bible, they will be so excited you won't have to worry about being interrupted.

When and where are you going to read?

What to Bring

Now that you've picked a time and place, you need to know what to bring or have with you. Like an athlete showing up at his or her game, you've got to have the right equipment. Here's what we recommend:

- Your Bible (of course). We recommend the ESV or NASB translation. NIV is okay, too.
- A pen or pencil
- A highlighter
- Some sort of journal or notebook, something you can write and take notes in
- Your Genesis Bible Study (this book)

What to Read

There is no wrong way to start reading the Bible. The important thing is that you start. But there are ways to organize your reading plan so that you get the most out of your time. That is what this Study Guide is for. We have given this guide to you to help you understand and get into the habit of studying whole books of the Bible.

Have you noticed at Middle School Bible Study or in main worship services that we usually study an entire book of the Bible (from beginning to end) and then start another book when we finish that one?

In the last three years at Middle School Bible Study, we have studied:

- John
- Hebrews
- Genesis
- Galatians
- Matthew
- Nehemiah

Reading and studying one book at a time is the best way to get the most out of your time in the Bible. Beginning with chapter 1, this study guide will help you read and study the book of Genesis for an entire semester.

Each day is designed to take anywhere from 10-20 minutes, so make sure you allow enough time to finish. If you miss a day during the week, that's okay. You can make up for it on Saturday or Sunday and still stay on track with the study. Just be careful not to miss more than two days in one week because you might get behind.

One tip we recommend is to find a friend or family member who can help keep you accountable and on track. Just like having a workout buddy makes going to the gym easier, having a friend go through the study along with you can be a big encouragement.

Now that you know when, where, what you need and how to start, you're almost ready to dive into Genesis.

Being able to read and study the Bible is one of God's greatest gifts to us. There is nothing that will cause you to grow in your knowledge and understanding of who God is and what He has done more than studying the Bible.

Read what the Apostle Paul wrote about the Scriptures in a letter to his friend, Timothy:

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings (Scriptures), which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Genesis Bible Study

Week 1, Day 4

1. According to this passage, what is possible and how might a person benefit from knowing, reading and studying the Scriptures?

Main points to remember from today:

- ▶ Choose a time and place to read and study the Bible.
- ▶ Make sure you have everything you need when you sit down to read.
- ▶ Find and ask someone to help keep you accountable and to encourage you to stay on track with your study and reading plan.
- ▶ Share what you are reading and learning with someone you trust.

End your time by asking God to help you understand and study His word. Read this verse from Psalm 119:18 and make it your prayer every time you sit down to study the Bible:

Lord, open my eyes that I might behold (see) wondrous things out of your law (the Bible)!

WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF GENESIS AND WHY?

If you were assigned to write a story, how would you begin it? What would be your first line?

How about one of these:

- Once upon a time...
- Long, long ago...
- In the beginning...

Chances are you've heard one of these opening lines before because they have been around for a while, especially the last one. It's been around for a long, long time. It was written almost 4,000 years ago by a man named Moses and it began the most famous and important story ever told: the Bible.

▶ **DID YOU KNOW? MOSES WROTE MORE OF THE BIBLE THAN ANY OTHER PERSON. HE WROTE THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. PAUL WROTE THE MOST IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.**

WHO WAS MOSES?

If you've ever seen *The Prince of Egypt*, you have some idea of who Moses is. He was a real person like you and me who lived a long time ago in the area we now call the Middle East and parts of Africa.

We know a lot about Moses' life because of what is written about him in the Bible. Actually, we know about his entire life, from where and when he was born to how and where he died. It's really amazing to think about how well and how much we know about a person who lived so long ago.

Here are some of the details about Moses:

- His parent's names were Amram and Jochebed.
- He had an older brother named Aaron and an older sister named Miriam.
- He was adopted by an Egyptian pharaoh's daughter.
- He grew up as a prince in the palace of the pharaoh.
- After committing a crime as prince, he ran away and lived in the wilderness for many years.
- He was called by God to lead God's people, the Hebrews, out of slavery in Egypt.
- After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, he died on the edge of God's Promised Land and never got to enter it.

Moses never says or tells us that he wrote the book of Genesis, so how do we know this is true?

We know that Moses wrote the book of Genesis because the smartest teacher who has ever lived said that he did. On more than one occasion, Jesus Christ talks about Moses being the author of the Law which means of the first five books of the Bible, Genesis being the first. We always trust that Jesus is right, so we believe that the person who wrote the very first book of the Bible is Moses.

WHY DID MOSES WRITE THIS BOOK?

Everything has to have a beginning, and it's important and helpful to know and understand what that beginning looked like.

Ever since mankind was able to tell and write stories, he has tried to answer the big questions: "Where did we come from?"; "How did life begin?"; "What is our purpose?"

If you've studied Greek mythology or Egyptian gods in school, you've read about some of the many stories and ways people have tried to give an explanation and account of how life started. In your science classes, you've probably read about and learned the theory of evolution, another attempt to explain and answer the question of our beginnings that does so without the story's main character.

As Christians we can look to and know with confidence that the Bible truthfully tells us how everything that we see and experience began. And it all began...in the beginning, with God.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth..." Moses recorded in the opening line of the most important story ever told. Moses wrote the book of Genesis to tell us how everything started with God. God is the great Author of life and creator of the infinite universe we find ourselves in.

We learn from Moses that all life finds its purpose and meaning in God because He created all of it.

Genesis tells us the beginnings of many important things that affect our lives today, so it's very important that we listen to what God has to say through Moses in the first book of the Bible.

In Genesis we will learn about:

- Creation
- Manhood
- Womanhood
- Marriage & Family
- Sin & The Fall
- Walking With God
- Temptation
- God's Covenant
- Trusting and Obeying God

How to Read Genesis

Because Genesis talks so much about creation and earth's beginnings, a common mistake people make when they read the book of Genesis is that they try to read it like a science or textbook. Genesis is not a science book—it's a story. Just because a book is a narrative (a story) doesn't mean it's not true or accurate. For example, Genesis doesn't tell us a date or timeline for creation. When talking about when the universe began, it says, "It began in the beginning." And that is perfectly accurate and fine. Moses isn't concerned so much with telling us how old the universe is as he wants us to know that the universe had a beginning and that God was the cause and source of that beginning.

So as you read through the book of Genesis, read it like you would a story. Picture the places and things Moses describes. Notice the details and pay attention to the particulars. Most of all, consider the characters, especially the main character—God.

Main points to remember from today:

- ▶ Moses wrote the book of Genesis.
- ▶ Genesis is a book about beginnings—it tells the story of how God created and began everything.
- ▶ Read Genesis like you would a story. Pay attention to details and consider the characters.

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 2

MEMORY VERSE:

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Hebrews 11:3

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful and the wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 1:1-25. God begins His creation.

1. According to verse 1, when did God create the heavens and the earth?

Note: Genesis is not specific about the exact time (years) when creation began. It is concerned with and wants us to know that whenever creation began, it had a definite beginning and God was the source and author of its beginning.

“God created the heavens and earth” is a way of saying “God created everything, from top to bottom.” Heavens and earth is a Hebrew phrase that means everything. It’s like saying “head to toe” in English.

2. How is the earth described in verse 2 before God begins to prepare it to be suitable and habitable for mankind?

3. What image or picture of the earth do you get based on this description in verse two?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 2, Day 1

4. After creating everything (remember heavens and earth, top to bottom), what do verses 3-5 say about what God did to prepare and make the earth ready for mankind?

5. According to verses 6-8, what did God do to prepare the earth on the second day?

Note: This description of God's activity on the second day can be a bit confusing because of how Hebrew words translate over to English. God's activity of separating the waters above and below the "expanse" gives us a picture of God creating something by making space between two things: water above and water below. The word expanse can also be translated as "sky". So think of it like this: What is between the water below (oceans and seas) and the water above (think about clouds and rain)? Between these two "waters" is sky, an expanse that we can breathe and live in.

6. Describe God's activity on the third day of preparation in verses 8-13.

7. After the third day of preparation, what picture or image of the earth do you have based on the creation account so far?

8. Describe God's activity on the fourth day of preparation in verses 14-19.

Note: It's helpful to know that there is a difference in meaning between the words "created" and "made" in the Genesis creation account. When you see the word create, this is the idea of making something or bringing it into existence. So when God created the heavens and the earth in verse 1, He brought everything into existence.

On the other hand, when we see the word "made," this is the same idea as when you say, "I made my bed this morning." You didn't actually build or create a bed—you made it by putting it to order or fixing it. So when we see in verse 16 where God "made the two great lights" (sun and moon), He didn't create them because they already existed. The sun and moon were created back in verse 1. Here, in verse 16, God fixed them or ordered them to rule the night and day. He gave them order, structure and purpose like you making or fixing your bed in the morning.

9. Describe God's activity on the fifth day of preparation in verses 20-25.

10. List out the things God made and ordered on days 1-5.

11. During days 1-5, God looks down on His creation and says that it is _____?

12. Based on this creation account or story, what do we see and learn about our God?

13. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Hebrews 11:3

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful and the wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 1:26-2:3. God finishes His creation.

1. After the fifth day, what seems to be the only thing missing from God's creation?
2. In verse 26, what does God say?
3. In verse 26, how does God say that He will make man?

Note: The Hebrew word for man is not the same thing as our English word for man that describes the male species. The Hebrew word for man is "adam" and means mankind or human beings. This word, adam, will later become the proper and personal name for the first man God creates: Adam.

4. According to verse 26, what special job or responsibility will man do after he is created?
5. What words are repeated in verse 27?

6. What do you notice is different or unique about the creation of man (male and female), compared to the rest of God's creatures and creation on days 1-5?

7. In whose image are men created?

8. In whose image are women created?

9. So based on this (male and female both created in God's image) what should that teach us about the two sexes?

10. After creating the man and woman in verse 27, what does God do to them in verse 28?

Note: To bless someone or something means to wish them/it well. It comes from an old English word that means "to wish happiness, goodwill and prosperity on." In God's case, when He blesses someone or something, He gives them His divine favor.

11. List out what God commands the man and woman to do in verse 28.

12. In verses 29-30, what does God give the man and woman and what does He give it for?

13. What does God say in verse 31 at the end of the sixth day?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 2, Day 2

14. In verses 2 & 3 of chapter 2, what is different about the seventh day of creation?

15. What rhythm did God establish and set for us by resting on the seventh day of creation?

16. Based on this creation account or story, what do we see and learn about our God?

17. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Hebrews 11:3

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful and the wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 2:1-17. God puts man to work.

Before studying this section, it's helpful to know that Genesis 2 is not a different account of the creation story you just read in chapter 1. At first, it may appear like these are two different stories, but they are the same story. What is different about chapter 1 and chapter 2 of Genesis is the focus or perspective of each account. Chapter 1 is a big, high-level view of the creation story. It focuses on God as Creator of everything out of nothing. Chapter 2 zooms in and focuses on the creation of mankind. It elaborates and gives detail on what God did in verses 26-27 of chapter 1.

1. Verse 4 begins this section by saying that what is about to follow is a telling of the generations of the heavens and earth when they were created. "Generations" is talking about people. God begins this list of generations with two people. What are their names?
2. What was the condition of the land talked about in verse 5 before there was a man to work on it and rain to water it?
3. According to verse 7, how did God make and form the first man?
4. Think back on chapter 1 and compare how God made all the animals to how He made man. How is the effort He put into making man different?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 2, Day 3

5. What do you think this says and teaches us about the difference between man and animals?

6. According to verse 8, where did God place the man after He created him?

7. Based on verse 9-10, describe the Garden of Eden.

8. List the two trees named in verse 9.

9. According to verse 15, why did God place the man in the garden? What does this say and teach us about the idea of work?

10. What permission does God give to the man in verse 16? What specific attribute of God does this illustrate for us?

11. In verse 17, God gives the man very specific instructions (a command) about something he must not do. What are those instructions and what does God say will happen if man disobeys them?

12. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Hebrews 11:3

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful and the wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 2:18-25. God oversees the first wedding.

1. Thinking back on the passage you read yesterday, who do you notice is missing from that part of the chapter that we are introduced to in the second half of this chapter?
2. In verse 18, what does God have to say about the fact that the man is alone?

It's important to note that this is the first time in the story of creation that God says that something is not good. Everything He has created so far, He calls or describes as being good.

3. Why or for what reasons do you think God said it was not good for the man to be alone?
4. According to the last half of verse 18, what does God decide to do about the fact that it is not good for the man to be alone?
5. In verse 18, what two things does God say about or use to describe the person He is going to create for the man?

MEMORY VERSE:

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Hebrews 11:3

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful and the wondrous things that are in this passage.

In Depth Study: Creation Before the Fall

The first two chapters of the Bible, Genesis 1 and 2, are different than every other chapter that we read in the Bible following them. Something doesn't exist in these two chapters—something is missing that will make its appearance in chapter 3 and won't go away until the very end of Revelation. Can you guess what it is?

If you read carefully through Genesis 1 and 2, you'll notice that the idea and effects of sin are nowhere to be found. Imagine that—a life without sin. To help understand what this would be like, let's define what sin is.

1. In your own words, how would you explain sin?

Read these verses from Scripture about sin:

- Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4)
- For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20)
- All wrongdoing is sin... (1 John 5:17a)
- ...For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. (Romans 14:23b)

2. After reading these verses, would you redefine or change your definition of sin?

So that we are all on the same page, let's agree on and use this definition for sin: **lack of conformity to the law of God.**

Conformity means to "follow or line up with" and the law of God is all that He has commanded and ordered. So in short, to sin is to not line up with or follow what God has commanded.

A great way to picture this idea is to think of a target, a bull's-eye. At the center of that target is what God has commanded, His law. To sin means to miss the center of that target—to miss the mark.

In Genesis 1 and 2, there was no "missing the mark." Everything and everyone lined up perfectly with God's law and commands and every arrow hit the bull's-eye. "Everything was good" as God declared. And because everything was in line with God's will and order, everything was perfect. Imagine for a minute a world that is perfect.

3. What things that we experience and see now, in a fallen world (more about this in next week's in-depth study) would not exist in a world without sin?

God's ultimate plan for mankind and universe is to reconcile (make right) everything that was broken because of the Fall.

Read Revelation 21:1-4. the new heaven and new earth.

4. Revelation 21 describes what God has in store for His people. How is the new heaven and new earth similar to the Garden of Eden before the Fall?

5. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 3

MEMORY VERSE:

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

Romans 3:23

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful and wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 3:1-13. the Fall.

1. What character is introduced in the creation story in verse 1?
2. Other than the fact that he is a serpent, what do we learn about this character in verse 1?

Note: To be crafty means that you are clever or smart, especially when it comes to getting what you want.

3. Why do you think it was important to understand and know that the serpent was the craftiest of all the creatures God made?
4. What does the serpent ask the woman in verse 1?
5. Based on what you read in Genesis 2:16-17, what had God actually said about what the man and woman could and should not eat?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 3, Day 1

6. According to verses 2 and 3, how does the woman answer the serpent?

7. Is her answer and understanding of what God said about eating in chapter 2 correct or incorrect?

8. What part of God's instructions in chapter 2 does the woman misunderstand or get wrong?

9. In verse 4, how does the serpent contradict (go against) God's instructions to the man and woman in chapter 2?

10. According to what the serpent says in verse 5, why does God not want the man and the woman to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil? How was the serpent trying to make the forbidden tree appealing to the woman?

11. In verse 6, what were the three things the woman saw that made the forbidden tree appealing and desirable?

12. What does the woman do after she takes and eats of the tree?

13. According to verse 7, what happened to the man and the woman after they ate of the forbidden tree?

MEMORY VERSE:

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”

Romans 3:23

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful and wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 3:14-24. the curse.

After the Fall (man's and woman's disobedience), we see God cursing the serpent and enacting consequences for man and woman for their rebellion.

1. According to verse 14, what is the serpent's punishment for tempting and deceiving the man and woman?

2. In verse 15, what does God put between the serpent and the woman (and her offspring)?

Enmity sounds like "enemy" and has a similar meaning. Enmity is a feeling of ill will or hatred for someone or something else.

3. How do you see this enmity that was put between the woman and serpent play out today?

4. According to verse 15, what will happen to the head of the serpent, and what will happen to the heel of the woman's offspring?

This promise (that the offspring of the woman will crush the head of the serpent) is what many call the “protoevangelium.” It means the first announcement or mention of the gospel. It’s a promise that one day, the offspring of woman (Jesus) will crush the head of and defeat the serpent (Satan). Check out Romans 16:20 and Revelation 20:2-3 to see how the crafty serpent meets his end!

5. In verse 16, God says two things will happen to the woman because of her disobedience and rebellion. What are they?

6. In your own words, describe how God punished the man because of his disobedience.

7. Before the man sinned, what task had God assigned to him in the garden (Gen. 2:15)?

8. Why do you think God cursed the ground and made the man’s work difficult as punishment for his disobedience?

9. Based on verse 18, finish this sentence: For you are dust, and to dust...

10. What is meant by “and to dust you shall return?”

11. The man (Adam) finally gives his wife a name in verse 20. What does he call her?

12. What does God make for Adam and Eve in verse 21?

MEMORY VERSE:

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

Romans 3:23

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

In-Depth Study: The Fall

Read Romans 5:12, the curse.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

1. What one man is Romans 5:12 speaking of?
2. What spread to all men because all men sinned?
3. What physical reality (something we experience in our physical bodies) does death and sin remind you of in this verse? Hint: What can spread from one person to another?

Sin is like a disease, a sickness that has affected the entire human race. It entered through one man, Adam, and has spread to all and every one of his offspring since the garden of Eden.

4. What is needed to stop and reverse the effects of a disease?

Read Romans 5:17-21, the cure.

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

5. According to verse 18, what was the consequence of Adam's trespass (sin)?

Definition of condemnation: the action of condemning someone to a punishment; sentencing; a statement or expression of very strong and definite criticism or disapproval.

6. According to verse 18, what is the result of one act of righteousness?

Definition of justification: the action of showing something to be right or reasonable; the action of declaring or making righteous in the sight of God.

7. Whose act of obedience led to many being made righteous?

8. In your own words, describe how Jesus is the "cure" for sin. Use Scripture to back up your answer.

MEMORY VERSE:

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

Romans 3:23

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 4:1-26, Cain & Abel.

1. The name Cain sounds a lot like the Hebrew word for "gotten." Knowing this, why do you think Adam and Eve named their firstborn son Cain?
2. According to verse 2, both Cain and Abel had different jobs. What were they?
3. What did Cain bring as an offering to the Lord?
4. What did Abel bring as an offering to the Lord?
5. According to verses 4 and 5, how did God receive or regard the two offerings brought by Cain and Abel?

Read Hebrews 11:4 and 1 John 3:12.

6. Based on what we see in these verses, what is the difference between Cain and Abel's offerings? Why did God have regard for Abel's and not for Cain's?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 3, Day 4

7. Genesis 3:6, how does Cain respond to his offering being disregarded by God?

8. According to verse 7, what does God say can still happen if Cain does well?

9. What warning about sin does God give to Cain in verse 7?

10. In verse 8, how does Cain lose the battle with sin?

11. According to verse 11, how is Cain punished for murdering his brother?

12. What becomes of Cain in verse 16 as a result of his sin?

13. After the sad incident between Cain and Abel, how does chapter 3 end on a better, more promising note?

14. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

Romans 3:23

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 5:1-32.

Chapter 5 of Genesis is a genealogy (an account of the descent of a person, family, or group from an ancestor or from older forms) of Adam's descendants all the way to Noah and his sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

1. In the space below, write the names and ages (you may need to do some math) of Adam and his descendants all the way to Noah.

NAME	AGE
Adam	930 years (130+800)
Noah	950 years

2. Of this list, who lived the longest?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 3, Day 5

3. Who lived the shortest?
4. What is unique about the record and information this chapter gives about Enoch?

Read Hebrews 11:5-6.

5. According to this passage, what did Enoch not see (experience)?
6. Before Enoch was taken up by God, what does verse 5 say about his relationship with God?
7. Genesis 5 says that Enoch “walked with God.” In Hebrews 11, it says that Enoch “pleased God.” What can you conclude (say) about what it means to “walk with God” based on this?
8. Based on Hebrews 11:6, how does Enoch (and the same goes for us) please God?

Read Hebrews 11:1.

9. How does this verse define faith?

Here are a couple of different translations of Hebrews 11:1—they may help you understand it a little better:

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. (NLT)

Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen. (HCSB)

10. Based on these verses, how would you explain “faith in God” to someone who was asking what it is?

11. Genesis 5:29, what does Lamech say about his son, Noah?

12. The name Noah sounds a lot like the Hebrew word for “rest.” How does Noah’s name reflect what his father said about him in verse 29?

13. How does verse 29 tie back to what God said to Adam in Genesis 3:17?

14. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 4

MEMORY VERSE:

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Hebrews 11:7

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 6:1-8. The wickedness of man increases.

1. According to verses 1 and 2, why did the sons of God (men who came from a line of God worshipers desire to marry the daughters of men (women who came from a line of people who didn't worship God)?
2. What is the problem or result of these men who worshiped God marrying women who didn't?

Note: The Nephilim, which in Hebrew means "fallen ones," were men of great power and influence who more than likely used their power not to honor and glorify God, but to build up their own pride and make their own names great (probably at the expense of others).

3. What does verse 5 say about how wicked and corrupt man had become?
4. According to verses 6 & 7, how does God feel about the depravity (state of very low moral standards and behavior, wickedness) of mankind? What does God decide to do because of man's depravity?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 4, Day 1

5. In verse 8, how is Noah singled out from the rest of mankind?

Note: The Hebrew word “favor” in this passage is the same word for “grace.” So it can also be read as “and Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” Grace is God’s unmerited (unearned) favor. More than a word or description about Noah, grace is a description or word about God. Noah received God’s grace freely and did nothing to earn it. It’s not that Noah chose to walk with God but that God chose Noah to walk with Him.

Read Genesis 6:9-22, God instructs Noah to build the ark.

6. How is Noah described in verse 9?

7. Who is another person in Genesis who is described as having walked with God (chapter 5)?

8. According to verse 17, how does God determine to destroy all flesh under heaven?

9. In verses 14-16, what does God instruct Noah to build that will save him and his family from the punishing flood?

10. What does God establish with Noah in verse 18?

Note: A covenant is an agreement or promise between two parties (people). For God to make a covenant with man means that He gives or makes a divine promise that He will always keep and never break.

MEMORY VERSE:

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Hebrews 11:7

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 7:1-5, Noah and the animals.

1. In verse 1, whom does God tell Noah to bring into the ark?
2. What does God say about Noah's life and way of living in verse 1?

Note: To be righteous means you have been declared by God to be without fault or to be free from sin or guilt. God is our Judge and He alone can declare someone to be righteous. How was Noah righteous if he was born a sinner, inheriting a sin-filled, sick heart from Adam just like everyone else? Look back at your memory verse for this week. The answer to that question can be found in this verse out of Hebrews:

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. Hebrews 11:7

3. According to Hebrews 11:7, where did Noah's righteousness come from?
4. How did Noah demonstrate or show the faith in God that brought on his righteousness?

5. According to verse 2, how many pairs of clean animals did God tell Noah to bring onto the Ark?

Note: A clean animal doesn't mean that they don't make messes. Clean animals were declared by God to be okay to eat and offer as sacrifices. On the other hand, Jews were not allowed to eat unclean animals. The reason God asked Noah to bring more clean animals was to ensure that the clean animals survived and Noah had animals to sacrifice and eat to keep his family alive.

6. What instruction does God give Noah in verse 4?

7. According to verse 4, who and what will be destroyed by the Flood that God brings?

8. In verse 5, how does Noah respond to God's instruction and information?

9. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Hebrews 11:7

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 7:6-16, the Flood.

1. According to verse 6, how old was Noah when the Flood occurred?
2. According to verse 7, how many people, including Noah, entered the ark when the Flood began?
3. What is the picture painted in verse 11 of how the floodwaters came onto the earth?
4. How long did the rains fall upon the earth during the great Flood?
5. Verse 16 sheds some light on how Noah was able to gather and load up all the animals that God instructed him to bring on the ark? How was this possible?
6. Verses 19-20 tell how great and massive the Flood was. How high did the waters rise?

7. According to verse 21, what happened to all living creatures that moved on the earth and swarmed in the skies?

8. Of all living things on the earth, who and what were spared?

9. According to verse 24, how long did the floodwaters remain on the earth?

10. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Hebrews 11:7

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 8:1-5, the Flood subsides.

1. Thinking back on the passage you read yesterday, who do you notice is missing from that part of the chapter that we are introduced to in the second half of this chapter?
2. According to verse 1, did God forget about or remember Noah and all the animals who were sealed up in the ark?
3. What does God send in verse 1 to make the waters that had flooded the earth subside or go away?
4. According to verse 4, after 150 days of the flood drying up, where did the ark come to rest?

Read Genesis 8:6-12.

5. Forty days after the ark came to rest, what did Noah do in verse, 6 and 7?

6. After sending out a raven, what did Noah do in verse 8?

7. What did the dove that Noah sent out discover about the earth in verse 9?

8. What did Noah do in verse 10?

9. The dove Noah sent out in verse 10 came back with something in its mouth. What was it? What did this signify to Noah?

10. What happened to the dove that Noah sent out in verse 12? What did this signify to Noah?

11. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Hebrews 11:7

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 8:13-19. Noah leaves the ark.

1. In verse 13, what did Noah see when he removed the covering of the ark?
2. What did God command Noah to do in verses 15-17?
3. What things that we experience and see now, in a fallen-world (more about this in next week's In-Depth study), would not exist in a world without sin?
4. Where else have you seen the command to "be fruitful and multiply" in the book of Genesis?

Read Genesis 8:20-22, Noah's burnt offering.

5. According to verse 20, what is the very next thing Noah does after leaving the ark?

Read Leviticus 1:3-9. It describes in detail what a burnt offering is.

6. According to Leviticus 1:4, what is the purpose of a burnt offering before God?

To atone means to fix or repair a wrongdoing. In the Bible, atonement refers to the removal of guilt by God from man. In the Old Testament, people would offer animal sacrifices to God as atonement for their sins. Symbolically, the sins of man would be placed or put on the animal and the animal, would die along with the sins and guilt of the man.

7. Based on this understanding of atonement, why do you think Noah's first action after leaving the ark was to make a burnt offering unto the Lord?

8. In verse 21, what is God's response to Noah's burnt offering?

Read Genesis 9:1-17, God's covenant with Noah.

9. What instructions and information about animals and food does God give to Noah in verses 2-4?

10. Think back to God's instructions to Adam in Genesis 1:28-30. How are these instructions different from the instructions God gave to Noah about the animals and food?

11. What does God establish with Noah in verse 9?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 4, Day 5

A covenant is an agreement or serious promise made between two persons. In the Bible, God deals with man according to covenants He makes with him. God promises something through a covenant and is faithful to keep that promise.

The closest thing we have to a covenant like what God makes in the Bible is the covenant of marriage: One man and one woman making a promise to one another that they commit not to break. We know of course that because man isn't perfect and is sick with sin, he has trouble keeping this covenant, and some marriages end in divorce. Unlike when man makes a covenant and sometimes breaks it, God never breaks a covenant! He is perfect and perfectly keeps His promises.

12. According to verse 11, what is the covenant that God makes with Noah?

13. What is the sign that God gives to Noah in verses 12-14 as a reminder of this covenant?

14. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 5

MEMORY VERSE:

For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4:3

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 10:1, The descendants of Noah.

Chapter 10 of Genesis is a **genealogy**. A genealogy is a list or record of descendants (people) who came from the same father and/or mother. Chapter 10 is the list of Noah’s descendants who came from his three sons: Shem, Japheth and Ham.

Read Genesis 10:2-5, the sons of Japheth.

1. Start with Japheth at the top and use a tree diagram to visually illustrate the descendants of Japheth listed in verses 2-5. The row below Japheth should be the list of his sons and the row below that should be the list of his sons’ sons (Japheth’s grandsons).

2. How are the descendants of Japheth described in verse 5?

Read Genesis 10:6-20, The sons of Ham.

3. Starting with Ham at the top, draw a similar tree for Ham's descendants listed in verses 6-14.

4. According to verse 19, where did the Canaanites live (where was their territory)?

Read Genesis 10:21-31, The sons of Shem.

Genesis Bible Study

Week 5, Day 1

5. Like you did for Ham and Japheth's descendants, create a tree diagram for the descendants of Shem.

6. According to verse 30, where did Shem's descendants live (where was their territory)?

7. Why was it important enough to have an entire chapter of Genesis devoted to the genealogy (descendants) of Noah?

8. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4:3

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 11:1-9, the Tower of Babel.

1. How does Moses describe the earth in verse 1?
2. According to verses 3 and 4, as people settle in Shinar, what do they decide to do together?
3. In verse 4 the people desire to “make a name for themselves.” In your own words, describe what it means to make a name for yourself.
4. What does the Lord see when He comes down to visit the city and tower in verses 5-6?
5. According to verses 7 and 8, what does God decide to do because of man’s desire to make a name for himself?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 5, Day 2

6. What name is the city given as a result of God confusing the languages of all the earth?

“Babel” sounds like the Hebrew word for confused.

7. Where men sought to gather in one place and build/make a name for themselves, God decided to do what with them?

8. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4:3

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 11:10-32, from Shem to Abram.

The rest of Genesis 11 is another genealogy. It tells the line of descendants from Shem to Abram. We find genealogies in Genesis because people are important to the book of Genesis. Remember from your first week of this study that Genesis is to be read like a story, so focus and pay attention to the people. Genealogies are one way to remind the reader to pay attention to the people.

1. Beginning with Shem, use this table and fill in the lineage listed in verses 10-27.

NAME	AGE OF DEATH
Shem	600 (100+500)
Terah	275
Abraham	?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 5, Day 3

2. According to verse 29, what is the name of Abram's wife?

3. What description is given of Abram's wife in verse 30?

4. According to verse 31, where does Terah take and settle his family?

5. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4:3

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 12:1-3, God calls Abram.

1. What instruction and command does God give Abram in verse 1?
2. According to verse 2, what is God's plan and intention for having Abram move his family?
3. What phrase do you notice in verse 2 also appeared in Genesis 11 (the Tower of Babel)?
4. In terms of someone's "name being made great," what is the difference between the story of the Tower of Babel and the call of Abram in this passage?
5. How many times do the words bless or blessing appear in verses 2-3?

Blessing is the idea of receiving God's favor or experiencing His provision and protection. To be blessed by God is to receive good and goodness from Him.

Genesis Bible Study

Week 5, Day 4

Read Genesis 12:4-9, Abram obeys God.

6. In verse 4, how does Abram respond to God's command and instruction?

7. According to verse 5, who and what does Abram take with him on his journey to Canaan?

8. In verse 6, what or who does Abram find when he arrives to the land of Canaan?

9. What promise about the land does God give to Abram in verse 7?

10. What does Abram do in verse 8?

11. Where do we find Abram heading in verse 9?

The Negeb was the southern region of Canaan. On a present day map this would be near southern Jordan and/or Israel, near Egypt.

12. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

Romans 4:3

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 12:10-16, Abram travels to Egypt.

1. What caused or forced Abram to leave Canaan and travel to Egypt?
2. Before entering Egypt, what is Abram worried about in verses 11-12?
3. What plan does Abram come up with in verse 13 to solve the concern he has about entering Egypt?
4. According to verses 14 and 15, what do the Egyptians notice about Sarai and what happens to her as a result?

Note: The phrase “and the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house” in verse 15 implies and suggests that Pharaoh wanted Sarai to satisfy his own sexual desires. So we see two immoral things happening in this story: Pharaoh committed sexual sin with a woman who was another man’s wife, and Abram allowed and encouraged it to happen in order to spare and protect his own life.

Genesis Bible Study

Week 5, Day 5

5. What does Abram receive in turn from Pharaoh for allowing Sarai to enter Pharaoh's house?

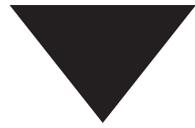
Read Genesis 12:17-20. Abram leaves Egypt.

6. According to verse 17, what happened to Pharaoh as a result of his sexual sin?

7. In verses 18-20, what does Pharaoh do when he learns that Sarai was Abram's wife?

8. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 6

MEMORY VERSE:

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:29

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 13:1-7, Abram settles in Bethel.

1. When Abram leaves Egypt, which direction or path does he take? Does he head somewhere new or to a place he has been before?
2. What does verse 2 tell us about Abram's wealth and possessions?
3. What does verse 4 mention about the place in which Abram decided to settle?
4. According to verse 6, what problem did Abram and Lot run into with the place Abram decided to settle?

Read Genesis 13:8-18. Abram and Lot separate.

5. According to verses 8 and 9, how did Abram fix the problem he and Lot ran into in verse 6?

6. Based on the solution Abram gave, what is Lot's decision in verse 10? What hint does this verse give us about why Lot chose the option he did?

7. Based on verse 12, describe where Abram settled and describe where Lot settled.

8. What detail does verse 13 give about the area where Lot settled? What do you think this detail foreshadows (gives a hint to the reader about what is going to happen to Lot)?

9. What instruction does God give Abram in verse 14?

10. What promise does God give Abram in verses 15 and 16?

11. According to verse 18, what specific area in the land of Canaan does Abram settle and build an altar to the Lord?

12. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:29

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 14:1-12, the kings of Canaan.

1. Make a list of the kings named in verses 1-2 along with the name of their kingdom.
2. According to verses 5-7, who does King Chedorlaomer defeat? List out the kings who fell to him.
3. In verse 10, what happened to the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah when they fled from their enemies?
4. According to verse 11, how did Sodom and Gomorrah suffer as a result of their defeat by their enemies?
5. In verse 12, who was also taken by the enemies?

6. What else do we learn about Lot in verse 12?

Read Genesis 14:13-16, Abram rescues Lot.

7. Who informs Abram in verse 13, and what does this person tell him?

8. Describe what Abram does in verse 14 after learning about Lot's capture.

9. What is the result of Abram's attack against his enemies in verses 15 and 16?

10. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:29

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 14:17-24, Abram is blessed by Melchizedek.

1. According to verse 17, after his victorious return, where does Abram meet with the king of Sodom?
2. In verse 18, who else joins Abram and the king of Sodom in the valley?
3. What does this king bring with him and what do we learn about him in verse 18?

Note: A priest is someone who acts as a mediator (a go-between) between God and man. In the Old Testament, only a priest could enter the Holy Place in the Temple and make offerings and sacrifices to the Lord. Priests go before God on behalf of men and perform religious duties to please and appease God.

Read Hebrews 4:14-16, Jesus, our great High Priest.

4. Describe what this passage says about Jesus, our great High Priest.
5. Describe what Melchizedek does in verses 19 and 20.

6. What does Abram offer Melchizedek in verse 20?

7. According to verse 21, what offer does the king of Sodom make Abram?

8. According to verses 22 and 23, why does Abram refuse the offer made by the king of Sodom?

9. What does Abram limit himself to take in verse 24?

10. Based on Abram's response to the king of Sodom in verse 23, what promise from God is Abram trusting and believing (Gen. 12:1-3)?

11. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:29

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 15:1-6, God's covenant with Abram.

1. What word from God comes to Abram in verse 1?
2. Describe Abram's concern in verses 2 and 3 about the promise God made.
3. How does God clear up Abram's concern about an heir in verse 4?
4. What does God show and promise Abram in verse 5?
5. Describe Abram's response in verse 6 to God's promise.
6. Define righteousness. (Look back to Week 4 Day 2 to check your answer.)

7. According to verse 6, why was Abram declared righteous?

Read Galatians 3:6-10.

8. Abram was declared righteous (right with God) because of his belief/faith in God. According to this passage in Galatians, how are Gentiles (anyone who is not Jewish) declared righteous?

9. Abram had faith in the promise God made to him. As Christians, we too have faith in a promise from God. What is that promise?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9.

10. In your own words, describe what it means to be saved (justified and declared righteous) by grace through faith, not by works.

11. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:29

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

In-Depth Study: Covenant

1. So far in your reading of Genesis, which stories and to what people have you seen God make a covenant?
2. Define "covenant" (look back at Week 4, Day 1 to check your answer).
3. What is God's covenant with Noah (Gen. 9:15)?
4. What is God's covenant with Abram (Gen. 15:18)?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34, the new covenant.

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Note: The people of Israel (Abram's descendants) lived according to a covenant with God. It was given to Moses by God in the book of Exodus. This covenant was a promise followed up by a set of laws from God. You might remember them as the Ten Commandments. These are just a few of the many laws God gave the Israelites. This Law (covenant) maintained/kept the relationship between God and His people and was needed because God is holy and His people were not. Part of this covenant required the people of God to make sacrifices over and over again to make up for their sins against God.

5. What promise does God make in Jeremiah 31:31 about His covenant with man?

6. Knowing what the old (Mosaic) covenant was and required, how does this new covenant described in Jeremiah 31 differ?

Read Hebrews 8:1-13. Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant.

7. According to verse 6, who is the Mediator (person who goes between God and man) of the new covenant?

Definition of mediator: a person who attempts to make people involved in a conflict come to an agreement; a go-between.

8. Why is Jesus a better Mediator between God and man (Heb. 4:14-16)?

9. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 7

MEMORY VERSE:

He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that He made with Abraham, His sworn promise to Isaac.

Psalm 105:8-9

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 15:12-21, the covenant continued.

Let's pick up where we left off yesterday. We've just seen the LORD come to Abraham in a vision and declare His purpose for Abraham's life. We see the belief and faith that Abraham has and how the Lord counted it to him as righteousness. God proclaims His great faithfulness to Abraham. Let's continue to see God make His covenant with Abraham.

1. As the sun begins to set, what happens to Abraham?
2. What type of mood is being set in this passage?
3. How sure is the Lord of what He says to Abraham (v. 13)?
4. What bad news does the Lord give Abraham in verse 13?
5. What good news comes after that in verse 14?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 7, Day 1

6. Where will Abraham be when that comes about (v. 15)?

7. How does the Lord say Abraham will be buried?

8. What is the covenant that God makes with Abraham on that day (v. 18)?

9. What does God promise to give Abraham's offspring?

10. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that He made with Abraham, His sworn promise to Isaac.

Psalm 105:8-9

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 16:1-9, Sarai and Hagar.

The past few days you've been reading about God's covenant with Abraham. It's clear that Abraham believed and trusted God's promise (and it was counted to him as "righteous") that he would bear a son that would begin a line of descendants as the number of the stars. As you read these verses, can you see how we easily forget God's promises and try to do things on our own?

1. What is said in the beginning of verse 1 that was the reason of Sarai's distrust?
2. When Sarai says, "The Lord has prevented me from bearing children" in verse 2, do you think she's saying that with peace in God's timing or bitterness in what He hasn't given her?
3. What course of action did Sarai take to solve the problem of her being unable to bear children?
4. Does Abraham encourage his wife to trust God or does he give in?
5. Did Sarai's plan work? How did she respond? What does she do to Hagar?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 7, Day 2

6. What happens to Hagar when she's out in the wilderness?

Note: I know this passage is confusing because it's clear that Abraham had two wives. You may ask yourself, "How can Abraham love and follow God when he lives that way?" If you read other passages in the Old Testament, you see the same scenario. I don't need to explain to you that we don't advocate or believe in polygamy (being married to more than one person). Neither does God. Jesus makes it clear in the New Testament that marriage is between one man and one woman. In the Old Testament there are no clear commands or laws against polygamy, which can also be confusing.

We do, however, see clear pictures all throughout the Old Testament how these acts are always followed by destruction or pain. Look at this story we're studying today. Sarai took actions into her own hands, gave her servant to Abraham to marry, she conceived, and it caused even greater pain, bitterness, and heartbreak. We will study later in Genesis what happened to Ishmael (Hagar and Abraham's son.)

7. Think of a time when you waited a really long time for something, like Sarai and Abraham had been waiting for a child. How hard was that?

8. Have you ever tried to take your own course of action because you didn't trust God's plan or you believed your way was better? How did that work out for you?

9. Describe in your own words what it means to trust and have faith in God's promises.

10. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that He made with Abraham, His sworn promise to Isaac.

Psalm 105:8-9

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 1:10-16, Hagar and Ishmael.

1. In verse 10, what does the angel of the Lord tell Hagar?

Note: During biblical times, an individual's ancestry and family lineage was very significant. That's why you see so many passages describing, in detail, who fathered whom and who begot whom. A person's lineage spoke of who they were and where they came from. The fact that the angel told Hagar that her offspring would be so great they couldn't be numbered was an encouragement to her.

2. What does the angel tell Hagar her son's name will be?

3. Ishmael means "God hears." According to the last part of verse 11, why did God call him that?

4. How does Hagar refer to God in verse 13? What does she call Him?

5. Why is that so significant? Do you think Hagar could have felt unheard and unloved after being cast out by Sarai?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 7, Day 3

6. Based on verse 15, who actually gives Ishmael his name? Why do you think that's important?

Read Isaiah 43:1. It says at the end of the verse that God calls us by name and we are His. This is a really beautiful truth. As a Father, He takes us out of the muck and mire of sin, redeems us adopts us, and calls us His sons and daughters by name.

When your parents found out they were pregnant with you, chances are they began thinking about names to call you. When they first held you in their arms and called you your name, they were essentially saying, "you are my daughter" or "you are my son." There is an ownership that happens when someone first names you. Abraham took ownership and named Ishmael. He recognized that Ishmael was his son. Just as God redeems us from sin, God redeemed Abraham and Hagar's situation. Abraham accepted Ishmael as his son and named him the name God chose.

7. How do you see signs of God's redemption through this specific story of Abraham, Sarai, Hagar and Ishmael?

8. Why is it important for you to understand that God rises above sin and works all things together for His glory? How does that give you hope?

9. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that He made with Abraham, His sworn promise to Isaac.

Psalm 105:8-9

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 17:1-14, covenant of circumcision.

*Note: You may be asking yourself, "What exactly is circumcision?" If you read the Old Testament at all, you'll see that word mentioned many times. It all began here in Genesis 17, and it holds great significance. A great definition of circumcision is found in *The New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. It defines circumcision as the "physical expression of faith which distinguished those who belonged to the Lord from those who did not. It was a sign of the covenant with Abraham."*

1. What does God promise Abraham in verse 4?
2. As we discussed yesterday, God changing someone's name holds great meaning. The name Abraham means "father of a great multitude." Why is this name significant?
3. What is the timeframe of God's covenant with Abraham (see v. 7)? Does the covenant, then, have to do then with the physical or spiritual?
4. If God's covenant with Abraham is about the spiritual, the relational, the heart of man, why does God call Abraham to obey in the physical act of circumcision? Could it be a picture, or a representation, of something deeper?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 7, Day 4

5. Think about other physical signs or rituals we take part of now as followers of God, like baptism and communion. Are the physical acts of these things what save us, or are they a picture of something else?

6. Circumcision was a physical act of obedience, just as baptism and communion are. Out of faith, Abraham heard God. If you are a son or daughter of God, have you heard His command of you to follow salvation with physical acts of obedience by baptism and communion? Are you, like Abraham, full of faith and a desire to obey God?

7. If you are a Christian, have you obeyed God by being baptized and taking communion? Why or why not?

8. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that He made with Abraham, His sworn promise to Isaac.

Psalm 105:8-9

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 17:15-27, the son of promise: Isaac.

1. What happens in verse 15?
2. Consider what we talked about a couple of lessons ago. Why is it important that God give Sarai a new name?
3. Sarah means “princess.” Why do you think that could be important (Look at v. 16)?
4. What is the promise that God makes to Sarah and Abraham in this passage?
5. Based on verse 17, how do you see Abraham respond? Is it in faith?
6. In verse 18, Abraham reminds God that he already has a son, Ishmael. How does God respond to Abraham in verses 19-21?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 7, Day 5

7. Did Abraham initially believe God would do as He promised? Do you think there was a heart change between verses 21-23? Why or why not?

8. Based on what we studied yesterday, why is Abraham's obedience (vv. 22-27) in circumcising the men in his family important?

9. Where in your life do you tend to doubt God's promises? What do you need to surrender to Him?

10. Search your heart. Are you willing to obey Him, even when it doesn't make sense to you?

11. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 8

MEMORY VERSE:

The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Genesis 18:13-14

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 18:1-15, Sodom.

Note: This text can be a little confusing. What is happening here is that God went to speak to Abraham and brought with Him angels (His messengers). We see in many places in Scripture that God chose to speak through angels. (For example, think of how Mary found out she was pregnant with Jesus.) We see Abraham interact with both the angels and God.

1. What does the Lord tell Abraham in verse 10?
2. Who is eavesdropping and overhears what is said? How does she respond?
3. Based on what God says to Abraham in verse 13, how do you see His all-knowing character?
4. Read Hebrews 11:11-12. How does the author describe Abraham in his old age?
5. If you were Abraham and Sarah, do you think you would have a hard time believing God, especially when you were nearly 100 years old? How important is faith here?

Read Genesis 18:16-33

6. Based on this passage, how would you describe the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah?

7. What were God's plans with Sodom?

8. In verses 22-33, what does the conversation between Abraham and God look like?

Note: When reading this, you may think "Wow, Abraham is arguing with God!" or, "Does God change His mind because Abraham asked so much?" It's important to realize two things here: One, we are commanded in Scripture to petition the Lord and boldly ask Him for things; two, He ordains (plans ahead of time) how He will use our prayers. They don't come as a surprise to God. Here, God chose to use the pleas and requests of Abraham. He doesn't change His mind because of what we ask, but He uses our prayers. Check out Numbers 23:19!

9. Think back to earlier lessons. Why do you think Abraham cares so much about Sodom?

10. What does God end up telling Abraham that He will do/not do?

11. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Genesis 18:13-14

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 19:1-22, Lot saved.

1. Who is the first person the angels see when they enter Sodom? What does he say to the angels?

Note: Verses 4-11 can be a little hard to understand. Sodom was a town full of homosexuality and darkness. You can see this in 2 Peter 2:6-8, Genesis 13:13, Jeremiah 23:14 and Jude 1:6-7. This particular passage in Genesis is explaining how the men of Sodom came to Lot's house because they saw the angels and wanted to become involved with them. Lot offers his virgin daughters in their place and it is then (in verse 9) that the angels respond in anger.

2. What does verse 11 say that the angels did to the men?

3. Even after their blindness, the men kept coming toward Lot. What does this say about man's corrupt nature that they would blindly continue in sin?

4. Remember that God promised Abraham that if there were righteous men in the city, He would not destroy Sodom. What is happening in verses 12-14 that show God's promise to protect the righteous?

5. Based on verse 16, does it appear that Lot is fully cooperative and obedient? How does God respond to his lack of obedience?

6. Once Lot and his family are outside the city walls, what does Lot request of the angels? What is their response to him?

7. How do you see God's mercy and protection in this passage?

8. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Genesis 18:13-14

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 19:23-38, Sodom destroyed.

1. Explain what happens in verses 23-25. Why does God respond so harshly to sin?
2. Read Romans 6:23. What does our sin deserve? How are we freed from that?

Let's take a break: If you profess to be a follower of Jesus Christ, take a moment to thank Him for His gift of salvation. It came at the cost of His life, at the cost of Him bearing the weight of our sin and the judgment and wrath of God. But praise God that Christ didn't stay in the tomb but rose again! It's in His resurrection that we have hope of eternal life with Him. It's because of His resurrection that death is defeated. Read Revelation 21:1-8 and marvel at the beauty that is to come. Pray the Lord would renew this joy and hope in you.

3. What does the angel tell Lot's family in verse 17? What does Lot's wife do in verse 26?
How is she punished?

4. Do you see how seriously God takes obedience? Why do you think that is?

5. What type of wickedness do you see in verses 30-38? Is there any concern for holiness or righteousness?

6. We saw how Sarah took matters into her own hands with Abraham and Hagar a few chapters back. How do you see Lot's daughters taking matters into their own hands? Do you see any trust in the Lord to bring others to them, or are they resting on their own thoughts and actions?

7. What were the two tribes that came from the sons of Lot's daughters?

Note: The Moabites and Ammonites are, in the future, enemies of the Israelites. The Israelites come through Abraham and God's covenant with him, and the Moabites/Ammonites come through Lot's and his family's manipulation. Take a moment to consider what following God looks like versus following your own desires. Why is there more joy in obedience?

8. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Genesis 18:13-14

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 20:1-18, Abimelech.

1. Describe in your own words what happens in this chapter.
2. Are you beginning to see a pattern of men and women trying to take matters in their own hands? How do you see that in this passage?
3. What happens to Abimelech in verses 3-4?
4. In verse 6, who kept Abimelech from sinning? Why do you think it's important to note and recognize that?

5. How does Abimelech respond to God's instructions?

6. In verses 14-16, Abimelech gives gifts to Abraham and Sarah. What does he say the purpose of these gifts are?

Note: We will see in the next chapter that Sarah does, in fact, conceive. Think about what would have happened if Abimelech didn't give them the gifts, and people began to question if Isaac was, in fact, Abraham's son. Even here, we see God protecting His covenant with Abraham and the line of descendants He promises him. Isaac could only be Abraham's son, and God went to every measure to secure that and remove any doubt of that. Think about how amazing God's keeping of His promises is. There is hope in that.

7. How have you seen God keep promises in your life?

8. Is there any area of your life that you doubt God's ability to "follow through" with what He says? Why or why not?

9. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Genesis 18:13-14

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 21:1-7, Isaac born.

1. Read verse 1 again. What part of God's character shines brightly in this verse?
2. Based on verse 2, when did Abraham have a son? Whose timeframe was he on?
3. Open up to Ecclesiastes 3:11. Who is in control over time? What is the adjective used in Ecclesiastes to describe God's timing?
4. Do you ever doubt God's timing? How can Genesis 21 and Ecclesiastes 3 be a comfort to you when you doubt?

5. Think a few lessons back when we talked about circumcision. Why is it important that Abraham obeyed God in verse 4 by circumcising Isaac?

6. What do you think Sarah is talking about in verses 6-7?

Note: Go back and read Genesis 18:11. What this means is that Sarah's body could no longer physically conceive or bear a child. It was physically impossible. All throughout Scripture we see God rise above "impossible," don't we? After all, who created the human body and who ordains each of our lives? When Sarah mentions people laughing in verses 6-7 of chapter 21, it's because there will be people laughing in disbelief. She acknowledges here that God did the impossible. He is so great and mighty!

7. When you read this story, is there any part of you that is just amazed by God's miracles?

8. Think about miracles or "impossibilities" that you have seen in your life. Do you ever stop to consider who makes those happen? Take a moment and thank God for His greatness and faithfulness.

9. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 9

MEMORY VERSE

I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.

Genesis 22:17

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His word. Ask that you would glorify His name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 21:8-21, Ishmael spared.

1. What does Sarah tell Abraham to do in verses 8-10? Why do you think she responds this way?
2. Explain the interaction between Abraham and God in verses 11-13. How do you, once again, see God's provision and mercy?
3. When Hagar cries out to the Lord, how does He respond to her?
4. Reread verses 15-21. Write down each specific way you see God's care for Hagar and Ishmael.

Genesis Bible Study

Week 9, Day 1

5. Remember a week or two back when we talked about the significance of offspring? God providing offspring and a nation from Hagar is His grace to her. It's Him saying, "I have not neglected you. I see you. I remember you." How do you think that truth could change Hagar's sadness?

6. The situation looked bleak for Hagar and Ishmael, yet God intervened and provided. Are there times in your life where nothing seems to be going well for you? How do you feel in those moments?

7. In those dark and discouraging moments, how have you seen God's provision and love for you? How does He remind you that He is there and will not leave you?

8. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE

I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.

Genesis 22:17

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 22:1-10, Isaac sacrificed.

1. In the first verse, what are we told that God is doing with Abraham?

2. Why do you think He tests Abraham?

Note: Turn to Deuteronomy 13:1-4. Here you read an instance where the people of God were tested. The Lord tests them to discern their faith by allowing them to be around many false prophets. "The Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul" (v. 3). This is very similar to why God tests Abraham by commanding Him to offer his son as a sacrifice. He is testing to see if Abraham truly trusts and rests in His promises to give him descendants in more number than the stars. If you read Hebrews 11:17-19, you see how much Abraham's faith was strengthened.

3. In verse 3 you see God's command to Abraham. Does Abraham question God? Why do you think that is?

MEMORY VERSE

I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.

Genesis 22:17

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 22:11-18.

1. Yesterday we ended our reading with Abraham grabbing the knife to sacrifice his son. What happens in verse 11 that stops him?
2. What does the angel of the LORD say to Abraham in verse 12? What did God's testing of Abraham prove?
3. What does God immediately provide for Abraham in exchange for Isaac?
4. How does Abraham respond in gratitude? How is the name of that place significant?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 9, Day 3

5. In verses 15-18 we read, yet again, that God re-covenanted with Abraham. What promises does He make to Abraham?

6. We briefly mentioned Hebrews 11:17-19. Read that again. By what did Abraham offer Isaac? In your own words, how would you define faith? (For help, read Hebrews 11:1.)

7. What is said in Hebrews 11:19 that proves Abraham's faith and trust in God? Did He believe God to be a powerful and mighty God or a weak and insufficient God? How do you see this?

8. What are specific ways that you lack faith in who God is and what God says and does? Take a moment to confess those to the Lord and ask for faith to believe and follow Him.

9. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE

I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.

Genesis 22:17

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

In-Depth Study: Sacrifice

When you hear the word sacrifice, what do you think about? More likely than not, you'll imagine a scenario where you have to give something up for something else. In the Christian context, the word sacrifice makes us think about Jesus, who gave Himself up as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. Have you ever thought about how sins were taken care of before Jesus came?

The sacrificial system we see in Abraham's story is a part of the Levitical sacrifices. Followers of God knew their sin had to be covered by something, and that something was blood. They would sacrifice a lamb as an offering to God for their sin and in turn, begging (and receiving) His forgiveness. Imagine how exhausting it must have been to continually have to do that.

That's what makes Jesus' sacrificial death and miraculous resurrection so profound—His one death covered sins for all time.

Read Hebrews 10:1-18.

1. What is the overall theme of this passage?

2. What point does the author make in verses 4 and 11? Who alone has the power to take away our sins?

MEMORY VERSE

I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.

Genesis 22:17

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 23:1-20, Sarah dies.

1. How is Abraham's love for Sarah expressed?
2. What does Abraham ask the Hittites and what is their response to him?
3. Why do you think they called Abraham "Prince of God"?
4. Think about it: If acquaintances of yours described you, or gave you a nickname, what would it be? What kind of life would reflect the name "Prince of God"?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 9, Day 5

5. What does Ephron tell Abraham in verse 11?

6. That sparks an argument between Ephron and Abraham. Who ends up paying for the field and winning that argument?

Note: We'll see in future readings that the land of Canaan (where Abraham purchased the field from the Hittites to bury Sarah) would one day be the Kingdom of Israel, where all his descendants would reside. In these things Abraham had faith—that God would provide a land for his coming generations. This is yet another example of the faith God gave Abraham.

7. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 10

MEMORY VERSE

Sojourn to this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I wrote to Abraham your father.

Genesis 26:3

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 24:1-51. The servant is sent to find a wife for Isaac.

1. What does Abraham ask his servant to do in verses 1-9?
2. Based on verse 12, what does the servant want God to show to Abraham?
3. How will the servant know which woman to choose?
4. Rebekah enters the storyline and her interaction with the servant is described in verses 15-28. Is it similar to how the servant requested it to be from the Lord?

MEMORY VERSE

Sojourn to this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I wrote to Abraham your father.

Genesis 26:3

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 24:52-67, Isaac and Rebekah meet.

1. Read verses 50-51 again. How does the servant respond, in verse 52, to Bethuel's and Laban's words? Who is he quick to give the glory to?
2. What is the servant showing to Rebekah's family by giving them all gifts?
3. When the servant is ready to leave, what does Rebekah's family request? When they ask Rebekah about it, what is she ready and willing to do? What does that say about her faith?
4. What is the blessing given to Rebekah in verse 60? How does that tie into God's covenant with Abraham?

5. When Rebekah realizes that she has seen Isaac, what does she do?

Note: The veil worn by Rebekah was worn by women as a sign of modesty, chastity and submission. Rebekah knew she was meeting her bridegroom and wanted to present herself in this way. This simple act shows that she had a tenderness in her heart for Isaac before she even met him.

6. What immediately happens in verse 67? What does Isaac feel toward his young wife?

7. With what was Rebekah able to comfort Isaac in?

8. How do you see God's intricate design and plan in this story? Do you trust and believe He's willing and able to lead and direct your life as He sees fit, just as Isaac and Rebekah trusted Him to lead and direct theirs?

9. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 11

MEMORY VERSE

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

Genesis 28:15

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 26:6-35, Isaac and Abimelech.

1. What does Isaac do in verses 6-11 that someone else did in earlier chapters (Gen. 20)? Why is it so important that Isaac's genealogy is protected?
2. What are some physical ways that the Lord blessed Isaac?
3. Isaac left Gerar in verse 17. What happened between him and Abimelech that forced him to leave?
4. What are the different areas Isaac kept relocating to? Why did he have to relocate?

MEMORY VERSE

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

Genesis 28:15

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 27:1-29, the birthright.

1. Go back and reread Genesis 25:29-32. What happens in this exchange between Jacob and Esau?

Note: The birthright was of great significance. In this time period, the first born son was to receive the greatest blessing from his father. Esau threw away his birthright for soup. Jacob knew the significance of the birthright and tricked his brother into getting it. He wanted the blessings of the first born and chose to receive those blessings through deceit and manipulation.

2. How does the text describe Isaac in verse 1?

3. What does Isaac request of Esau in verses 1-4? What was he planning to give Esau?

4. Who overhears their conversation? What does she do with the information she hears?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 11, Day 2

5. Jacob was concerned about lying to his father and receiving a curse rather than a blessing. What important detail was different between him and Esau that he told his mother? How did she (in verses 15-16) “fix” that problem?

6. Describe the interaction between Isaac and Jacob in verses 18-25. How was Isaac confused about who was with him? Who did he ultimately believe that he was blessing?

7. Isaac blesses Jacob in verses 28-29. Describe the components of the blessing.

Take a break: We'll get into detail about this tomorrow, but think about all the ways that Rebekah and Jacob lied to and manipulated Isaac. What led them to do that? What do you think they were afraid of? Do you see them trusting the Lord in their decision-making, or trusting themselves and their own apparent wisdom?

Go back and read Genesis 25:23. The Lord knew that Esau would serve Jacob and that Jacob would rise as the one blessed and in the generational line of the Abrahamic covenant. Yet, instead of trusting the Lord in this, Rebekah and Jacob chose to take the matter into their own hands. Ask the Lord to reveal places in your own heart that you do this very thing. Confess that to Him and ask for His forgiveness. Pray He would give you a heart that trusts Him and has faith in His plans.

8. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

Genesis 28:15

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 27:30-46, the birthright continued.

1. We left off yesterday with Jacob receiving his brother's rightful blessing. What happens shortly after Jacob leaves his father's tent?
2. What does Esau say to his father in response to him questioning who he is?
3. How does Isaac react that reveals how upset he is?
4. Esau's response reveals his heart in verse 34. What does the text say?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 11, Day 3

5. Verses 35-40 reveal more detail about the blessing that Isaac gave Jacob and what that would mean for Esau. Explain what happens in these verses. How does Esau respond to all of Isaac's words?

6. We see in this passage that Esau figured out what he was going to do with Jacob. What were those plans and from what emotion do they come?

7. Rebekah once again gets involved. What does she tell Jacob to do based on her knowledge of Esau's plans?

Note: We see more of the consequences of what Rebekah and Jacob did in this passage. There was greater dissension in the family and Isaac was deeply hurt. Rebekah and Jacob lied, manipulated and made their own plans, forgetting the faithfulness of God and His ability to carry out His promises. Jacob receiving the blessing was a part of God's plan all along, and it would have happened without the manipulation of his family. Despite the depravity of humanity and sin, God still chooses to bless His people, as we see in this passage. Despite Rebekah and Jacob's sin, God still allows Jacob to carry out the blessing. In His goodness, mercy and faithfulness, He blesses us and forgives us. Take a moment and pray to the Lord, thanking Him for His steadfast love and mercy to you in your own sin and rebellion. As Romans 5:8 says, "God shows His great love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

8. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

Genesis 28:15

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 28:1-9, Jacob sent and Esau's marriage.

1. Isaac blesses Jacob and sends him off with specific instructions. What are those instructions?

2. Go back and read Genesis 24:3. Who was commanded not to marry a Canaanite woman?

Note: You may be wondering why God is giving the command, "Don't marry a Canaanite woman." The Lord was very clear and serious about preserving the lineage of Abraham. To marry a Canaanite would be marrying outside of God's chosen people and, therefore, marrying someone who was not a follower of God. That would be desecrating the covenant that Abraham made with God. It was of utmost importance to keep the purity of the covenantal line.

3. Did Jacob walk in obedience and follow those instructions?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 11, Day 4

4. How do we see a clear extension of Abraham's covenant with God in verses 3-4?

5. What does the text say that Esau saw?

6. Does Esau choose to obey his father as Jacob did?

Note: By this time in the passage, Esau already had Hittite wives. The Hittites were descendants of Canaan, therefore making them an unbelieving people. They were not followers of God. If you read Genesis 27:46, you'll see that Rebekah "loathed" the Hittite women. Instead of obeying his father, Esau once again stepped outside of the commands and married yet another outside woman, an Ishmaelite. In every way, his actions were opposite of Jacob's. While Jacob walked in obedience, Esau walked in rebellion.

7. In what ways were the actions, pursuits and hearts of Jacob and Esau different? If you were to sit down and consider how you would handle these situations, would you lean more toward obedience or rebellion? Pray the Lord would open your heart to desire obedience and faithfulness.

8. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

Genesis 28:15

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 28:10-22, Jacob's dream.

1. We see a glimpse of Jacob's journey as he takes a stop for the evening in Haran. What significant event happens while he's there?
2. Who appeared before Jacob with the angels?
3. List all the promises that God gives Jacob. Do you see a resemblance in His words compared to His words to Isaac and Abraham? His faithfulness to keep His covenant is really amazing! Take a moment to dwell on that and record what you've seen and read.

Genesis Bible Study

Week 11, Day 5

4. How did Jacob respond to all he saw and heard? When the text says that Jacob was afraid, what type of fear do you think he had?

Note: Over and over in Scripture we are commanded to fear God. This isn't a sinful fear of not trusting the Lord or doubting—it's not a fear like you're afraid of spiders or snakes. This fear of God is one that is full of reverence and awe at His might, power and strength. Jacob was astounded by His interaction with God and amazed by His presence.

5. When Jacob wakes up, what is the first thing he does?

6. What is the vow that Jacob makes to the Lord?

7. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 12

MEMORY VERSE:

Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

Genesis 30:22-24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 29:1-25, Jacob marries Leah.

Note: Before we get into this passage, think back to a few weeks ago when we briefly talked about polygamy (having more than one wife or husband). Just because Jacob marries two women doesn't make it okay or not sinful to. It's very clear in Scripture that marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman. Anytime there is a polygamous marriage, there is always drama that follows it, as you'll see with Jacob and Leah and Rachel. Yet again, Jacob's story shows how the Lord can take a situation with sin involved and bring about His glory and our good. Keep that in mind as you study this passage.

1. Who does Jacob run into at the beginning of this passage? Where has he arrived?
2. Who is the first one of Laban's family that Jacob meets? How did he respond when he met her?
3. How did Rachel immediately respond? How did Laban respond when told the news of Jacob's arrival?

MEMORY VERSE:

Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

Genesis 30:22-24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 29:26-30. Jacob marries Rachel.

1. The story left off yesterday with Jacob waking up and realizing he has been deceived into marrying Leah instead of Rachel. What is Laban's excuse to Jacob's questioning?

2. What does Laban mean in verse 26?

3. Laban agreed to give Rachel to Jacob under a few conditions. What were the conditions?

4. Did Jacob do as Laban asked? Why was he so willing to?

5. What does verse 30 say about Jacob's heart for Rachel and Leah?

Note: Think about this story. Jacob travels to another country to find a wife. He meets a beautiful woman and loves her immediately and asks to marry her. Laban, her father, says yes, in exchange for him working for seven years. Jacob faithfully works those years and finally gets his wife. However, he is lied to and tricked into marrying the older sister who isn't attractive in appearance and whom he does not love. He wakes up the morning after their union to realize that and is told that he can have Rachel if he commits to another seven years working for Laban. He does as he's told and marries Rachel, as well as staying married to Leah. As the text says, it's very clear that Jacob loves Rachel more than he loves Leah. Think about the drama and pain that can come from that.

6. Recall the times so far in Genesis that you have seen how God works in situations that don't make sense in human standards. How often is He faithful when we are unfaithful? How often does He turn painful situations into good ones? Take a moment to think about times in your own life that the Lord has brought joy out of sorrow. He is in the business of redeeming our lives for His glory!

7. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

Genesis 30:22-24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 29:31-30:24, Jacob's children.

Note: We see a pattern in Genesis of the Lord showing love and compassion to those who are forgotten. Think about the hate that Sarah showed Hagar and Ishmael. Think about how they were deserted and seemingly forgotten. Yet God did not forget them. Consider the ways you see that same love and compassion toward Leah in this passage.

1. How does the Lord tangibly bless Leah in verse 31?
2. After Leah gave birth to her first son, Reuben, what was she hoping would happen afterward (v. 32)?
3. After Leah gave birth to her third son, Levi, what was she once again hoping would happen afterward (v. 34)?

5. Although it appears that Jacob kept his end of the bargain, where do you also see selfishness in Jacob's dealings (vv 41-42)?

6. At the end of this chapter, how does it appear that Jacob is doing with livestock and possessions?

Note: Think of the stories we've studied and read in Abraham's lineage. These chosen people are redeemed followers of God, yet they are still prone to sin. We see men sin and make selfish and bad decisions, yet the greater theme is that God still chooses to be faithful and good in the midst of those decisions. He chooses to bless those who have disobeyed Him and haven't trusted Him. His covenant with His people stands strong and firm, despite opposition and despite hearts that don't fully trust Him. This is the God we serve!

7. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

Genesis 30:22-24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His word. Ask that you would glorify His Name and that He would encourage your heart as you read this passage. Ask Him to help you see the wonderful, wondrous things that are in this passage.

Read Genesis 31:1-21. Jacob flees.

1. This chapter starts off on a bad note for Jacob. What does Jacob hear and what does it reveal about Laban's thoughts toward him?
2. What promise does the Lord make to Jacob in verse 3?
3. A deeper look into Laban's deceit is revealed in Jacob's explanation to his family. What else do you read about how Laban cheated Jacob?
4. How did God faithfully look out for Jacob and reveal the truth to him?

5. What were Rachel's and Leah's responses to Jacob's explanation? Does it appear that they trust their father?

6. Based on their responses, what other deceitful patterns in Laban's character are revealed?

7. Go back to verses 1 and 13 and read what God told Jacob to do. Think about all the ways the Lord has been faithful and good to Jacob and record them here:

8. What unconventional way does Jacob and his family use to go back to the land?

9. What attribute(s) of God do you see in this passage? (Look in the back of this study guide for a list and definitions of the attributes of God.)

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 13

MEMORY VERSE:

And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.

Genesis 32:24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 31:22-55.

1. What did Laban do as soon as he heard that Jacob had fled?
2. How long did Laban and his kinsmen pursue Jacob?
3. Who spoke to Laban in a dream, and what did he say in verse 24?
4. According to verses 26-27, how is the way that Jacob left different than the way that Laban wanted him to have left?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 13, Day 1

5. What does Laban tell Jacob in verse 29 that is holding him back from saying anything good or bad to Jacob?

6. What does Laban want to know in verse 30?

7. But who really stole them from Laban's house?

8. What is the reason that Jacob gives for leaving Laban's house in secret?

9. What does Jacob say will happen to the person if Laban finds his household gods with them?

10. Who hides the household gods from Laban so that he cannot find them?

11. According to verse 36, what does Jacob do when Laban cannot find his household gods among his possessions?

12. What does Laban say about all the possessions that Jacob has in verse 43?

13. What does Laban say that he and Jacob should do in verse 44?

Note: The Bible does not give exact reasons as to why Laban wants to establish a covenant between himself and Jacob, but most scholars agree that Laban is trying to make sure that Jacob will take care of his daughters and possessions. In the Old Testament practice of covenant-making stones were set up to represent gods or God as a witness. Laban sets up many stones into a heap to show the many gods that he worships and that they are witnesses to the covenant. And Jacob sets up one stone to represent the one true God that his fathers feared and worshiped.

14. How do you see sin showing itself in the lives of Rachel, Jacob and Laban?

MEMORY VERSE:

And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.

Genesis 32:24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 32:1-21.

1. What does Jacob encounter at the beginning of Genesis 32?
2. What did Esau do after Jacob's servants met him?
3. What does Esau bring with him to meet Jacob?
4. List three reasons why Jacob is fearful of seeing his brother Esau again.
5. What does Jacob do that tells us he is expecting the worst whenever Esau arrives?

MEMORY VERSE:

And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.

Genesis 32:24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 33:1-20.

1. According to verse 1, what does Jacob see coming toward him?
2. What does Jacob do seven times to show humility and submission to his brother, Esau?
3. How is Jacob expecting his brother to treat him? Why?
4. Looking at verse 4, what is the first thing Esau does when he gets near to Jacob?
5. What is the reason Jacob gives to Esau for sending groups of his household and live stock ahead of him to meet Esau?

6. Why doesn't Esau want to accept a gift from Jacob?

7. After reading verses 4-11, explain in your own words some of the emotions that Jacob was feeling before he saw Esau and then what he might have felt after.

8. After Jacob is favorably received by Esau, Jacob tells him in verse 10 that seeing him is like seeing the face of God. Jacob is comparing his encounter with God from chapter 33 to his encounter in chapter 34. What does Jacob receive from both?

9. Where does Esau want Jacob to go with him?

10. What is the excuse that Jacob gives for his camp to stay behind and journey much slower?

11. Where does Jacob end up taking his household and setting up camp?

12. How do Jacob's actions, after his brother Esau left, show that Jacob still might not fully trust Esau?

13. What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.

Genesis 32:24

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 34:1-31.

1. According to verse 1, who are the mother and father of Dinah?
2. What land are they in, and who does Dinah “go out to see?”
3. While Dinah is out, who “seized her,” “laid with her” and “humiliated her?”
4. Initially Shechem is driven by lust to have Dinah, but what do verses 3-4 say about Shechem and the way he feels toward Dinah?
5. According to verse 7, what was the reaction of Jacob’s sons to the news of Shechem’s actions towards their sister?
6. What does Shechem offer to Jacob and his sons in verses 11 and 12 in exchange for the hand of Dinah in marriage?

7. What does verse 13 say about the way the sons of Jacob answered Shechem?

8. What do the sons of Jacob ask Shechem and all the men in the city to do before they give him Dinah for marriage?

9. How quickly does Shechem seek to fulfill the request of the sons of Jacob?

10. Shechem already has favor with the inhabitants of the city, but he goes into detail in verses 20-23, explaining to the other men why it is good for them to be circumcised and for Jacob's household to stay with them. What are three of those reasons?

11. Write in your own words what happens in verses 25-29.

12. Initially circumcision was to be a symbol from God to Jacob as a sign of blessings, but what do the sons of Jacob do that is contrary to what circumcision is supposed to represent?

13. How were the actions of Jacob's sons deceitful?

14. In what ways do you see sin manifesting itself in this passage of Scripture?

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 14

MEMORY VERSE:

And God said to him, “your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.”

Genesis 35:10a

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 35:1-15.

1. Where does God tell Jacob to go in the first verse of chapter 35?
2. What does God tell Jacob to do once he reaches the destination?
3. What are the three things that Jacob tells his household that they must do before they pack up and go?
4. According to verse 5, what fell on the cities around Jacob and why?
5. Who died when they arrived at their destination?
6. What does God change Jacob's name to?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 14, Day 1

7. Looking at verse 11, what part of that verse have we seen God command before in this book?
(Refer to Genesis 1:2.)

8. What does God tell Israel that his descendant will become?

9. Whose land does God promise to give Israel?

10. Explain in your own words what Jacob does in verses 13-15.

Note: The name Israel most likely means “he that strives with God.” Jacob had spent his life deceiving and struggling with everyone around him to work himself into positions of wealth and power. But over time, and especially after wrestling with God in Genesis 32:22-32, Jacob comes to value the grace and blessing of God over his life.

11. Faith in the person and work of Jesus is the only way for us to be saved, and through the faith, we no longer bear the title of sinner/rebel but instead of sinless/child. How do we see a similar change play out in Jacob's life?

12. If putting your faith in Jesus means you have a different name and you are to live as a son or daughter of God, then what does that look like in your life?

13. What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

And God said to him, “your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.”

Genesis 35:10a

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 35:16-29.

1. What happens to Rachel in verse 16?
2. Why does Rachel's midwife tell her not to fear?
3. What happens to Rachel after she gives birth?
4. What does Israel end up naming his newborn son?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 14, Day 2

5. In verses 22-26 the author of Genesis is communicating the passing of one generation to another as he names all of the sons of Israel who will soon continue the story and carry on to fulfill the blessing of God to Abraham and Isaac.

List the twelve sons of Israel under their birth mother:

Leah

Rachel

Bilhah

Zilpah

6. Who does Jacob meet in Mamre?

7. How old was Isaac when he died?

8. Who was there to bury Isaac?

9. In your own words, how would you summarize the life of Isaac?

10. What are some of the sins that Isaac struggled with and needed grace from God?

MEMORY VERSE:

And God said to him, “your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.”

Genesis 35:10a

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 36:1-43.

Recording the genealogy throughout the Bible and through history was very important for people who wanted to make sure that they had history right. The record would be used as a tool to ensure historical credibility, keep track of how many years had passed, and for the Jews to keep a record of descendants so that they could be positive that their priests were direct descendants of Aaron in accordance with Levitical Law.

1. How many sons does Esau have?
2. What were the names of Esau's sons?
3. Why did Esau move all of his household away from Jacob and his household?
4. Where does Esau end up settling his household?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 14, Day 3

We also can read this list of descendants and see that God had fulfilled his promise to Abraham in that Esau had many descendants; therefore, Abraham had many descendants. Also in looking at the list we see in verse 31 that there is a record of kings from the line of Esau that would fulfill what God said to Rebekah (Jacob's and Esau's mother) about two nations being in her womb.

The story within Genesis after the fall is about God's faithfulness to continue to pursue men despite their sin and rebellion. Where man is unfaithful, God is faithful.

5. How have you seen God be faithful in your life?

6. What are some things that you are thankful for and have no control over?

7. Use the space below to write a prayer about things you are thankful for.

8. What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

And God said to him, “your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.”

Genesis 35:10a

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 37:1-11.

1. Where did Jacob and his household end up living?
2. Who is Joseph?
3. Why did Jacob love Joseph more than he loved his other sons?
4. How do Jacob's other sons respond to his favoritism to Joseph?
5. What did Jacob give Joseph because he was his favorite son?

Definition of a sheaf (n): a bundle of grain stalks laid lengthwise and tied together after reaping.

Genesis Bible Study

Week 14, Day 4

6. In your own words, explain what happened in Joseph's dream.

7. How did Joseph's brothers respond to his first dream?

8. In your own words, explain Joseph's second dream.

9. Who rebuked Joseph for telling his brothers his second dream?

10. Do you think Joseph was immature and foolish for telling his family his second dream after their response from his first dream? Why or why not?

11. Even though Jacob rebukes Joseph for telling them his second dream, what does the end of verse 11 tell us that Jacob does with the information?

12. How do we see sin working itself out in this passage?

MEMORY VERSE:

And God said to him, “your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.”

Genesis 35:10a

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 37:12-36.

1. What are the sons of Jacob doing in verse 12?
2. Where does Joseph eventually find his brothers?
3. When the brothers see Joseph approaching, what do they begin to do?
4. Who wants to spare Joseph's life?
5. Instead of killing Joseph, what do the brothers decide to do?
6. Who do they sell Joseph to?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 14, Day 5

7. Who was upset that Joseph was sold?

Reuben, being the oldest brother of the family, and being first in line to receive the largest portion of inheritance from his father, bore the responsibility of taking care of his brothers. Reuben would have been the one held accountable for the disappearance of his brother. From this passage we don't know if Reuben is genuinely upset about his brother's action in harming Joseph or if he is more upset about having to face his father for what his brother had just done. It could be a combination of both.

8. What do the brothers do to Joseph's coat to cover up the fact that they just sold him to some traders?

9. What was Jacob's reaction upon hearing from his sons that Joseph had been killed?

10. What did the Midianites end up doing with Joseph?

11. What does verse 36 tell us about Potiphar?

12. How do we see sin working itself out in this passage of Scripture?

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 15

MEMORY VERSE:

But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Genesis 39:21

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

In-Depth Study: Joseph as a Christ-like figure in the Old Testament

Throughout the Old Testament there are people who see glimpses of Jesus and what He is going to do in the New Testament. Moses, like Jesus, freed his followers from the slavery of sin—he freed the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt. And many more similarities can be seen between Moses and Jesus.

Joseph, of all of the figures in the Old Testament, has the most Christ-like story, and we are going to spend the study today exploring some of those similarities. Even though you haven't read all of Joseph's story yet, it will be good to do this study now so that as you read through the rest of Genesis you will see the similarities between Joseph and Jesus.

1. In Genesis 37:3, Joseph is a beloved son of Jacob. Looking at Matthew 3:16-17, who is Jesus a beloved son of?
2. In Genesis 37:12-13, Joseph is sent forth by his father. Looking at Hebrews 10:7 and John 6:38, who was Jesus sent forth by?
3. In Genesis 37:18, Joseph's brothers plot to kill him. Looking at John 1:11 and Matthew 12:14, who wanted to kill Jesus?

4. In Genesis 37:28, Joseph is betrayed and sold by people he should be able to trust. Looking at Matthew 26: 14-16, who betrays Jesus and how?

5. In Genesis 41:39-40, Joseph is exalted (raised) above everyone else in Egypt. Looking at Philippians 2:9, what will happen to Jesus?

6. In Genesis 41:57, Joseph is the only person in Egypt, and throughout all the land, that has bread to give. Looking at John 6:32-35, what does Jesus refer to Himself as and how does that play itself out?

Jesus is the great Joseph. Joseph was just a shadow of salvation compared to the full salvation Jesus brings to those who believe. While Joseph, empowered by God, was able to forgive his brothers for their trespasses, he could not save them from sin and death, but Jesus is able to save a person fully giving the pardon for all of their sin and also to raise them from the dead just like He did (Eph. 2:6).

7. How does knowing all of these similarities between Joseph's life and Jesus' change the way you think about and read the Bible?

8. What do you think the similarities between Joseph and Jesus tell us about the nature and character of God?

MEMORY VERSE:

But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Genesis 39:21

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Note: The book of Genesis is going to take a small detour from the story of Joseph and focus in on one, Judah, a brother of Joseph. Judah is one of the brothers who was responsible for selling Joseph to the traders. Judah is not a godly man who feared the Lord. This chapter is mainly about the wickedness of Judah.

By this time in Genesis 38, Judah had several adult sons. The chapter centers around one of Judah's sons dying and another son is given the responsibility to fulfill the custom of "Levirate marriage," which means he was to take the widow of his dead brother as his wife and purposefully try to impregnate her so that she would not be disgraced in the society. Judah's son, like his father, was wicked too, and because he would not immediately benefit from impregnating his brother's widow, he faked outward faithfulness without actually doing what he said he would do.

Read Genesis 38:1-30.

1. What was the name of Judah's firstborn son?
2. What was the name of the wife Judah gave him?
3. Why did Er die?
4. What is the name of the second brother who is supposed to "fulfill the role of the brother in law"?

5. Who kills him?

6. Why is Judah afraid to give his third son to Tamar as a husband?

Even though Judah promises to give Tamar his youngest son, Shelah, he never does. This is significant because it shows that Joseph is only thinking about himself and wants his son to get killed even though his other sons were killed by the Lord because of their wickedness.

7. According to verse 26, what does Judah do whenever it becomes clear that the “prostitute” he laid with was the daughter-in-law he never fulfilled his promise to?

It might seem at first that this chapter is pointless because it doesn't have anything to do with Joseph. But later on we will see Judah again after God has been working on him.

8. How do we see sin playing itself out in this passage of Scripture (Fear, comfort, bitterness, shame, etc.)?

MEMORY VERSE:

But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Genesis 39:21

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 39:1-23.

1. According to verse 1, where is Joseph?
2. Looking at verse 3, what did Joseph's master notice about Joseph?
3. What was Joseph put in charge of in Potiphar's house?
4. What does the end of verse 6 reveal about Joseph's appearance?
5. According to verses 7-9, who is attracted to Joseph and tries to seduce him?
6. What are the reasons that Joseph gives as to why it's wrong?

7. How often does verse 10 say that she tries to persuade him?

8. Explain in your own words the situation described in verses 11-18?

9. What did Joseph actually do when Potiphar's wife grabbed him in the house alone?

10. What was Potiphar's reaction to his wife's story?

11. What did Potiphar do to Joseph as punishment?

12. Historically the place where the king kept his prisoners was the worst place a prisoner could be.
People that went to this part of prison usually to never came out.

13. According to verse 21, where is the Lord in all of this?

14. What does the prison keeper end up doing to Joseph?

15. What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Genesis 39:21

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

In-Depth Study: Temptation

Yesterday we read Genesis 39:1-23 and saw Joseph tempted by Potiphar's wife to sin against God. Temptation in the Bible is always a reference to a desire in someone to do something sinful or unwise. Temptation can come from circumstances, other people, yourself and the Devil. And giving in to a temptation always leads to sin. James 1:14-15 says, "But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived give birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

Read Matthew 4:1-1.

1. Where does the Spirit lead Jesus?
2. How long was He there and who was with Him?
3. What was the devil doing with Jesus in the wilderness?
4. What is the nickname of the Devil given at the beginning of verse 3?

5. What is the first thing the Devil tries to get Jesus to do?

6. What is the second thing the Devil tries to get Jesus to do?

7. What is the third thing the Devil tries to get Jesus to do?

8. What does Jesus say every time before He quotes Scripture to fight the Devil's temptation?

The three temptations that Jesus experienced are at the root of all the temptations humanity experiences. The first temptation is an attack on Jesus' desire for comfort, and in this case Jesus is tempted to find His comfort in food rather than His relationship with God. The second temptation is directed right at Jesus' identity as the Son of God, tempting Him to test whether He was actually loved by God as His Son. And finally, the third temptation aims at Jesus' desire for glory by tempting Him to find His own glory by worshiping the devil, and in return receiving all of the kingdoms of the world as ruler instead of worshiping God and trusting Him to be His source of eternal glory. All of the temptations that we face will pull at us in these three areas: our desire for comfort and ease, our desire for safety and love and our desire for glory and eternity.

9. What was the weapon that Jesus used to combat the lies of the Devil?

10. What are some of the temptations that you face?

11. How do you use the Bible to battle temptation?

12. What are some areas that you need help in fighting temptation?

Spend some time in prayer asking God to show you where you can grow in your walk with Christ, and then ask Him to help you in those specific ways.

MEMORY VERSE:

But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Genesis 39:21

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 40:1-23.

1. Who was the pharaoh angry with in verses 1 and 2?
2. What did Pharaoh do with these two men?
3. Who did the captain of the guard appoint to be with them?
4. Looking at verses 5-8, what troubled the two men Joseph was taking care of?
5. Who does Joseph say the interpretations of dreams belong to?
6. In your own words, explain the cupbearers dream.

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 16

MEMORY VERSE:

And Pharaoh had said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise."

Genesis 41:39

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 41:1-36.

1. How much time passes between when the cupbearer and baker from chapter 40 had their dreams to when chapter 41 starts?
2. Describe in your own words what Pharaoh dreamed about in verses 1-7.
3. According to verse 8, what is Pharaoh's response to his dreams?
4. Who does Pharaoh call for to come and interpret his dreams?
5. Who tells the pharaoh about Joseph?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 16, Day 1

6. What does Pharaoh do immediately after hearing about Joseph's ability to interpret dreams?

7. According to verse 14, what does Joseph have to do before he appears to Pharaoh?

8. What is the interpretation that Joseph gives Pharaoh for his dreams?

9. What is the advice that Joseph gives Pharaoh in verses 34-36?

10. Would you agree or disagree with Joseph's proposal to Pharaoh? Why or why not?

11. What are some things that God has used in Joseph's life to humble him?

12. What would you point to in Joseph's life to show that God loves him and is using difficult things to grow him into maturity?

Use the space below to list out some things that God has used in your life to help produce maturity in you. Spend some time praying and thanking God for those things.

MEMORY VERSE:

And Pharaoh had said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise."

Genesis 41:39

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 41:37-57.

1. How did Pharaoh respond to Joseph's interpretation of his dream and his advice on how to handle the famine?
2. According to verses 38-39, what did Pharaoh and his men believe about Joseph?
3. What does Pharaoh do with Joseph next?
4. What does Pharaoh give Joseph to signify his new position?
5. What is the name that Pharaoh gives Joseph in verse 45?
6. What is the name of Joseph's wife?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 16, Day 2

7. How old was Joseph when he began to work for Pharaoh?

8. According to verse 49, how much grain does Joseph end up storing?

9. How many sons did Joseph have and what were their names?

10. What does Joseph say about all of his suffering in light of his new role according to verses 51-52?

11. How do we know Pharaoh's dreams came true?

12. Looking at the end of chapter 41, what did Joseph do when the famine came?

13. Who came to get food from Joseph?

14. How do we see God's grace in the seven years of plenty and seven years of famine?

MEMORY VERSE:

And Pharaoh had said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise."

Genesis 41:39

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 42:1-17.

1. Who sends Joseph's brothers down to Egypt to buy grain for them to eat?
2. Which brother does Jacob keep with him?
3. What is the reason given in verse 4 for why Jacob did not send one of his sons?
4. What does verse 5 say, indicating that the famine was not just in Egypt?
5. According to verse 6, what is Joseph doing during the famine?
6. Explain in your own words what happens in verses 6-8?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 16, Day 3

7. How did Joseph's dream from Genesis 37:5-8 come true in his brothers coming to Egypt to buy grain?

8. What does Joseph accuse his brother of being in verse 9?

9. What is their response to Joseph's accusations?

10. What does Joseph do to make his brothers prove that they are not spies?

Note: At this point in the story of Joseph we have seen that Joseph is a broken man. God has been working on him this whole time, giving him success and failure all along the way to draw Joseph in closer to Him. We are not exactly sure why he did not immediately reveal himself to his brothers. We can speculate that maybe he still did not trust them for what they did to him when he was younger, or maybe he thought that they would try to take advantage of him. He also may have thought they were worse men now than before and wanted to test them, or maybe he was shocked at seeing his brothers and did not know what to do right away. All of these are possibilities.

11. Have you ever wanted to forgive someone, but you just didn't know how? What happened?

12. How has Joseph already been merciful to his brothers?

13. What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

And Pharaoh had said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise."

Genesis 41:39

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 42:18-38.

1. Originally, Joseph had told his brothers that in order to prove they weren't spies, they would have to stay in Egypt in custody and send one brother back to get Benjamin, but after reading verses 18-20, how does the plan change? How many must stay in Egypt and who must go to get Benjamin?
2. Which one of the brothers ends up staying in Egypt while the others go back to Canaan?
3. Looking at verse 21, why do the brothers think that they are being treated this way?
4. What did Reuben think about his brothers' actions in selling Joseph?
5. Why do the brothers not think that Joseph can understand them?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 16, Day 4

6. How does Joseph respond to hearing his brothers talk about their sins in selling him to traders when they were younger?

7. What does one of the brothers find in his sack as they head back to Canaan?

8. Looking at verse 28, why were the brothers terrified when they found money in one of the brothers' sack?

9. What do the rest of the brothers find in their sacks, according to verse 35?

10. Who is the only one who had the power to put their money back into their sacks before they left?

11. How does Jacob respond to his son's request to take Benjamin to Egypt to prove that they are honest men?

12. What does Reuben tell Jacob to do if he does not bring Benjamin back safely?

13. How do we see sin playing itself out in this passage of Scripture (fear, comfort, bitterness, shame, etc.)?

MEMORY VERSE:

And Pharaoh had said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise."

Genesis 41:39

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 43:1-14.

1. What happened to all the grain that Joseph had sent his brothers home with?
2. What does Israel (Jacob) tell his sons to go do?
3. What is the reason Judah gives for why they cannot just go back to get food?
4. How does Judah reason with Israel to let Benjamin go? Who all is in danger of starving from the famine?
5. What does Israel send with them to try and help get them favor from Joseph?

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 17

MEMORY VERSE:

And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 45:5

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 43:15-34.

1. What does Joseph do whenever he sees his brothers again and that they had brought Benjamin?
2. Why were Joseph's brothers afraid to go to his house for dinner? What did they think Joseph was going to do?
3. Why do they think Joseph is going to ambush them?
4. Explain in your own words what the brothers do in verses 19-22, before they go inside Joseph's house to eat with him?
5. How does Joseph respond to them telling him about the money they found?
6. What was the name of the brother who stayed with Joseph when the other brothers went back?

7. According to verse 26, what is the first thing Joseph asks his brothers about when they come to his home to eat with him?

8. What does Joseph feel whenever he sees his brother, Benjamin?

9. Why does Joseph run out of the room when he sees Benjamin?

10. What is the reason given for why the Egyptians will not eat with the sons of Jacob?

Note: The Egyptians looked down on the brother's because they were Jews and their primary way of living was by shepherding sheep. The sons of Jacob would have looked very different than the Egyptians and smelled very different as well.

11. According to verse 33, what are the brothers' reactions as they looked at their current circumstance?

12. What is Benjamin's portion of food compared to the rest of his brothers?

13. How do we see God's grace on Joseph in that he is able to forgive and let his brothers eat with him?

MEMORY VERSE:

And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 45:5

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 44:1-34.

1. According to verses 1 and 2, what did Joseph tell his steward to do?
2. Who does Joseph send after his brothers when they leave to go back home?
3. What did Joseph tell his steward to say to them?

Note: The word “divination” used in verses 5 and 15 is a reference to a form of witchcraft or fortune telling, as to say that Joseph had super powers, or at least he wanted his brothers to believe that he did at that moment.

4. How do the brothers respond to the steward’s accusation?
5. What do they say will happen to the one if the cup is found in his sack?

6. Whose sack was the cup found in?

7. What did all the brothers do when the cup was found in their brother's sack?

8. In verse 17, what does Joseph say will be the punishment of the one who stole the cup?

9. Which brother tries to reason with and persuade Joseph not to keep his brother Benjamin?

10. What does Judah propose in verse 33 instead of Benjamin staying?

11. How is Judah different now than he was in chapter 38?

12. Why is Joseph testing his brothers?

13. How does Judah pass the test?

14. What would you point to in the lives of the brothers to show that God has been working on them for the better?

MEMORY VERSE:

And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 45:5

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 45:1-28.

1. Before we move into chapter 45, write three short bullet points from chapter 44.
2. In your own words, explain what happens in verses 1-3 of chapter 45.
3. How did the brothers respond to Joseph's revelation to them that he is their brother?
4. How does Joseph explain the purpose of God in him being sold by his brothers, according to verse 5?
5. Who does Joseph say sent him to Egypt in verse 8?
6. Who does Joseph want his brothers to go and get now that he has revealed his identity to them?

7. How did Pharaoh and his household respond to the news that Joseph's brothers were there?

8. According to verse 18, what does Pharaoh want to give the brothers and their father when they return?

9. List all the things that Joseph sends his brothers back to his father with in verse 23.

10. What is the last thing he tells his brothers before they go back to their father?

11. Why do you think the brothers would be tempted to "quarrel" (fight) with one another?

12. What is Jacob's initial response to the news of Joseph being alive in verse 26?

13. What convinces Jacob that Joseph is still alive?

14. What does it say about Jacob's spirit when he believes his son, that Joseph is still alive?

15. How is God fulfilling His promise to Abraham and Isaac through Joseph?

16. What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 45:5

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 46:1-34.

1. In what way does God speak to Israel (Jacob) in verse 2?
2. What does God tell Israel in His visions?
3. Looking at verses 5-7, who all went with Israel to Egypt?
4. According to the end of verse 27, what was the total number of Jacob's house that traveled to Egypt?
5. Which one of the brothers is sent ahead so that he can help navigate the way to Goshen?
6. What does Joseph do when he finally sees his father again in verse 29?

7. Why do you think they embraced and wept for a “good while”?

8. Why do you think Israel is ready to die after he sees Joseph?

9. What does Joseph tell his brothers to tell Pharaoh about their occupation?

10. How do the Egyptians view shepherds and people who look after livestock?

Note: Historically, the Egyptians viewed shepherding as an extremely low and dirty job. And would do whatever they could to stay away from it.

11. Why do you think Joseph wants his brothers to tell Pharaoh that shepherding is their occupation?

12. What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 45:5

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 47:1-31.

1. What does Pharaoh ask the five brothers that Joseph puts in front of him?
2. What do the five brothers tell Pharaoh?
3. Looking at the end of verse 4, where do the five brothers ask Pharaoh to dwell and raise their livestock?
4. What does Pharaoh say to Joseph in response to the brothers' request?
5. What does Pharaoh ask Jacob?
6. What does Jacob respond with?

7. According to verse 10, what does Jacob do before he leaves the presence of Pharaoh?

8. How bad does verse 13 say that the famine was?

9. Why don't the Egyptians have any more money to pay Joseph for food?

10. What does Joseph ask from the Egyptians in exchange for the grain?

11. What happened a year later when the Egyptians ran out of food again?

12. What are the Egyptians willing to give the second time they ask Joseph for food?

13. Who were the only ones who did not have to sell their land to Joseph?

14. While the household of Israel is thriving in the land of Goshen, what is Israel's last request of his sons in verses 29-31?

15. What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY



WEEK 18

MEMORY VERSE:

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Genesis 50:20

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 48:1-22.

1. What does Joseph do when he hears that Jacob is sick?
2. Why doesn't Israel recognize Joseph's sons?
3. Why does Israel tell Joseph to bring them close to him?
4. What does Israel tell Joseph in verse 11?
5. What does Israel do so that his right hand is on the head of the youngest of Joseph's sons?
6. What does Israel say at the end of his blessing for the two sons?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 18, Day 1

7. Why was Joseph displeased with the way that Israel was blessing his sons?

8. In your own words, explain Israel's response when Joseph tries to get him to change his hand position.

9. How is the way Israel blesses Joseph's sons similar to the way he was blessed from his father Isaac?

10. Israel says that after he is gone, Joseph should not be afraid. Why does he say this?

11. What does Israel give Joseph that he didn't give his other brothers?

12. What attributes of God do you see in the passage? (Look in the back of your book for a definition of the attributes of God.)

MEMORY VERSE:

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Genesis 50:20

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 49:1-27.

Israel is about to bless all of his sons. This was a tradition practiced all throughout the Bible and is still practiced today. It serves as one last opportunity for a person dying to pass on words of wisdom, warn someone about something, encourage someone, challenge someone or give instructions for the last time. Israel calls all of his sons together and blesses them all differently. He uses poetic and figurative language drawing from nature, to illustrate something about his sons' pasts and its effect on their descendants. Some of it seems good and some of it seems bad.

1. How many sons did Israel speak a blessing over in chapter 49?
2. For each one of the sons below, write whether they had a past that was honoring to God and honoring to Jacob or one that was dishonoring. Then, explain why you think Jacob's blessing over that particular son meant that their descendants would do well or do poorly because of that son's action.

Reuben

Simeon/Levi

Genesis Bible Study

Week 18, Day 2

Judah

Zebulum

Issachar

Dan

Asher

Joseph

Benjamin

After you've looked at each son and the life that they lived, how do you see their sin or their faithfulness affecting more than just themselves?

MEMORY VERSE:

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Genesis 50:20

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 49:28–50:14.

1. After Israel finished blessing his 12 sons, what does he command them to do in verse 29?
2. Where exactly does he want to be buried?
3. What are the names of the other people buried there?
4. What does Jacob do in verse 33?
5. What does Joseph do as soon as his father dies?
6. What does Joseph command his servants to do in Genesis 50:2?

Genesis Bible Study

Week 18, Day 3

Note: Embalming was the ancient practice of the Egyptians to preserve the body of a deceased person from decomposing.

7. How long did the embalming process take for Jacob's body?

8. How long did the Egyptians weep over the death of Jacob?

9. Who does Joseph ask permission from to go and bury his father in the land of Canaan?

10. How does Pharaoh respond to Joseph's request?

11. According to verses 7-9, who went with Joseph to bury his father?

12. What did Joseph and his brother do after they buried their father in the land of Canaan?

13. How did Joseph and his brother fulfill the commandment given to the Jews later in Exodus 20:12?

14. How are you currently seeking ways to honor God through honoring your parents or guardian?

MEMORY VERSE:

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Genesis 50:20

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 50:14-21.

1. What do Joseph's brothers fear now that their father is dead?
2. What does the message say that they send to Joseph?
3. What does the end of verse 17 say about how Joseph responded to his brothers' message?
4. What do the brothers do in verse 18?
5. How does Joseph respond to his brothers in verse 19?
6. Explain, in your own words, how verse 18 sums up Joseph's life.

Genesis Bible Study

Week 18, Day 4

7. How did God rescue many people through Joseph and all of his suffering?

8. How can what Joseph said in verse 20 be said about Jesus? How did Jesus suffer and how are many saved through Him? (Look at 1 Peter 3:18.)

9. In verse 21, what does Joseph say he will do?

10. How does the end of verse 21 say that he spoke to his brothers?

11. Joseph was a man of faith. Even in the face of horrible suffering, false accusations and wasting away in prison, he trusted God. Read Romans 8:26-30 and explain why, as Christians, we can still trust God when we are experiencing hardship. As Christians, what are we ultimately looking forward to?

12. How is Joseph's faith in God's goodness evident in Genesis 50:15-21?

13. What are some difficult things you are currently having to trust in God with or something that you think in the future you will have to trust God with?

MEMORY VERSE:

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Genesis 50:20

Pray that God would open your heart as you open His Word. Ask Him to glorify His Name and encourage your heart as you read this passage. Also, pray that He would help you see Jesus more clearly through this reading.

Read Genesis 50:22-26.

1. Did Joseph move anywhere else outside of Egypt?
2. How long did Joseph live?
3. Looking back at Genesis 41:46, how long did Joseph serve under the king in Egypt?
4. In verse 24, what does Joseph tell his brothers about after he dies?
5. What does Joseph make his brothers swear in verse 25?
6. What does verse 26 say they did with Joseph's body after he died?

You have just studied through the entire book of Genesis. From Creation to Fall, murder to flood and Abraham to Joseph, you have seen the origins of all things. Use the rest of the space below to reflect on each thing listed, writing next to it what you've learned. Then ask God for great understanding in those things so that you might trust Jesus more as your Savior and Refuge.

Creation:

Sin and Fall:

Noah and the Flood:

Genesis Bible Study

Week 18, Day 5

Chosen (Abraham):

God's Provision (Isaac and Jacob):

God's Faithfulness (Joseph):

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Unchanging: God never changes.

Creator: God made everything.

Holy: God is completely perfect and separate from sin.

Just: God is right to punish sin.

Worthy: Only God deserves all glory.

Generous: God gives what is best.

Faithful: God always does what He says He'll do.

Provider: God meets the needs of His children.

Merciful: God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

Refuge: God is a place of safety and protection for His children.

Loving: God does what is best.

Sovereign: God has the right, wisdom and power to do all that He pleases.

Attentive: God hears and responds to the prayers of His children.

Deliverer: God rescues His children.

Compassionate: God sees, cares and acts when His children are in need.

Glorious: God shows His greatness and worth.

