

The Sovereignty of God In Genesis



A 22-Week Study

Part One: Our Creator

Genesis 1-31



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Welcome

Dear sister in Christ:

I am so blessed you chose to study the book of Genesis with me over the next 22 weeks. When women gather to study God's word together, something life transforming happens. The Bible tells us God desires to transform us into the image of His Son Jesus Christ. In other words, God desires us to become Holy as He is holy (Leviticus 19:2, 1 Peter 1:16). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we strive to live our lives in a way that we become more like our Savior Jesus Christ. This process is called sanctification. We know this through the scripture. By reading God's word, we learn more about the Holiness of God and how we can transform the renewing of our mind. Romans 12:2 says, ***“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”***

Spiritual transformation should not always take place in isolation. It is good for God's people to study His living word together. As we hear God's Word preached and when we discuss it with other believers, God uses his Word to transform us into the reflection of his Son, Jesus Christ.

So welcome aboard! It is my personal prayer we will all become better disciples for the Lord Jesus. I pray your journey in God's word will be lifechanging. I pray you will be encouraged by our discussions each week. I pray you will also develop new relationships with your fellow sisters in Christ. I also pray that our time together will glorify our Lord Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory forever and ever, Amen!

Your sister in Christ,

Kathy Jorgensen

Course Calendar

Genesis Study Part 1		
September 6	Week 1	Introduction Fellowship
September 13	Week 2	Genesis 1
September 20	Week 3	Genesis 2 & 3
September 27	Week 4	Genesis 4-6:8
October 4	Week 5	Genesis 6:9-8:14 Fellowship
October 11	Week 6	Genesis 8:15-11:32
October 18	Week 7	Genesis 12-16
October 25	Week 8	Genesis 17-20
November 1	Week 9	Genesis 21-24 Fellowship
November 8	Week 10	Genesis 25-28
November 15	Week 11	Genesis 29-31

Holiday Break: November 16 – Jan 3

Part 2 Genesis: January 10 – March 21

How to Benefit from Your Bible Study

Prayer

Before you sit down to read God’s word and complete your study questions, you should begin with prayer. Seek help from the Holy Spirit to guide you. In John 14:26 (ESV), Jesus encourages his eleven disciples, saying to them, ***“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”*** The late theologian Charles Spurgeon explained, “If you do not understand a book by a departed writer you are unable to ask him his meaning, but the Spirit, who inspired Holy Scripture, lives forever, and He delights to open the Word to those who see His instruction.”

As you approach our study of God’s Word with joy and eagerness—the Holy Spirit will illuminate your heart to comprehend, embrace, and apply the truths you are studying. This does not mean you will have an answer for every question, or the scriptures will be crystal clear each time. That is the beauty of studying God’s word in a community. The Bible says, “iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another”. (Proverbs 27:7)

Personal Study

Purpose

The purpose of Bible study is not a journey of self-discovery. It is a journey to discover what the Bible says about God and His promises. We will accomplish our purpose as we study a book of the Bible from beginning to end. As you learn more about the character of God, you will understand who God is and how to grow in your relationship with Him.

Approach

It is important you read the scripture passage each week before starting your study. If you do not already have a daily routine for reading God’s word, now is a good time to start. You will need at least 1-2 hours in your week to complete all the study questions. Divide your study time throughout the week, rather than putting your study off to one day. Life gets busy and comes with many distractions. If you are unable to do your study, please still come. Your absence would be greatly missed.

Bible Translations

Your teacher will framework all questions and verses from the English Standard Version (ESV) translation. You are welcome to use any translation you desire; however, it is recommended for consistent translation, you use the ESV Bible or New International Version (NIV) or New King James Version (NKJV). Free translations are found at www.biblegateway.com. Translations such as the Message Bible (MSG) or the New Living Translation (NLT) are paraphrased versions of the original languages of scripture and are not recommended for this study.

It is also important you do not refer to other commentaries, until after you have completed your study. In addition, do not share your pastor's teaching or comments from popular authors or blogs. Instead, invite the Holy Spirit to lead your heart and mind during your personal study time.

Study Questions

Each week, you will have study questions to complete. There will be interpretative questions to help you think about the meaning of the passage. These questions will help you learn new facts about the scripture. Application questions will ask you to reflect on ways you can apply what you learn into your own life. Ask yourself, "How will the scripture transform the way I will live?" There will be a section of personal reflection. You are not obligated to share your personal thoughts with the group; however, they may encourage others. We will begin our discussion each week with a review of the Personalize Your Lesson section from the preceding lesson.

Teaching Time

Each week, your teacher will present a 15-20-minute lesson to help reinforce what you have discussed in your group. Teaching time will examine the context of the passage as it relates to the rest of scripture, church history, doctrine, and implications for daily living.

Goals and Gifts

Spiritual transformation is about changing from the inside out. If we are to be transformed into the image of Christ, we must allow our hearts and minds to grow spiritually. God wants us to pursue after His holiness, by becoming more like Him

in our attitudes, behaviors, and goals. If we plan to enjoy God in eternity, we need to be enjoying Him now in the present.

I pray you will see the scriptures as a precious gift from your Heavenly Father. James 1: 17 says, ***“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change”***. May you labor well to see the precious gift before you.

To God be the glory for ever and ever Amen!

Genesis

Week Two: Genesis 1

The book of Genesis sets the foundation for learning about God’s bigger story of the Bible that includes creation, fall, redemption and restoration. While one can read Genesis as a historical narrative, or a collection of stories about creation and the early patriarchs of the Bible, this will not be our approach in this study. We should also resist the temptation to use the Bible by taking verses out of context to fit our own narrative or to make us feel better about ourselves. We want to read and study scripture with an understanding of God’s big picture of what He is doing in the world, both past and present. Even more importantly, we should read God’s word to spend time with our Creator.

Genesis will help you see your Creator more clearly and in return, you will see how your Creator loves you and has a purpose for you in His creation. Open your heart and mind to allow the Word of God to work through you. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit each week to help you see how the scriptures are not a story about us, but a story about God and what He is accomplishing in us through Jesus Christ. Ask God to open your eyes to see Christ in the promises, people, symbolism and foreshadowing in the book of Genesis. May the Lord guide you and bless you over the coming weeks in your time of study. Without any further ado, let us start from “the beginning”.



Study Questions

Before you begin your study questions, read through the entire first chapter of Genesis. The name for God used in Genesis 1 is “Elohim”, a Hebrew word that emphasizes God’s majesty and power. It is important to note, that Elohim is a plural noun, a hint to the Trinity. As you read through Genesis Chapter 1, make note of how many times God’s name appears: _____.

1. How does Genesis 1:2 describe the state of the earth and heavens before God’s creative intervention?

2. Verse 2 is the first place in the Bible where we see God revealed in three persons-Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Note who was present at the time of creation in the following verses.

- a. Genesis 1:1 _____
- b. Genesis 1:2 _____
- c. John 1:1-3 _____
- d. Colossians 1:15 – 16 _____
- e. Hebrews 1:2 _____

3. There is a pattern to God’s creative interventions during the first week. First, God “formed” and then God “filled”. Use the chart below to identify God’s interventions for each day of creation.

Day	What was created? (God forms)	Day	What was created? (God fills)
1		4	
2		5	
3		6	

4. According to John 1:1-4, through whom were all things made?

5. Why do you think God created the heavens, the earth and humans?

6. How do the following verses help your understanding of God’s purpose for creation?

- *The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech and night to night reveals knowledge”. Psalm 19:1-2*

- *“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the*

world,⁷ in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse". Romans 1:20

7. Moses uses the repetition of words and phrases to tell the story of creation. What possible ideas is Moses trying to convey through each of the following phrases?

Phrase	Idea
"God said, 'Let (there be)....'"	
"And it was so...."	
"God called...."	
"And God saw that it was good."	

8. When God's word was spoken to form all creation, God saw it and said, "it was good".

How many times is the word "good" found in Genesis 1? _____

9. What does the use of the word "good" in Genesis 1 tell you about God and His relationship to the world and you?

10. In verse 4, God deemed the "light" was "good". According to the following verses, what else is "light" associated with in Scripture?

- a. John 8:12
- b. Psalm 119:105, 130
- c. Matthew 5:14-16; Ephesians 5:8
- d. Proverbs 4:18

11. According to the following verses, what is “darkness” associated with?

- a. Ephesians 6:12
- b. Matthew 6:22-23
- c. Job 3:4-6,9
- d. John 1:5
- e. Matthew 8:12

12. How do the verses from questions 11 and 12 help you understand why God separated the light from the darkness (Gen 1:4) and the day from night (v 14)?

13. What else did God separate?

- a. Genesis 1:6-8
- b. Genesis 1:9-10



Reflect and Discuss

Moses understood God is a God of separation. God saved His people from slavery in Egypt and gave them His law in order that they may be set apart from the other nations of the world when they entered into the Promised Land.

”Keep all my decrees and laws and follow them, so that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. ²³ You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them. ²⁴ But I said to you, “You will possess their land; I will give it to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey.” I am the Lord your God, who has set you apart from the nations. (Leviticus 20:22-26)

As we know through Scripture, God’s people had a pattern of disobeying God and suffering at the hand of His judgement. Separation therefore is a good thing according to Scripture.

14. How do the following verses help you better understand the importance of separation from temptations in the world?

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers. (Psalm 1:1)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2)

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (James 1:6-8)

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life[a]—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away

along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:15-17)

15. In v 26, God said, “Let us make man in our image”. Who is the “us” and the “our” referring to in this verse?

16. What is God’s purpose as defined by God in vv 26 and 28?

17. The name Adam means “taken out of the ground”.

What does Luke 3:38 call Adam?

18. What did God give to Adam and Eve and “everything that has the breath of life” (vv 29,30)?

19. Verse 31 says, “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good”. Why do think Moses added the word “behold” before the phrase “it was very good”?



Reflect and Apply

The Gospel of John 1:1-5 says,

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.

From our creation story and John's Gospel, it is clear Christ was present along with the Holy Spirit when God spoke creation into existence. God created His world and then he filled it with light from the sun, moon and stars. God spoke all life into existence and made man in His own image. It is clear from Scripture, Jesus however was not created by God, but Jesus is God. Jesus existed as God and was with God before the creation of the world. Jesus is the light of the world (John 1:4-5) and He is the Word (John 1: 1-5). God spoke through Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to create life and the world as we know it. God has also called you into a new spiritual life through the power of Christ and the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:17 said, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come"*.

How has God's Word and Spirit brought you new life and changed your heart and mind?

How does the creative power of God's word encourage you to apply the written Word of God in our own life?

Share with your group if you feel lead. If you are not sure Jesus Christ is speaking truth into your life, please take some time to pray about this concern. Speak with one of your group leaders or teachers. She will pray along side of you and will walk with you in the light on your journey.

Genesis

Week Three: Genesis 2 & 3

Last week we saw the importance of God's Word and its role in creating the world. This week we see God's Word coming into question. God's Word is tied with all things good. After all, everything God spoke into existence was good and received God's blessing. Jesus is the physical manifestation of God the Father, just as a spoken word is the physical manifestation of our inner thoughts. Until Jesus took action and created the universe, there was no physical reality to God's presence. But when God "spoke" creation came into existence.

Many generations after God created the world, the Word (Jesus Christ) arrived in person to live among His creation. As Jesus spoke His words to His disciples, He fulfilled the Father's purpose by providing a physical representation of the Godhead to His creation. Hebrews says it this way:

Heb. 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

Heb. 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Heb. 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power...

Paul reiterates this same thought in Colossians when he says:

Col. 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Col. 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Jesus is the Word because He was the means through which the Father brought all physical reality into existence and because He is the One Who represents the Father's invisible nature and character to that creation. Just as your spoken word is the physical manifestation of your thoughts and personality, Jesus is the "Word" of the invisible God to His creation.

This week we will see how the serpent questioned and added to God's Word and finally, we see the serpent denying God's Word. Pray the Holy Spirit will give you clarity from this week's passages and strength to not alter God's Word and His message. May you see the role of Christ in God's plan for redemption and how you can walk in the light with Christ in a fallen world.



Study Questions

1. What is different about the seventh day of creation from the other six?
2. What is the significance of day 7? (see also Exodus 20: 8-11)
3. Describe the kind of life Adam and Eve lived in Eden according to Genesis 2:4-25?
4. The word “Eden” means “delight” or “place of much water”. There isn’t enough data in the Bible to determine the exact location of Eden and the ancient rivers mentioned in Genesis 2. Fortunately for us, it isn’t necessary to master ancient geography in order to understand the spiritual lessons of these early chapters in Genesis. According to scripture, how is Eden described? What does this description mean to you personally?

5. What were the roles of Adam and Eve?

6. What restrictions did God give Adam and Eve? Why do you think God gave them these restrictions?

7. What do you think is meant by Moses' description of Eve as a "fit helper" in v 18?

8. In what ways do a husband and wife become "one flesh" (v24)? See also Matt 19:4-5

9. Genesis 2 ends with a description of Adam and Eve who were "both naked and were not ashamed" (v 25). What is your understanding of this description?

10. In Genesis 3, Satan is compared to a serpent, an image that is repeated in 2 Corinthians 11:3. In Revelation 12, he is called a "dragon. Satan is not only a serpent and a dragon who deceives, he is also a roaring lion who devours (1 Peter 5:8). The word "Satan" means "adversary" (Rev. 9:11) and the name "devil" means "slanderer".

What did Jesus call Satan in John 8:44?

How is Christ's description fitting, according to what transpired in Genesis 3?

11. What do you believe is the intention of the serpent when it asks Eve, "Did God actually say...." (Genesis 3:1)?

12. How does Eve respond to the serpent's question, "Did God actually say.....?"

How is Eve's response different from God's instructions in Gen 2:17?

What do her words reveal about her attitude toward God?

13. What does the serpent tempt Eve with next in Genesis 3:4-5?

14. How do Adam and Eve respond immediately after eating from the tree of knowledge?

15. Why do you think God responded to Adam with a series of questions? (vv 9-12)

16. What question did God direct to Eve and what was her response (v 13)?

17. In the chart below, please note, in your own words God's response to each Adam, Eve and Satan.

<p>God's Response to the Serpent: <i>"Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and ^fdust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring⁵ and ^gher offspring; ^hhe shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."</i> (Genesis 3: 14,15)</p>	<p>Your Paraphrase of Genesis 3:14,15</p>
<p>God's Response to Eve: <i>"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; ⁱin pain you shall bring forth children. ^jYour desire shall be contrary to⁶ your husband, but he shall ^krule over you." (Genesis 3:16,17)</i></p>	<p>Your Paraphrase of Genesis 3:16</p>
<p>God's Response to Adam: <i>"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree ^lof which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' ^mcursed is the ground because of you; ⁿin pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the</i></p>	<p>Your Paraphrase of Genesis 3:17-19</p>

<p><i>field.</i> <i>19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”(Genesis 17-19)</i></p>	
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18. What did Adam call his wife (v20)?

Do you believe this a fitting name for her?

19. What was God's first course of action after Adam and Eve sinned (v21) and what do you believe is meant by the symbolism of God's action?

20. Why does God expel Adam and Eve from the Garden (vv 22,23)?

21. What did God put in place to protect the Garden of Eden? (See Exodus 25:10-22)



Reflect and Apply

The tree of life in Eden was much more than a promise of everlasting life. The tree of life represented the provision and life offered only through God. The tree of knowledge not only enabled those who ate of it to know good and evil, but those who ate its fruit gave themselves the right to decide what is good from evil. To eat of either tree meant one leaned on their own understanding and provision, rather than depending on God. These trees were placed in the Garden of Eden to test Adam. We know Adam failed God's test when he chose to disobey God's Word and reject God's provision. Satan continues to tempt God's children to disobey God. It gives Satan pleasure to know he succeeds in keeping us from deep fellowship with our Creator. It gives Satan joy in knowing people both reject and ignore God's Word. It gives Satan victory when people become their own moral compass and listen to the lies of the world rather than God.

The good news is, God is not done writing His story in chapter 3. God made a covenant with Adam to send a redeemer who will restore mankind's relationship with God. As Adam's descendants, we inherited Adam's sin. The good news is, we also inherited God's promises through Adam in the work and person of Jesus Christ. Your Lord and Savior took on the curse of sin which entered the world through Adam. Christ has given us much more than Adam took from us.

Galatians 3:13, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us-for it is written 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.'"

Ephesians 1:7-10 "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight...according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth".

As a child of God, you no longer need to hide your sin from God or each other. Go to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to reveal to your heart how you also may be failing God's test.

- What lies of the Serpent do you choose to believe?
- How is modern culture defining right and wrong for you?
- How are you neglecting to recognize God's provision in your life?
- What sins are you ignoring?

Genesis

Week Four: Genesis 4-6:8

After sin entered the world, Adam and Eve’s life changed dramatically and it didn’t take long for corruption to spread throughout God’s creation. God however, didn’t leave Adam and Eve without hope. God promised one day a Redeemer would be born of the woman to conquer the serpent (Gen. 3:15). As the events of chapter 4 unfold, one could only imagine if Adam and Eve thought God’s promise would ever materialize. The good news is, God is sovereign and He “*works all things according to the counsel of His will*” (Ephesians 1:11). As you read through chapter 4 you will see a definite parallel between how God deals with Cain and His dealings with Adam and Eve in Genesis 3. Genesis 4 also introduces several new names to Scripture. Four of these men would play a special place in God’s sovereignty to encourage God’s people. These men are Seth, Enosh, Enoch and Noah. Genesis 5 introduces us to the first listed genealogy in the Bible which includes ten generations. Moses also includes the repeated phrase, “and he died” throughout this genealogy, a sobering reminder that death now reigned over mankind. Sin and death still reign today, but through Jesus Christ we can “reign in life”.



Study Questions

1. How does Eve respond at Cain’s birth? Why do you think she responds this way? (refer to Genesis 2:21-22 and 1 Corinthians 11:11-12)

2. What were the offerings presented by Cain and Abel?

Cain: _____

Abel: _____

3. How does the Lord react to each of the brothers’ offerings?

Cain: _____

Abel: _____

4. Why was Abel's offering more acceptable to God?

5. What is your understanding of what it means to be "our brother's keeper"?

6. How did Cain react to the Lord's rejection of his offering and why do you believe he responded this way?

7. What similarities do you note in the way God responds to Cain's sin with the sin committed by Adam and Eve?

8. What was Cain's punishment for murdering his brother Abel?

9. What are your thoughts on Cain's punishment?

10. How did Cain respond to God's judgement and punishment?

11. Jude 11 says, "*Woe to them! For they walked in **the way of Cain** and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion*".

Matthew 7:13-14 says: "*Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and **the way** is easy^[a] that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and **the way** is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few*".

From what you learned in Genesis 4 and these verses, answer the following.

The way of Cain leads to _____.

The narrow way leads to _____.

12. What do the following verses teach you about acceptable worship?

*“This people honors me with their lips but their heart is far from me⁹ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”
(Matthew 15:8-9)*

In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear.^[a] Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.⁷ Then I said, “Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me:⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.” (Psalm 40:6-8)

*Samuel said, “Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. (1 Samuel 15:22)
But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)*

13. What became of Cain after the Lord commanded him to be a “fugitive and wanderer of the earth”?

14. What do you learn about Lamech the 7th born son in the line of Adam?

15. Verses 23-24 are the only words spoken by Cain’s descendants that are included in Scripture. Why do you believe Moses included these words in Genesis 4?

16. What is significant to note about the birth of Seth (vv 25,26)?

17. What does it mean to have “walked with God” as Enoch did? (see also Psalm 23:1-4, 1 John 1:6-7)



Reflect and Discuss

Genesis 5 is the first genealogy in Scripture which introduces “the book of the generations of Adam” (v1). Ten generations are listed, from Adam to Noah. By the time Noah was born, he would have been raised around men and women who personally knew Adam. Noah’s name in Hebrew means, “rest” and “peace”. Noah’s father, Lamech prophesied that his son would bring relief from “the painful toil of our hands” caused by the curse of the Lord (Gen. 5:29). Lamech would die at age 777, just five years before Noah and his family would enter the ark. Lamech must have played an important part in helping Noah grow his faith in the Lord. This faith would certainly be tested in the great judgement to come.

Read Genesis 6:1-8 and answer the following questions.

18. What is the meaning of “sons of God” and “daughters of man”?

Sons of God: _____

Daughter of man: _____



Reflect and Discuss

In Genesis 5, the piety of some in Seth’s line alludes to what will become clearer in later portions of Scripture, namely, that his family, not Cain’s, will be the one through which the Lord bruises the head of the serpent (3:15). Yet though men like Enoch (5:21–24) and Lamech (vv. 28–31) were faithful, Genesis 6:1–2 tells us not every descendant of Seth kept the covenant entirely. Physical attraction alone motivated many in his line to marry godless Cainites. This is a warning for us to seek God first in all of our relationships. We too can fall into idolatry if, as John Calvin comments, “those things which are chief are not taken into the account.”

Moses describes the offspring of these forbidden marriages in today's passage. The Nephilim, mighty men of old, were born when "the sons of God came into the daughters of man" (v. 4).

The identity of these Nephilim has been the subject of a great deal of conjecture. Many commentators associate them with heroes of ancient mythologies. This may be true insofar as such stories preserve bare glimpses of actual persons, though their feats and origins were twisted by pagan authors. In any case, these Nephilim were evil individuals. This term is used elsewhere in Scripture only in Numbers 13:33 where it refers to the mighty sons of Anak, wicked residents of Canaan prior to its conquest by Israel. It may also be assumed in Ezekiel 32:20–28 where the related phrase "fall" is used of Egypt, Assyria, and Elam, those nations who suffered the Lord's judgment. The Nephilim also existed after the flood, revealing that not all in the covenant line changed their ways even after God's catastrophic punishment (Gen. 6:4; Num. 13:30–33).

Increasingly we read of mankind's reckless, headlong plunge into wickedness in the opening chapters of Genesis, especially as recounted in 4:1–6:8. This evil will not go unpunished, for in 6:3 the Lord announces a limit on man's earthly life. Death will come to men before they live 120 years, far earlier than it came to the ancient patriarchs (chap. 5). God was patient with sinners then, just as He is now, but He will not forever delay the wrath our sin deserves.

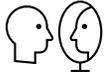
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<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/nephilim>

19. What does Genesis 6:5-6 reveal about the heart of man and the heart of God?

20. How is the description of Genesis 6:5-7 different from that found in Genesis 1 and 2?

21. Who found "favor in the eyes of the Lord" (v8)?

22. How does it make you feel to know God was so grieved over his creation?



Reflect and Apply

It is clear by the time of Noah, God's people were walking away from Him. God was so grieved by their wickedness it "grieved him to his heart" (Gen 6:6). Some would say not much is different today from the time of Noah before the flood. Despite what appeared to be a scene of wickedness, with no hope in sight, God found Noah.

How can you also be a person of hope for others in our hurting world?

What characteristics of God from this week's study would you like to apply into your own walk with the Lord?

Genesis

Week Five: Genesis 6:9 – 8:14

This week we will look at the story of Noah and the great flood. Thus far, we have noted the unrighteous line of Cain compared to the righteous line of Seth, leading us to Noah and eventually Christ. We will see how Noah played an important role in God's story of redemption. Noah, a man God considered "blameless in his generation" is mentioned 50 times in Scripture, in eleven different books of the Bible. We have a glimpse of what is to come from Genesis 6:3, "*Then the Lord said, My Spirit shall not abide in man forever...*" 120 years had passed since the Lord made this proclamation. Judgement was indeed coming to creation and Noah and his family would play a key part in God's bigger story. As you read your passage this week, make note of words or phrases you see for the first time since Genesis 1. We will discuss them in greater detail in your study questions.



Study Questions

1. How is Noah described in verse 9?
2. How is man and creation described in verses 11,12?
3. Based on the description of Noah from verse 8 and 9, does being "blameless" and "righteous" mean Noah never sinned?
4. What does it mean to know the favor of God?
5. Until God's judgement, rain had never occurred on the face of the earth. After receiving God's instructions for building the ark, what do you believe must have been going through Noah's mind?
6. List everything Noah was instructed by God to bring into the safety of the ark.

7. Noah was responsible for the care and preservation of God's creation during the great flood of judgement. What example does Noah provide for us today?

8. Genesis 6:18 is the first time the word **covenant** is mentioned in scripture. The covenant God has pledged to Noah is later explained in chapter 9:9-17. Using a dictionary, define **covenant**.

9. Why do you believe God instructed Noah to bring seven pairs of clean animals and birds, as opposed to just two pairs?

10. How old was Noah when he entered the ark? _____
How old was Noah when his sons were born? (Genesis 5:32)

11. As grieved as God was over the depravity of mankind, why could God not destroy all humans?

12. According to Genesis 7:22 & 23, what was "blotted out from the earth"?

13. How do the following verses give you better insight into Genesis 7: 22,23?

*But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please **blot** me out of your book that you have written.”³³ But the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will **blot** out of my book. (Genesis 32:32,33)*

You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked;

*You have **blotted** out their name forever and ever.(Psalm 95)*

*The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never **blot** his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. (Revelation 3:5)*



Reflect and Discuss

The effects of original sin spread quickly and filled the earth. Sin is contagious. It not only affects the individual but has cosmic and corporate implications. God brought the flood because “the earth was corrupt in God’s sight” (Gen. 6:11). Similarly, “the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now” (Rom. 8:22). The scope of redemption is also cosmic and not only individual, as “the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption,” but this cosmic redemption is intertwined with the redemption of humanity since the creation will “obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (Gen. 8:21).

When Adam sinned, his shameful nakedness was covered by a provision from God in the form of animal skins. God sacrificed the first animal and shed its blood to cover the sin of Adam. This is a foreshadow of Christ and the blood He will shed to cover our sin “In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Hebrews 9:22).

Take some time this week to look up the following verses that show us how Noah and the ark both point us to Christ. What new discoveries help you see Jesus more clearly in all of Scripture?

Noah	Christ	Your Comments
Noah’s name means “rest” (Gen. 5:28-29)	Jesus is our _____. He is the one who provides _____ for our souls (Isa. 11:10; Matt. 11:28)	

“Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.” (Gen. 6:8)	“This is my beloved son with whom I am well _____.” (Matt 3:17)	
“Noah was a righteous man.” (Gen. 6:9)	“When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praises God saying, “Certainly this man was _____. (Luke 23:47)	
Noah was blameless in his generation.” (Gen. 6:9)	“...the child to be born will be called _____ the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)	
Noah “walked with God”. (Gen. 6:9)	“Whoever says he abides in Him ought to _____ in the same way in which He _____. (1 John 2:6)	
Noah’s faith and work on the ark resulted in the “saving of his household” and “every living thing.” (Gen. 8:17; Heb 11:7)	“but Christ is _____ over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we _____ our confidence and our boasting in our _____”. (Hebrews 3:6)	
Noah did all God commanded him (Gen. 6:22, 7:5)	If you _____ my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have _____ my Father's commandments and abide in his love.(John 15:10)	

Ark	Christ	Your Comments
The ark was a divine provision of grace (Gen. 6:13-14)	“For God so _____ the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever _____ in him should not perish but have _____. (John 3:16)	

<p>The ark was a refuge from divine judgement (Gen. 6:17-18)</p>	<p>⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been _____ by his blood, much more shall we be _____ by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the _____ of his Son, much more, now that we are _____, shall we be _____ by his life. (Romans 5:9-10)</p>	
<p>God invited Noah and his family into the ark (Gen. 7:1)</p>	<p>“And they said, “_____ in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” (Acts 16:31)</p>	
<p>The ark was a place of shelter (Gen. 6:16; 7:16)</p>	<p>“I give them _____, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand”. (John 10:28)</p>	
<p>The ark bore the judgement of God in the form of the flood (Gen. 7:17-18)</p>	<p>“He himself bore our sins in his _____ on the _____, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed”. (1 Peter 2:24)</p>	
<p>Those outside the ark perished (Gen. 7:21-223)</p>	<p>“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are _____, but to us who are being saved it is the _____ of God”.(1 Corr 1:18)</p>	

Chart adapted from “The Promised One”, Nancy Guthrie (2011)



Reflect and Apply

The calendar system of Noah's time is unknown, although it appears one month equaled thirty days. If calculated by the Jewish calendar of Moses' day, it would be about May when the rains began. Scripture says the rains prevailed on earth 150 days. It would be almost 8 months (January) before Noah's family and the animals can leave the ark. "But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark." (Genesis 8:1)

Describe in your own words what the ark represents to you.

Genesis

Week Six: Genesis 8:15 – 11:32

When Noah and his family emerged from the ark with all the animals he was like a new Adam. Noah was in a way the new earthly father for humanity. The new garden of Eden was much different than Adam and Eve would have recognized. Life expectancy declined immediately after the flood and the earth was now subject to storms, severe weather and natural disasters. The curse of sin was still a part of Noah's world. Considering all that Noah had been through, God was present with Noah in the storm. When you find yourself in the middle of the storms of life, remember your Lord and Savior is with you. "When you go through deep waters, I will be with you." Isaiah 43:2 NLT

As you read through the scripture this week, may you find peace and hope in the promises of God. Be sure to pray to the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and mind as you tackle this week's scripture. Read the passages in their entirety before answering the study questions.



Study Questions

1. What were God's instructions to Noah once he saw the earth had dried out (vv 15-19)?
2. What is Noah's first recorded act upon emerging from the ark (v 20) and how does God respond to Noah?
3. Using the chart below, identify and contrast the key components of God's covenant with Adam (Genesis 2:15-17) and Noah (Genesis 8:21-22; 9:1-7)

	Adamic Covenant	Noahic Covenant
Who initiates the covenant?		
Who is included in the covenant?		

What is God's promise?		
What is God's requirement?		
What is God's penalty for breaking His covenant?		

4. What sign did God give Noah to represent His covenant (9:12)?

5. How are the verses from Genesis 9:1-3 similar and different to Genesis 1:28-30?
(underline similar phrases and words)

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. 2 The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. (Genesis 9:1-3)

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. (Genesis 1:28-30)

Similarities:

Differences:

6. What is your understanding of the significance of God's comments about the killing of animals and blood from 9:4-6?

7. Note how God reminds us in 9:6, "God made man in his own image". What is the significance of this phrase in context with the previous verses about murder?

8. While Noah is considered a righteous man, he is still a sinner. Describe your thoughts on the incident described in Genesis 9:18-28.



Reflect and Discuss

Verses 9:24-29 are Noah's only recorded speech in the Bible, which serves as a prophecy concerning his children and their future generations. Several times Noah identifies Ham as the father of Canaan (9:18,22). We learn later, Shem will be the ancestor of Israel and Shem's people, the Semites would rule Ham's descendants, the Canaanites. Leviticus 18 describes the moral decay of the Canaanite society as it is compared to God's law. Read through Leviticus 18 and make note of what you learn about the Canaanites before you answer the next question.

9. Describe some of the detestable practices you learn about the Canaanites from Leviticus 18.

10. It is important to note, Noah did not bless his son Shem in v 26. Rather, Noah blessed “the Lord, the God of Shem”. By this statement, Noah is giving God glory for what He will do with the descendants of Shem. Noah acknowledged before his sons the blessing his second son Shem would bring into the world through God’s gifts and provision. How is the Lord blessing you today, and how are giving Him all the glory? Share with your group if you feel lead.

11. The name *Semite* comes from *Shem*, Noah’s second son. In the Greek and Latin versions of the Bible, *Shem* becomes *Sem*, since neither Greek nor Latin has any way of representing the initial sound of the Hebrew name of Shem. Today, another name for the Jewish people is the *Semites*. What is your understanding of the term anti-semitic now that you see the origin of this word?

12. Shem was Noah’s second born son, but it is noted each time the three sons are listed in Scripture, Shem’s name is first. The Apostle Paul discusses this theological truth in Romans 9. Genesis 9 is not the only place in Scripture where the second born son, receives God’s blessing.

Note the names of these other second born sons from these future passages in Genesis.

Gen. 4:4 _____

Gen. 17:15-22 _____

Gen. 25:19-23 _____

How did Noah respond to his son Ham’s indiscretion?

13. Genesis 10:1-32 provides for us the Nations of Genesis and offers a glimpse into the annals of ancient history. We know that Moses wrote Genesis for God's people the Israelites, before they enter the Promised Land (Canaan) to conquer and claim the land for God's glory.

Why do you think the genealogies in chapter 10 are important?

14. God instructed Noah as he did Adam and Eve to "*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth*" (Gen 9:1). How did the people disobey this command according to Gen. 11:2?

15. What did God call the people in v 5? _____

Why do you think Moses chose these words to describe the people?

16. How did the people respond in the following verses from Genesis 11?

v3 "_____ make bricks and burn them thoroughly..."

v4 "_____ build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and _____ make a name for ourselves..."

How did God respond to the people's plans in v 7?

v7 "_____ go down and there confuse their language..."

What stands out to you from these verses? See also Gen 1:26

17. What name did God give the city the people tried to build?

What reason did God give this name according to v 9?

18. The name of the city Babel is linked to the Hebrew word meaning “*to confuse*”. Babel is also the name used in the Old Testament for the city of Babylon, which would become a city notorious for being Israel’s archetypal enemy (Gen. 10:5, 20, 32 and Revelation 17-18). The people of Babel indeed did make a name for themselves, but it wasn’t what they intended.

How may God’s enemy, Satan use the tactics of confusion and disunity to hurt God’s church and His people?

19. Eber is the name from which we get the term “*Hebrew*”. Eber’s son is named Peleg and is identified as the one responsible for building Babel (v16).

Look up the Hebrew meaning of the name Peleg. Would you say this is an appropriate name God gave to Eber’s son?

20. One of Peleg’s descendants would be Terah. What are the names of the three sons fathered by Terah?

21. Where did Terah settle his family rather than the land of Canaan (v31)?



Reflect and Apply

Proverbs 19:21 says, “*Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand*”. Chapter 11 better than any chapter in Genesis so far illustrates this truth. As you read through the story of Babel and the genealogies that follow, it becomes clear God is at work in the world accomplishing His purpose despite the sinful hearts and plans of sinful people. Thus far we have read about the cycles of man’s disobedience, God’s judgement and new beginnings.

At the heart of the narrative is the heart of God which overflows with mercy and grace. Like the rainbow that appeared in the sky after the flood, in Christ, “*the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people*” (Titus 2:11). The rainbow may have served as God’s “everlasting” sign of his grace towards Noah, but God’s children today can have confidence they have been raised up with Christ “*so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus*” (Ephesians 2:7).

No matter how far you may wonder from God, you need not fear your sins from the past, present or future. Your sins do not prevent you from receiving God’s gracious covenant through the gift of salvation in Christ. Noah did not find favor in God’s eyes because of his righteousness. Rather, God poured His grace out on Noah not because of Noah’s good works, but because of God’s goodness. Noah did not earn God’s favor. God lavished his grace on Noah as a gift. God’s grace changed Noah’s life. God’s grace will also change you.

How do you see God’s grace and sovereignty working in your own life? Be sure to always thank the Lord in prayer for His gift of grace “*which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight*” (Ephesians 1:8)

Genesis

Week Seven: Genesis 12-16

Before you begin your questions this week, read through all five chapters from Genesis 12-16. Throughout these chapters, we see the faithfulness of God and the promises He made to his servant Abram. Father Abraham as he is affectionately known today was not the model of righteousness our childhood Sunday school stories often portrayed. While it would appear Abram started out his journey with the Lord on the right foot, he would soon stumble. Despite Abram's failures, the Lord never abandoned him. Instead, Abram's faith grew as did his relationship with his Lord. This week, ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to seeing the parallels of Abram's life in your own spiritual journey.



Study Questions

1. What was Abram's spiritual condition before God appeared to Abram at age 75 years? (see Joshua 24:2)
2. According to Gen. 12:1, what three things does God tell Abram to leave behind? _____, _____, _____

Where does God tell Abram to go? _____

3. God spoke to Abram and invited him and his family to leave Ur and trust in His promises and blessings.

How often is the word blessing(s) noted in Gen 12:2,3?

What does God promise Abram in chapter 12?

4. How did Abram demonstrate that he trusted God in vv 4-9?
5. Why did Abram take his family to Egypt?

6. How do you feel about Abram's lie to Pharaoh, regarding Sarai?

How does Gen. 20:12 influence your answer? *Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. (Gen.20:12)*

7. James 1:2 says, "Count it all joy, my brothers,¹ when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness".

What "trials" did God use to test Abram's faith in the following verses?

Gen. 12:10 _____
Gen. 12:11-14 _____
Gen. 13:7 _____
Gen. 14:2 _____
Gen. 16:2 _____

How did Abraham respond to these trials?

8. Why did Lot and Abram part ways? (Gen. 13:5-9)

9. How does James 3:13-4:17 explain why Lot chose to live in the Jordon Valley (Gen. 13:11)?

How does Abram's choice differ from Lot's?

10. How did God respond to Abram after Lot separated from him? (Gen. 13:14-17)

11. How did Abram respond to God after hearing the Lord's promise? (Gen 13:18)

12. How is Abram described in Gen. 14:13?

13. Raiding cities and dethroning kings was all part of life in the world in which Abram lived. Abram no doubt ensured he was prepared to defend himself and overcome his opponents. How does Gen. 14:14 describe how Abram was able to defend himself?

14. Name the two kings who meet Abram upon his return from battle and note the gifts they offered.

King's Name	King's Offerings

Whose offering did Abram choose and what does his choice tell us about Abram's character?



Reflect and Discuss

The appearance of Melchizedek in Genesis 14 is a mystery. We aren't told why he worships Abram's God. We also aren't told anything about his family lineage. Although Melchizedek is a subject of much speculation, this enigmatic historical figure and his royal priesthood serve as a model for Jesus. The only other time he is mentioned in the Bible is Psalm 110:4. We know King Melchizedek rules as the

king of Salem, which in Hebrew means “*peace*”. Salem is identified as the *City of Peace*, which later will be known as *Zion* or *Jerusalem* (Psalm 76:1,2).

Melchizedek is an example of **typology** in the Bible. God purposely gave certain things, people, events and objects, traits and functions that prefigure or anticipate Christ. These people, events and objects sometimes hold a specific office ultimately fulfilled in Christ (e.g., king, priest, prophet, judge) or they may contribute to a typical pattern of traits and functions in the Biblical story that is ultimately fulfilled in Christ. The doctrine of **typological symbolism** is an important tool used by students of the Bible to interpret how historical texts in Scripture foreshadowed the historical Christ.

15. Read Hebrews 7 and 8. What details from Genesis 14:17-24 and Hebrews 7 and 8 point us to Christ?

16. In Gen. 15:1-6, Abraham receives a vision from the Lord as a sign he will have many descendants. Early in the vision, God describes Himself to Abram as his “shield” (v 1).

Why do you think God chose this image for Abram?

17. Write out verse 6 from Genesis 15.

This verse is quoted four times in the New Testament: Rom. 4:3, 22; Gal. 3:6; James 2:23. Why do you think this verse is so often quoted?

18. A **covenant** is another word for promise. We saw the covenant God made with Adam in Gen. 2:15-17 and Noah in Gen 8:21-22; 9:8-11. Use the table below to answer questions about the covenant God made with Abraham, known as the **Abrahamic covenant**.

	What does God promise Abram?
Genesis 12:1,6-7; 15: 18-21	
Genesis 12:2;15: 4-5	
Genesis 12:3; 15:14-16	
	What does God require from Abram?
Genesis 15:6	

19. What is your understanding of the symbolism in the following verses?

He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. (Genesis 15:9-11)

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. (Genesis 15:17) See also Exodus 13:21

20. Answer the following questions from Genesis 16.

- a. Age of Abram: ____ yrs.
- b. Age of Sarai: ____ yrs. (See Gen 17:17)
- c. How much time has passed since God promised Abram an heir?
____yrs.

d. How does Sarai respond to the lack of an heir?

21. What does Sarai's actions in chapter 16 reveal about Sarai's belief in God and herself?

22. What is revealed about God's character through His treatment of Hagar?

23. The name of Hagar's son born to Abram is Ishmael, which means "God hears". Why do you think this is an appropriate name for Hagar's son?

24. How does the angel of the Lord describe Ishmael to Hagar and what does this lead you to believe about his character and future?

25. What can we learn about God's timing and our impatience from Genesis 16?



Reflect and Apply

We are seeing through the pages of Scripture how God can test and strengthen our faith through our trials. Abram is learning to trust in God's provision and grace. Yet we today, like Abram and Sarai can become more focused on our needs in our timing that we diminish the work God is doing to fulfill His will.

Abram doesn't know it will be thousands of years until God fulfills His promise of salvation through His only son, Jesus Christ. Abraham however is indeed playing an integral part in God's story of redemption after the fall of Genesis 3. God is indeed the "God of seeing" (Gen. 16:13) who knows all and ordains all.

Proverbs 15:3, says *"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good"*.

Romans 11:33-36 says, *"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen"*.

There are no accidents or mistakes with God. His 'divine will' will always be done. God's will can be fulfilled in us: even in the midst of trials. How does this truth about God's sovereignty comfort and encourage you?

Genesis Week 8: 17-20

In Genesis 15:6, it says when Abram “believed” in the Lord, it was “accounted” to him “righteousness”. Abram’s righteousness was imparted to him by the Lord, because of his faith, not because of his good works. This is referred to as the doctrine of **justification**. John Macarthur defines justification as a legal term, which describes “what God declares about the believer, not what he does to change the believer”. God took his own righteousness and credited (justified) it to Abram. Abram was not declared righteous until he believed in God’s promise to deliver him offspring and more specifically the promise of the one who would bring salvation. Up to this point, God required little of Abram other than to leave Ur and believe in His promise. In chapters 17-20, God will require from Abraham a bit more, including how he should live and walk with God. This week we will see further evidence of Abram’s faith and the grace of God at work in his life.

Read through Genesis 17-20 in its entirety before answering the study questions.



Study Questions

1. How is God’s covenant with Abram stated in Genesis 17:7-8?
2. As part of God’s covenant, Abram’s name is changed to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah. What do you believe is implied by this change?
3. What is the sign of God’s covenant with Abraham (v7) and why do you think God chose this to be His sign?
4. According to Galatians 3:27-29, how does one know they are heirs of Abraham?

5. Read Colossians 2:9-15. How does the Apostle Paul connect baptism to circumcision?

6. How did Abraham respond to God's promise to give Abraham an heir (Gen. 17:17-19)?

7. How did Sarah respond to God's promise to give Abraham an heir (Gen. 18:12)?

8. Note the differences between God's promises to Abraham's two sons.

Isaac

Ishmael

9. What do you learn about Abraham's character and attitude as he interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah?

10. When the Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, he shared a meal with Abraham. What does this suggest about God and the kind of covenant relationship He desires to have with His people?

11. How does Abraham respond to his three visitors and what do his actions suggest about Abraham's view of the visitors?

12. Why do you believe the Lord shared his plan to destroy Sodom with Abraham?

13. What do you learn about Lot's character from chapter 19?

14. What does the reaction of Lot's sons-in-law to his warning tell us about their character?

15. How was God's grace demonstrated in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah?

16. What do you learn about God's character in His dealing with Sodom and Gomorrah? See also 2 Peter 3:1-9.

17. What happened to Lot's wife and how is her fate an example for us today?

18. The two sons, Moab and Ammon born through the incest of Lot and his daughters would become the future leaders of God's enemies, the Moabites and Ammonites. Why do you believe God inspired Moses to include this sordid account in Scripture?

19. How did Abraham respond to Abimelech's rebuke in Gen. 20:9?

20. How did Abimelech respond to Abraham when he learned the truth?

21. How did God respond to Abraham and Sarah's lies?

22. How does the story of Abraham and Abimelech in Gen. 20 serve as a warning for us today?



Reflect and Apply

Read Hebrews 11: 1-12

Now **faith** is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ **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.

⁴ **By faith** Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. ⁵ **By faith** Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶ And **without faith** it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷ **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**.*

*⁸ **By faith** Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ **By faith** he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹ **By faith** Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.*

The author of Hebrews recalls examples of **faith** we have been reading about in the book of Genesis. Second Corinthians 5:6–7 says, "So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for *we **walk by faith, not by sight***". Walking by faith means living life in light of eternal consequences. To walk by faith is to fear God more than man; to obey the Bible even when it conflicts with the world's values and to choose righteousness over sin, no matter the cost. Walking by faith allows us to trust God in every circumstance. Rather than loving the things of this world (1 John 2:15–16), Christians should spend their lives glorifying God in everything they do (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Our passages this week serve as a reminder of God's faithfulness to His children. Even when Abraham sinned, God did not reject him, nor did God remove his covenant from Abraham. God was teaching Abraham how to walk before the Lord **in faith**. Abraham was learning to trust and submit to the Lord **by faith**.

What directs your decisions, actions, words, and thoughts?

What are some practical ways you can better live your life "by faith"?

Genesis

Week 9: Genesis 21-24

There is much to glean from the names God gives His children. Abraham's name means, "father of many". His name reflects the covenant God made with Abraham (Gen. 17:5). Sarah, the wife of Abraham, became a mother of nations, and kings descended from her. Sarah is the only woman in the Bible whose name was changed by God. She was first called Sarai—meaning "my princess"—but God changed her name to Sarah—signifying "princess to all". God chose Sarah, to be the mother of the royal line of King David from which the Savior would come, not Hagar. Abraham, the father of many and his princes, Sarah came to truly believe God would fulfill His promise of giving them an heir. Here we see a beautiful display of God's sovereign mercy. God chooses a woman who by all accounts is barren and through her brings forth a child who will carry on His covenant of grace. This promised son's name was chosen by God to be "one who laughs". Isaac is probably a shortened form of Isaac-el, which means "may God laugh." As we will see in this week's passages, God certainly does get the last laugh as He watches His covenants unfold.



Study Questions

1. The birth of Isaac reminds us God keeps His promises in His way in His time. According to "*so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises*" (Hebrews 6:1), how does one inherit God's promises?
2. What did Ishmael do to anger Sarah (Gen. 21:9)?
3. How does God instruct Abraham to deal with Sarah's anger?
4. What similarities or differences do you see in Hagar's wilderness journey from Gen. 6:16-24 compared to Gen. 15: 15-21?

5. Isaac was born free, while Ishmael was the son of a slave. The Apostle Paul saw in Ishmael and Hagar's banishment an allegory involving the law God gave to Moses. Read Galatians 4:21-31 and answer the following questions:

V23: "But, the son of the slave was born according _____, while the son of the free woman was born _____".

Hagar's covenant with God represents: _____

Sarah's covenant with God represents: _____

6. John 7:37 says, "*On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink".*"
Revelation 22:17 says, "*And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely*".

How is the provision of Hagar, a slave woman, a reflection of hope for those who are lost and wondering in the wilderness today?

7. Why do you think Abimelech wanted peaceful relations with Abraham (Gen. 21:22-34)?

8. The Apostle James said, "*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness* (James 1:2,3).

God has been testing Abraham since He first called him out of the land of Ur. Summarize these tests from the following passages.

Passage	Test
Gen. 11:27-12:5	
Gen. 12:10-13:4	
Gen. 13:5-18	
Gen. 13:17-24	
Gen. 16	
Gen. 21:14-21	
Gen. 22	

9. Why do you think God was testing Abraham in Gen. 22?

10. What is significant about how God describes Isaac to Abraham in Gen. 22:2: “your son, your only son...whom you love”. See also Matt. 3:17; John 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:17

11. Where did God instruct Abraham to sacrifice Isaac (Gen. 22:2)? Why is this place significant according to 2 Chronicles 3:1?

12. How many days did the journey take for Abraham and Isaac (Gen. 22:4)?

13. How is Abraham’s testing in the wilderness with Isaac as a foreshadowing of Christ’s death for us? (Reference any Scripture verses used in your answer.)

Chapter 24 is the longest chapter in Genesis, with sixty-seven verses, while the creation account in Genesis 1 contains only thirty-one. There is pertinent theological significance in the marriage of Rebecca to Isaac to warrant this lengthy passage.

14. Where does Abraham send his servant in Gen. 24:4 to find a wife for Isaac?

15. Where is the servant instructed not to search for a wife and why is this significant? See also Deut. 7:1-11 and 2 Cor. 6:14-18

16. The following questions look at Isaac and the process he employs to secure a bride.

What time of day did Isaac sit to meditate in the field as he awaited his bride in Gen. 24:64? _____

What similarity do you see in Romans 13:11-14 and the time of day when Jesus comes for his bride, the church?

What do you imagine Isaac may have been meditating on during this period of waiting?

How did Isaac respond when he first sees his bride Rebecca?

17. What are some similarities between the relationship of Isaac and Rebekah to Christ's relationship to His church? Share your cross-reference verses in your answer.

18. Based on your understanding of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, how might Abraham's servant illustrate the work of the Holy Spirit in God's people today?

Use the chart below to assist you with your answer.

Verse	Holy Spirit's Role/Function
Genesis 1:2	
Isaiah 11:2	
2 Peter 1:21, Acts 1:16	
Romans 8:26	
Luke 12:12, John 14:26	
1 Corinthians 12:11; Hebrews 2:4	
Ephesians 4:30	
Romans 8:15	
1 Corinthians 12:13	
Romans 15:16	
Galatians 5:16, 22-23	



Reflect and Apply

As we journey through Genesis, we see God's love unfolding in the promises He makes and the blessings He gives His people through his faithful covenants. All of scripture reflects God's unfailing love for His church. Marriage between one man and one woman is a modern-day covenant which symbolizes the love and devotion God has for his church. While marriage to our spouse is an earthly promise made in this lifetime, there is an even greater promise awaiting God's bride in heaven. This is an eternal promise. The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah did not begin with a love between each other. Their love began with the choice of the Father and his desire to present a bride for his beloved son. Isaac purchased his bride with costly jewelry and garments, but your Heavenly father purchased His bride with the blood

of his only son, Jesus. A great price has been paid to secure the inheritance of your salvation for all eternity.

All of God's promises will be fulfilled in the new heaven and the new earth, where Christ will be our bridegroom and his church will be his bride. Rebekah loved a man she never met. This is our story too. *“Though you have not seen him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:8-9).*

Go before your Lord in prayer and reflect on all the promises He has fulfilled for you. Praise Him for all the blessings he has provided and the promises yet to come. If you already know Jesus as your bridegroom, be sure to tell others the good news about the beautiful marriage and wedding feast yet to come in eternity. Reflect on the joy of your salvation.

Genesis

Week 10: Genesis 25-28

King Solomon said, *“A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one’s birth”* (Ecclesiastes 7:1). We learned the importance of names given by God to his children in last week’s lesson. The names of Abraham and Sarah were fragrant to God in both life and death. Their names are still fragrant through their memories and their place in God’s story long after their deaths. To honor his wife’s name and her life, Abraham purchased a cave owned by Machpelah for her tomb. Here again, Abraham was making a statement to all those in the kingdom. He did not return to the pagan land of Ur, where both Abraham and Sarah were born. Instead, he buried her in the land given to him by God. Such loving care of the dead was not customary in the ancient world of Abraham. By the time you reach the end of Genesis, this tomb will be quite full of Abraham’s descendants. We know Abraham loved Sarah deeply and the tears he cried at her death are the first recorded tears of weeping in the Bible. We know from Revelation 21:4, *“all tears will be wiped away”* by God in glory. Abraham lived by faith and he died by faith. This too should be our witness.

Read through Genesis 25-28. It may take some time. These chapters are best read in context of each other. Be sure to pray to the Holy Spirit to guide your heart as you tackle some challenging study time this week.



Study Questions

1. Look back to Gen. 15:15. How did God promise Abraham would die? Was this promise fulfilled?
2. What is your understanding of the phrase “gathered to his people” from Gen. 25:8? See also James 2:26 and John 14:1-6
3. How does a Christian funeral and/or burial demonstrate our belief in a future resurrection?

4. How was Isaac’s response to his wife’s barren womb different from that of his parents, Abraham and Sarah?

5. What was the plan (prophecy) God told Rebekah regarding her children (Gen. 25:22-23)?
6. Describe the differences you find between Isaac and Esau.

7. What does the term, “birthright” mean in context of scripture? Use verses from Deuteronomy 21:17 and Exodus 4:22 to assist with your answer.

8. What do you learn about Esau from the following verses?

Hebrews 12:16-18

Genesis 25:34

The Abimelech in Gen. 26 is likely the same as noted in Gen. 20 but may be a later king using the same name and title. Once again, God brings a famine into the land and Isaac must respond to this test like his father Abraham before him. The following questions look closely at the interaction between Abimelech and Isaac.

9. How was Isaac’s response to the famine in Gen. 26:6-16 both the same and different from the way his father responded?

Similarities	Differences

10. In Gen. 21:22-34, Abimelech recognized Abraham's power and blessing from God and therefore made a pact with Abraham to safeguard his protection and property. From Gen. 21:23, what did Abimelech ask Abraham to promise?

How did Abraham respond to Abimelech in Gen. 21:24?

What conflict occurred between the two men that required resolution?

11. Wells were essential to life in the desert lands of the ancient world. Filling in someone's wells would be considered an act of war.

Why did the Philistines plug up Isaac's wells?

How did Isaac respond to this act of aggression?

12. Why were Isaac and Rebecka saddened by Esau's choice of wife (Gen. 26:34,35)? (Refer back to Gen. 24:3)

13. Isaac knew he would soon die. Nearly blind, he longed for nothing but to share a good meal with his favorite son, Esau (Gen. 25:28) so he may bless him. Describe in your own words where this plan went all wrong.

14. Refer back to Genesis 25:23. Why do you think Rebekah deceived her husband and planned to have Jacob blessed by Isaac in light of the prophecy given to her by the Lord? Would you say her actions were justified?

15. Galatians 6:7 says, “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap”. Do you think at the end of his life, Isaac understood the seeds of deception and favoritism he planted?

16. How does Esau plan to respond to Jacob’s deceit (Gen.27:41) and how does his mother intervene to protect Jacob (Gen. 27:43,44)?

17. Where did Esau go to take his third wife (Gen.28:8,9)? Why do you think he made this decision at this time?

18. How does the image in Jacob’s dream similar to and yet different from the earthly image of the tower of Babel in Gen. 11?

19. God came down from heaven to bless Jacob. According to Gen. 28:13-15, identify the things God promises him by completing the following statements.

Jacob is a fugitive, running from his brother. In his dream, (vv13,15) God promises to give Jacob and his offspring “the _____ on which you lie” and God will “bring you back to this _____”

At the time of the dream Jacob had no wife or children. God promises to give Jacob offspring and they are described as, “the _____ of the earth” (v14).

While living as a fugitive in the wilderness alone, God promised to Jacob, “For I will _____ until I have done what I have promised to you” (v15).

20. What details did God include in the dream that must have been a comfort to Jacob?

21. How did Jacob respond to the presence of God in his dream when he awoke (v18-20)?

22. Would you say Jacob's response to his dream was an appropriate one? See Proverbs 1:7, Exodus 29:38-41, Philippians 2:17)



Reflect and Discuss

The place where God showed himself to Jacob was called Bethel and it would become a very special place to Jacob. What a comfort it must have been to Jacob to know the Lord promised to be present in his life no matter what circumstance. The promise of God's presence with his people is found throughout Scripture.

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for **the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.**"⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. ⁸ The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; **he will never leave you nor forsake you.** Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:6-8*

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Where did you first experience the presence of the Lord in your life? Describe that moment and share with your group if you feel lead. How does it encourage you to know "the God of Jacob is our fortress" (Psalms 46:7, 11)

Genesis

Week 11: Genesis 29-31

In the ancient world of Jacob, it was the belief that when you left home, you left your god(s) behind you. Therefore, it was common practice to take the idols of your god(s) on your journey. But the Lord, Jacob's God promised to go with Jacob on his journeys, providing protection until his safe return home. As we saw through Jacob's dream in last week's lesson, the Lord would accomplish His will through Jacob. God would appear to Jacob at least five more times in the years ahead. Jacob did not need a man-made idol to remind him of God's presence in his life.

Read chapters 29-31. Using the chart below, summarize your findings from the passage as they related to God's sovereignty and Jacob's spiritual maturity.

Evidence of God's Sovereignty in Jacob's Life	Evidence of Positive Change in Jacob's Character



Study Questions

1. How is Jacob's introduction to Rachel from Gen. 29:1-14 similar and different from Abraham's introduction to Rebekah from Gen. 24:1-33?

Similarities	Differences

2. What are your thoughts on the irony that Jacob was tricked by Laban, “the master schemer” in Gen. 29:21-30 and later by Leah, who tricked Jacob by posing as her sister Rachel?

3. How did God respond to Jacob’s rejection of Leah in Gen. 29:31?

4. How was Rachel’s response to her barrenness (Gen. 30:3-8) like Sarah’s (Gen. 16:1-4)?

5. Mandrakes were a type of fruit in the ancient world, believed to have aphrodisiac properties. A jealous, barren Rachel was clearly interested in the mandrakes Leah’s son, Reuban found in the field (Gen. 30:14). How did Rachel respond upon discovery of the mandrakes?

6. How does Rachel respond when she discovers she has conceived her first child (Gen 30:22-24)?

7. What do you think it was like for Leah during her 20 years of marriage to Jacob?

8. What do think it was like for Rachel?

9. As we saw with Sarai and her servant, Hagar, it was common practice in the ancient world for wives to adopt the children born to their servants who acted as surrogate mothers.

Using the chart below, identify the children born to each Leah and Rachel.

Leah's Children	Rachel's Children

10. It was Jacob's desire to return to his family's home in Canaan. How did his father-in-law, Laban respond to this news? Why do you believe Laban responded in this fashion?

11. How did Laban cheat Jacob for a second time according to Gen. 30:34-36?

12. How did Jacob respond to Laban's trickery (Gen. 30:37-43)?

13. It was believed in the ancient world that herd animals, such as goats and sheep, would develop external markings based upon the images the animal

saw while mating. This would account for Jacob placing marked sticks in front of the animals for selective breeding purposes.

According to Gen. 31:9, what did Jacob attribute to his flock's success?

Where did Rachel and Leah attribute their provision and inheritance (Gen. 31: 14-16)?

14. Why do you believe Rachel stole her father's idols and hid them?

15. After Laban and Jacob made a covenant to never harm one another again (Gen. 31:43-53, "Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, and Jacob offered a sacrifice in the hill country" (Gen. 31:53-54). Why is this a fitting way for Jacob to close this chapter in his life?



Reflect and Apply

This week's passages are more a story about God's faithfulness than Jacob's. We know Jacob was a sinner and yet, God chose to fulfill His promises through him. Jacob was more interested in receiving God's blessings than knowing God himself. As we have seen in this week's scripture, God continues to speak truth into Jacob's life. God told Jacob to leave home (Gen. 28:12-15) and then return home (Gen. 31:1-13). However, instead of trusting in God, Jacob let fear lead his heart as he fled from Laban.

Genesis 31:3 reveals Jacob's journey back to Canaan is not prompted solely by fear. The Lord Himself comes to Jacob and calls him to return to the land of his fathers. Once again God promises to be with Jacob, demonstrating His steadfast love for him and confirming him as the heir to Abraham's covenant (Gen. 17:17).

A change of circumstances pushed Jacob in the direction he should go. But Jacob does not move until the Lord speaks to him clearly. Neither should we make decisions without seeking guidance in God's Word. Psalm 119:105 says "Your word *is* a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path". The late theologian, R.C. Sproul said: "The more we are in the Word of God, the more the Spirit who inspired the Word and who illumines it for us will use the Word to confirm in our souls that we are truly His, that we are indeed among the children of God."

Jacob's faith in God was indeed growing. God's grace and mercy towards Jacob brought him many blessings as well as trials. Life often presents challenges that need God's help in our decision making as well. God will often direct us by opening or closing doors, but we must be sure we have spent time in prayer and His Word before we determine which choices to make. Allow the light of God's Word to speak truth into your life and give you the confidence to know you are indeed a child of God.

In what life circumstances do you currently feel God is distant or perhaps absent?

How might Jacob's story be a source of encouragement for you?