

Genesis

In the Beginning GOD...



Written by: *Carla Freeman*
 June Michealsen

First Published: *2000*
Revised: *2008:*

INTRODUCTION

Genesis, which means “beginning”, is the first book of the Bible. God speaks and the world is created.

He brings order and beauty out of chaos in His creation. Genesis pictures how humans reintroduce chaos. Modern readers will identify with the conflicts that result and discover God’s plan to provide the redemption that is so needed.

Genesis strongly affirms that God is not only creator of the universe but sustainer as well. He continues to speak so that humans, whom He formed in His very own image, are counseled, comforted and provided for. God’s desire has always been that people would walk with Him so that He could richly bless them. A study of Genesis is an opportunity to walk with God and receive His blessing.

LESSON ONE: GENESIS 1:1-2:3

OPENING QUESTION: *Where do you go to be reminded of the beauty of creation?*

READ GENESIS 1:1-2:3

1. What do you learn from the very first verse of Genesis?
2. Read through the chapter thoughtfully. What do you think is the purpose of this creation account? (What issues are not answered here?)
3. Describe the earth in the beginning. (v. 2) What was lacking?
4. How did God bring things into being and what does this reveal about Him? (see also Hebrews 11:3)
5. What do you think is meant by the word “day”? (see also Psalm 90:1-4 and 2 Peter 3:8)

6. How did God bring order to the “formless” earth?

DAY ONE: vv. 1-5

DAY TWO: vv. 6-8

DAY THREE: vv. 9-10

7. How did God fill up the emptiness of the earth?

DAY THREE: vv. 11-13

DAY FOUR: vv. 14-19

DAY FIVE: vv. 20-22

DAY SIX: vv. 24-31

8. What was unique about the creation of human beings?
9. How did God describe all that He had made?
10. God brought beauty and harmony out of chaos. In what areas do you need to trust God to produce these qualities in your life?
11. What set the seventh day apart from all the other days? What did God model for us? (see Exodus 20:8-11)

Have you built such rest into your life? If not, what changes would allow this rest in your life?

12. How does creation glorify God?

Psalm 8

Psalm 19:1-6

13. How are human beings challenged to respond to God's creation? How do you respond?

Psalm 33:6-9

Psalm 104:24-34

Revelation 4:11

Memory Verse: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." *Genesis 1:1*

Prayer Guide: Creator God, let there be light in my darkness

LESSON TWO: GENESIS 1:26-2:25

OPENING QUESTION: *What is a “perfect garden” to you?*

READ GENESIS 1:26-2:25

Note: The phrase “this is the account” or “these are the generations” occurs ten times in Genesis, each time at the beginning of a new section.

1. How and for what purpose were humans created? List as many details as you can find.

Genesis 1:26-30

Genesis 2:7

Genesis 2:15-23

2. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
What impact does this have on your self-concept?
(see also Acts 17:28, 2 Corinthians 3:18 and Ephesians 4:20-24)
3. How can you better reflect His image?
4. What do you think is significant about Adam coming from the dust of the ground and God breathing life into him?
5. What was Eden like? How was beauty present? (Genesis 2:9)
6. What was Adam’s work in Eden?

How are we to care for the earth today? (Genesis 2:15, see also Psalm 8:6-8 and Psalm 115:16)

7. Why was woman created? How do these truths remain valid today?

8. What were the two trees in the middle of the garden? (Genesis 2:9)
9. What do you think the “Tree of Life” represents?
(see also Revelation 2:7 and 22:1-5)
10. From which tree were they forbidden to eat and why?
Why do you think God gave them a choice?
11. Why are you, like Adam and Eve, tempted to defy God’s boundaries?

What is the temptation in the center of your garden?

12. What principles for marriage, as God intended, are given in vv.24-25?

How are these principles affirmed in Matthew 19:1-12 and Ephesians 5:28-31?

13. What reminder about marriage as God intended it do you most need in your own life?

Memory Verse: “God created human beings in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.” *Genesis 1:27*

Prayer Guide: Lord, help me to reflect Your image more each day.

LESSON THREE: GENESIS 3:1-24

OPENING QUESTION: *What was one rule in your home when you were growing up?*

READ GENESIS 3:1-24

1. Describe the serpent. Who was he?
(see John 8:44, 2 Corinthians 11:14, Revelation 12:9)

2. What tactics did the serpent use to tempt Eve?

Which of these might pose the greatest threat in your life?

3. Why do you think the serpent mixed truth with lies?
4. How did Eve mix truth with lies? Compare God's words with hers.

God: (Genesis 2:16)

Eve: (Genesis 3:2)

God: (Genesis 2:17)

Eve: (Genesis 3:3)

What are the dangers of attributing words to God that are not His? How can you avoid this?

5. How was Jesus tempted? Read Matthew 4:1-10.

How did Jesus resist temptation?

6. How can you resist temptation? (see also Ephesians 6:10-18, James 4:7-10)
7. Describe the process of Eve's fall. (ex. She listened to the serpent...)

8. Why did Adam eat the fruit?
9. Are there enticements that appear “good and helpful” in your life that might be as dangerous as the fruit was for Adam and Eve?
10. How did Adam and Eve’s sin immediately affect their attitude toward themselves? (Genesis 2:25, 3:7)
each other? (Genesis 3:12-13)
God? (Genesis 3:8-10)
11. Even though we know the consequences of sin, why do we still choose to disobey God?
12. What curse was placed on the serpent? (vv.14-15)
Who crushed his head many years later? (Hebrews 2:14-15)
13. How were Adam and Eve’s lives altered by God’s judgment? (see also Romans 5:12-14)
14. How was the earth altered by God’s judgment? (see also Romans 8:19-22)
15. What is God’s promise for the future? (Revelation 21:1-5)
16. What is God’s provision for the present? Have you personally experienced this provision?
Romans 8:1-2

Colossians 1:19-22
17. What have you learned about God in this lesson?

Memory Verse: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.” *Romans 8:1-2*

Prayer Guide: Father, deliver me from evil.

LESSON FOUR: GENESIS 4:1-26

OPENING QUESTION: *How do you like a gift to be offered? Share an example.*

READ GENESIS 4:1-26

1. What “firsts” are found in this chapter?
2. Why do you think offerings were presented to the Lord? (see also Psalm 95:3-7)
3. Why do you think God looked with favor on Abel’s offering but rejected Cain’s? (see Hebrews 11:4, 1 John 2:9, 1 John 3:12)
4. What kind of offerings does God want today? In what specific ways can you offer these?
Psalm 51:17
Romans 12:1-2
Hebrews 13:15-16
5. What was the condition of Cain’s heart as revealed through
his treatment of God?

his treatment of his brother?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. How did God’s words in Genesis 4:6-7 provide a “way of escape”?
7. Read James 1:13-15. How does this passage shed light on the process of Cain’s sin?
8. How was Cain punished by God? (vv.10-12)
9. How did Cain respond to God’s punishment? Compare his response to David’s. (see 2 Samuel 12:13 and Psalm 51)

10. What does it mean to be your “brother’s keeper”? Who has God given you to care for in such a way? How can you serve them this week?

11. What grace did God extend to Cain?

12. Describe Cain’s life without God.

13. How did Lamech’s life reflect his disregard for God? vv. 19-24
(see also Genesis 2:24, Exodus 20:13, Matthew 18:21-22)

14. How did Eve experience God’s grace following Abel’s death?

15. As you reflect on the chapter, what have you learned about
God’s justice?

knowledge of people’s hearts and ways?

grace and love?

Memory Verse: “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, o God,
You will not despise.” *Psalms 51:17*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner.

LESSON FIVE: GENESIS 5:1-7:24

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever felt God leading you to do something utterly unexpected?*

READ GENESIS 5:1-32

Note: The genealogy in this chapter lists the descendants from Adam through Seth to Noah, while chapter 4 listed the genealogy of Cain. In each genealogy one man spoke. The Cainite Lamech taunted the curse (Gen.4:29) while the Sethite Lamech moaned under the curse, looking for comfort in his son Noah (Gen.5:29)

1. Why do you think both genealogies were given?
2. What is the impact of the repeated phrase “and he died”? What truth does it illustrate? (see also 2:17, 3:4 and Romans 6:23)
3. How was Enoch’s life unusual? (Genesis 5:22-24, and Hebrews 11:5-6)
4. What New Testament promise does Enoch’s experience point toward? (see I Corinthians 15:50-57)
5. How can you walk with God? (see Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Jeremiah 6:16, Micah 6:8, and I John 2:5-6)

READ CHAPTER 6

Note: “Sons of God” are thought by some to be fallen angels sent by Satan to corrupt the human race. Others think they are the sons of Seth as opposed to those of Cain.

Note: “Nephilim (6:4) may mean “giants” or “fallen ones”. They seem to be the offspring of the sons of God and the daughters of men.

6. What was the condition of the earth and of the hearts of people on the earth? (6:5 and 6:11-12)
7. What was God’s response to the evil on the earth? (see 6:6-8, 13, 17, 2 Peter 2:4-9)

God’s heart:

God’s judgment:

8. When you see evil, what is your response? What do you want it to be?
9. Many people struggle with the judgment of God. What insights do you receive from Psalm 9:4-10?
10. How did God extend grace to Noah and why did he extend it? (see Hebrews 11:7))

Note: Noah built the ark in a dry region where it was inconceivable to have enough water to float such a vessel. His family stayed in the ark 370 days.

11. How was Noah unique among the people of his time? Contrast him with his neighbors.
12. Reflect on what “being different” from his neighbors meant for Noah. Are there some areas in your life where God is nudging you to a course of action that sets you apart?

What prevents conformity to the world and sets you apart for God’s purposes?

Romans 12:2

Philippians 1:9-11

Philippians 2:12-16

13. How did Jesus use the days of Noah as a warning? What difference might this make in your life? (see Matthew 24:36-44)

Memory Verse: “Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.” *Genesis 6:9*

Prayer Guide: Gracious Father, set me apart for your purposes.

LESSON SIX: GENESIS 8:1-10:32

OPENING QUESTION: *How has the keeping of a promise made a difference in your life?*

READ GENESIS CHAPTER 8:1-9:17

1. Imagine that you had been in the ark with Noah's family for a year. What would that have been like?

Note: To "remember" in the Bible is not merely to recall to mind; it is to express concern for someone, to act with loving care for him. (NIV Study notes)

2. How did the Lord "remember" Noah?
3. What was Noah's first act after coming from the ark and what was God's response?
4. What have you done following times of crises to celebrate your deliverance and give thanks?
5. What instructions did God give Noah?
6. How was the sanctity of life made clear in His instructions?
7. How did these instructions differ from those given to Adam in Genesis 1:27-30?
8. With whom did God enter into a covenant? (Genesis 9:9-10)
9. What sign guaranteed the covenant? Has that sign or any of God's other promises provided you hope recently?

READ GENESIS 9:18-28

10. How did the behavior of Ham and Noah reveal that the flood had not resolved men's sin problem?
11. Contrast Ham's response to his father with the response of his brothers. Why was that displeasing? (see Deuteronomy 5:16, Ephesians 6:1-2)
12. Are there any situations in your life in which you are currently struggling to honor your parents? How does this incident challenge you personally?
13. How does this incident challenge your response to the sins of others? (see also Proverbs 10:12, 12:16, Matthew 18:15 and 1 Peter 4:8)
14. What curse did Ham, the father of Canaan, receive?
15. In light of Noah's conduct, why was he called "righteous"? (see Hebrews 11:7).
16. Read Romans 3:21-24. What encouragement does this provide for you?
17. Who was Nimrod as revealed in the genealogy of Noah's family in Genesis 10?

Memory Verse: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." *Genesis 8:22*

Prayer Guide: Almighty God, come in justice and mercy.

LESSON SEVEN: GENESIS 11:1-12:10

OPENING QUESTION: *When have you experienced true unity and what has made it possible?*

READ GENESIS 11:1-9

1. What united the people of the world?
2. Why did the people want to build their city?

What temptation remains for people today to make a name for themselves?

3. What displeased God in their actions and attitudes?
4. Read Psalm 2. In what ways did the people of Babel resemble those described by the psalmist?
5. What judgment did God bring against the people of Babel?
6. What kind of “unity” do you see this passage warning against?
7. What kind of unity does God intend you to enjoy? Are you experiencing such unity? If not, how might God lead you to it?

Colossians 3:12-14

Ephesians 4:1-6

John 17:20-26

8. How do the first eleven chapters of Genesis show a people’s need for God to save them?

READ CHAPTER 11:10-12:10

9. As you read Genesis 11:10-31 (the genealogy which briefly traces the line from Shem to Abram) and 12:1-9, what do you learn about Abram? What impresses you most about him?
10. What do you learn about Sarai? What problem did she have?
11. What did God ask Abram to leave? (12:1) What would this have meant to Abram and his family?
12. Why did God ask Abram to leave? (see Joshua 24:2-3)
And why did Abram obey? (see Hebrews 11:1)
13. What did the disciples leave in order to follow Jesus? (see Matthew 4:18-22)
14. What must you leave behind in order to follow? What will you gain?
(see I Peter 2:9-10, John 5:24)
15. What did God promise Abram (12:1-3, 7)
16. What circumstances of Abram's life might have made it hard to trust such promises?
How did Abram show himself to be a person of faith and why is it important today?
(see also Galatians 3:7, Hebrews 11:8-12)

Memory Verse: "...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." *Genesis 12:3b*

Prayer Guide: Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.

LESSON EIGHT: GENESIS 12:10-13:18

OPENING QUESTION: *What is an antidote to fear that's been useful to you?*

READ GENESIS 12:10-20

Note: The Negev region where Abraham and his family settled remains even today a dry, mountainous region dependent upon rain.

1. Why did Abram travel to Egypt?
2. What was Abram's fear and what plan did he devise?
3. How did the plan benefit Abram?
4. How did the plan hurt Abram?
5. How did Abram's plan endanger Sarai?

Pharaoh?

God's purposes? (see Genesis 12:2-3)
6. What would God have you do with your fear so that you don't endanger His purposes?

Philippians 4:6-7

Isaiah 41:9-10

Psalm 46:1-3

1 John 4:18
7. Read Isaiah 55:8-9 and Proverbs 3:5-6. How are you to shape your plans?
8. Have there been times in your life when you were asked to conform to plans that compromised your faith? What would God have you do? (see Acts 5:29)
9. How did God protect Sarai?

READ CHAPTER 13

10. How did Abram experience God's blessings and what was his response?
What is your response to God's blessings?
11. Describe the problem that arose between Abram and Lot.
12. What did Lot choose and why?
13. What danger accompanied his choice?
14. What do you learn about Abram from the way he handled the conflict?
15. What additional promises did God give to Abram after Lot departed? (vv.14-18)

Why do you think God chose this particular moment for his promises?

16. How would Abram's "walking the length and breadth of the land" help him to grasp the reality of God's provision?

What could you do this week to grasp the reality of one of God's provisions for you?

Memory Verse: "Trust the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight." *Proverbs 3:5-6*

Prayer Guide: Straighten my path, LORD, as I trust in You.

LESSON NINE: GENESIS 14:1-15:21

OPENING QUESTION: *Why do you make promises? Why do you keep promises?*

READ GENESIS 14:1-15:21

Note: In verses 1-12 we find the first record of war in the Bible. These verses cover 14 years. The precise political situation and the kings mentioned in this conflict have not been identified. But such coalitions for political power were characteristic of the period.

1. Where was Lot living and why did he end up needing Abram's help?
2. How did Abram save Lot and what does the rescue reveal about Abram?
3. Who was Melchizedek? (Genesis 14:18-20, see also Hebrews 7:1-4)
4. Who fulfilled the role of Melchizedek?
What difference does this make in your life?
Hebrews 4:14-16
Hebrews 5:8-10
Hebrews 6:19-20
5. Why do you think Abram gave a tenth of everything to Melchizedek?
6. Why do you think Abram accepted nothing from the King of Sodom? (Genesis 12:2, 13:13)
Are there any situations in your life where God would also have you refuse a gift?
7. What unusual means did God use to speak to Abram?
(Genesis 15: 1, 12-13 and 17)
8. Why did Abram need God's reassurance? (15:2)

9. What reassurance did God give Abram? (15:1, 4-5)
10. What does it mean to have the Lord as your “shield” and your “reward”?
How does this reassure you today?
- Psalm 3:3
- Psalm 7:10
- Psalm 28:7
- Psalm 73:25-26
11. How did Abram respond to God’s reassurance? How was his response like the man’s in Mark 9:24?
- Genesis 15:6
- Genesis 15:8

Note: The custom of Abram’s days was to pledge loyalty as one walked between animal pieces. The oath “May I be cut in half if I do not keep my word” would be spoken. Only God passed between the pieces showing that the covenant depended upon Him alone.

12. Describe the past and future plans of the Lord as he entered into the covenant with Abram.
- Genesis 15:7
- Genesis 15:13-16
- Genesis 15:17-19
13. What was God’s purpose in postponing the fulfillment of His promises?
(Genesis 15:13-16 and II Peter 3:8-9)
14. What personal insights have you received to help you trust God in your waiting?

Memory Verse: “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield, your very great reward.”
Genesis 15:1b

Prayer Guide: Savior, cast out my fear with Your love.

REVIEW LESSON I

1. Which verses in the study have been most important to you?
2. What new insights did you receive about God's role in the beginning of
the world
human beings
marriage
work
worship
covenants
redemption
3. What did you learn about who God is?
4. What personal lessons did you learn about faith?
5. What character in our study most impacted you and why?
6. What did you learn about sin and forgiveness?
7. How has God answered prayer?
8. How has God encouraged you through this study?
9. Are there any changes you have made or are making with God's help as a result of this study?

LESSON TEN: GENESIS 16:1-17:27

OPENING QUESTION: *How do you cope with delays?*

READ CHAPTER 16

Note: It was customary to obtain a male heir through a servant. All legal rights over such a child belonged to the wife.

1. List as many reasons as you can why Sarai sent her maid to Abram. Reflect on the thoughts she may have had as she did this.
2. Why do you think Abram agreed with her plan?
3. What were the consequences of their actions?

Short-term consequences:

Long-term consequences:

Abram:

Sarai:

Hagar:

4. How did the struggle with barrenness impact Abram and Sarai's faith? How have similar struggles impacted your life?
5. What warnings are here about replacing trust in God with culturally acceptable or expedient methods?
6. How did Hagar seek to escape from her problems?
7. Are you tempted to flee from your problems today in such a way? What help do you receive from the following verses?

Psalm 55:6-8, 16-17, 22

Philippians 4:6-7

2 Timothy 1:7

Matthew 10:29-31

8. How did the Lord provide for Hagar?
9. What did Hagar learn about God in her difficulty?
(16:13 and Psalm 139:1-10)

READ CHAPTER 17.

10. Why do you think God gave Abram and Sarai new names?
(see also Genesis 32:28, Isaiah 62:1-2, John 1:40-42 and Revelation 2:17)
11. What did God promise Abraham once again as He confirmed his covenant with him?

Genesis 17:2

Genesis 17:4-8
12. What did God ask of Abraham?

Genesis 17:1

Genesis 17:9-14
13. What was the purpose of circumcision?
(vv.10-11, see also Leviticus 20:26, Deuteronomy 30:6, Romans 2:28-29)
14. How did Abraham reveal his obedience? How does his example challenge you to greater obedience?

Memory Verse: "She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me.'" *Genesis 16:13*

Prayer Guide: God, who sees me, help me to wait in hope.

LESSON ELEVEN: GENESIS 18:1-19:38

OPENING QUESTION: *Give an example of how you were refreshed by someone's hospitality.*

READ CHAPTER 18

1. How did Abraham show hospitality to his guests?
2. How do you extend hospitality to others and what do you learn from Abraham?
3. Why did the messengers visit Abraham?
4. How was Sarah's response to the news similar to Abraham's? (Genesis 17:17-22)
How must it have been different?

Reflect on what Sarah might have been thinking at this time.

5. What would Isaac's birth reveal about God? (v. 14, see also Luke 1:35-38)

In what area of your life do you need to be reminded of this today?

6. Why do you think the Lord drew Abraham into His confidence with His plans to destroy Sodom? (vv.16-19, see also Psalm 25:14, James 2:23)
7. What will allow you to be drawn into God's confidence?
(see Psalm 25:14, Proverbs 3:32, John 15:14-15)
8. What has the Lord confided about the future to his friends and why?
(see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11)

What:

Why:

9. What was Abraham's attitude toward the Lord?

the people of Sodom and Gomorrah?

What is your attitude toward others in the city and state around you?

Note: The city gate was a meeting place for local officials. The fact that Lot was sitting there probably meant that he had become a part of Sodom's council of elders.

Note: Lot's descendants, the Moabites and Ammonites would become bitter enemies of Abraham's descendants.

READ CHAPTER 19

10. What was Sodom and Gomorrah's evil? (see also Ezekiel 16:49-50)

What do you find most troubling about this?

11. Describe Lot's actions in this chapter. What did they reveal about his faith and character?

12. What were Lot's failures? What warnings do they provide?

13. What does God's rescue of Lot reveal about His mercy and judgment? (see also 2 Peter 2:6-9)

Memory Verse: "The LORD confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them." *Psalms 25:14*

Prayer Guide: Gracious God, take me into your confidence.

LESSON TWELVE: GENESIS 20:1-21:34

OPENING QUESTION: *Share a time when God did the “impossible” in your life.*

READ CHAPTER 20

Note: Sarah would have been a ninety-year-old woman soon to bear a son, when she encountered Abimilech.

1. What sin did Abraham repeat and why? (see Genesis 12:10-20)
2. Are there sins you repeat that fail to reflect your relationship with God?
3. How did Abraham’s sin jeopardize the covenant?
4. Reflect on the abounding grace in this story.

God’s grace to Abimilech:

God’s grace to Abraham and Sarah: (see Psalm 105:12-15)

Abimilech’s grace to Abraham and Sarah:

Abraham’s grace to Abimilech:

Note: Abraham was the first man to bear the title “prophet”. As prophet, he not only received and communicated God’s will, but influenced God’s decisions through intercession.

READ CHAPTER 21

Note: God had chosen the name “Isaac” which means “he laughs”.

5. If you were to send out a creative birth announcement for Isaac, what would it say?
6. What thoughts might Sarah and Abraham have had following Isaac’s birth?

7. Describe the conflict that arose following Isaac's birth.
8. What was the difference between Isaac and Ishmael?
(see also Galatians 4:21-31)
9. How did Isaac become an example of God's design for life? (see Galatians 5:1, 13-14, 22-26)
10. What great tension must Abraham have felt as he sent his son away?
11. What did Hagar take with her into the desert? (Include feelings too)
12. What do you learn about God as he came to help Hagar?

How does this bring you hope?

13. How did Abimelech describe Abraham's life? (v. 22)

How did this confirm God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 15:1?

14. How do you think your neighbors would describe your life?
Are there changes you could make that would allow them to see more of the Lord in it?
15. What covenant did the two men enter into and how did they confirm it?

Memory Verse: "...God is with you in everything you do." *Genesis 21:22b*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus, pour out Your grace.

LESSON THIRTEEN: GENESIS 22:1-23:20

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever given a gift to someone that you really wanted to keep?*

READ CHAPTER 22

1. How did Abraham respond when God called his name? (vv. 1, 11) What did that mean? Have you offered that same response to God's call?
2. What words did God use to describe Isaac and what does this reveal? (v. 2)
3. What did God ask Abraham to do and why do you think He asked this of his friend? (see also Genesis 21:12, Exodus 20:13, Hebrews 11:17-19, James 1:13)
4. What do you think Abraham might have been thinking during the three-day journey to reach the mountain?
5. Put yourself in Isaac's place. What did his words and behavior reveal about him?
6. How was Isaac similar to Jesus? (see also Mark 14:36, John 18:11)
7. How did Abraham reveal his great faith? (see also James 2:22-24, Hebrews 11:19)

What words revealed his faith?

What actions revealed his faith?
8. Has God ever asked you to release something to Him that seemed hard to surrender? (see Matthew 16:24-27, Philippians 3:7-10)

9. How was Abraham's offering similar to the offering God the Father made on our behalf? What is your response to this sacrifice?

John 3:16

Romans 8:31-32

1 John 4:9-10

10. How did God reward Abraham's faith?

11. How did the ram point to Jesus?

John 1:29

Isaiah 53:4-7

1 John 1:8-2:2

12. Is there an area in which you are being called to difficult obedience today? How does this passage help you trust that God will provide what is needed?

Note: Many years later God instructed Solomon to build the temple on Mount Moriah. At that time it became the lawful place for Israel to offer sacrifices to the Lord. Another hill in the region was later called Golgotha.

Note: The brief genealogy given in 22:20-24 is intended to introduce Rebekah who will become part of Abraham's family.

READ GENESIS 23

13. What did Abraham lose when his wife died? Reflect back on their story as you answer this.

14. How did Abraham respond to Sarah's death?

Note: God promised Abraham that someday Canaan would be his land. But when Sarah died, none of it was. Purchasing this property was a token of future fulfillment.

Memory Verse: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." *John 3:16*

Prayer Guide: Father, thank You for giving Your one and only Son for me.

LESSON FOURTEEN: GENESIS 24:1-25:18

OPENING QUESTION: *How have you been touched by the faithful service of another recently?*

READ CHAPTER 24

1. How had God blessed Abraham in “every way”? (v. 1)

2. In what ways has God blessed you and still continues to do so?

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Ephesians 1:3-10

Psalm 29:11

Numbers 6:24-27

3. On what mission did Abraham send his servant and what help was promised?

4. What were the two forbidden options and why?
(see also Deuteronomy 7:3-6, 2 Corinthians 6:14-16)

5. How did the servant reveal his faithfulness to both God and Abraham?

6. What can you learn about prayer from the servant’s example?
Use your insights and pray through a specific situation in your life.

7. In what specific ways would you like your life to be like the servant's life?
8. List as many things as you can that qualified Rebekah to be a wife for Isaac. What most impresses you about her?
9. How was Rebekah received by Isaac?
10. As you think back over this entire passage, what have you learned about God as *provider*? What have you learned about seeking His provision?

READ GENESIS 25:1-18

11. How did Abraham prepare for his death?
12. Where was Abraham buried and who buried him? Reflect on what this might have meant.
13. Is there a spiritual lesson from the life of Abraham that has helped strengthen your faith?

Memory Verse: "Come, you who are blessed by the Lord..." *Genesis 24:31*

Prayer Guide: Lord, my provider, I trust in You.

LESSON FIFTEEN: GENESIS 25:19-27:40

OPENING QUESTION: *What have you inherited from your father?*

READ GENESIS 25:19-34

1. What caused Isaac to pray? How was the problem similar to the one his parents had struggled with?
2. What action did Rebekah take in her trouble? (v. 22)

How can you follow her example when you are confused and in trouble?
(see also Psalm 55:22, 57:2 and 86:7)

3. What was God's plan for Isaac's sons?
4. Contrast the sons born to Rebekah.

Esau

Jacob

Note: The birthright entitled the first born to a double portion of the inheritance and family leadership. At the heart of the birthright was the covenant promise that Isaac had inherited from Abraham, which Esau despised.

5. What was Esau's sin? What did he value?
(see also Hebrews 12:16-17, Philippians 3:19)
6. Do you have appetites that could damage you as Esau's damaged him? How can they be curbed? (Colossians 3:1-10, Romans 13:14)

READ CHAPTER 26

7. What were God's directions and promises in the midst of the famine?
8. How did Isaac show faith?
How did Isaac show fear?
9. How did the Philistines respond to the Lord's blessing of Isaac?

10. Is there any situation in your life where you are tempted to envy another because of God's blessing in their life? What help do these verses provide?

Proverbs 14:30

James 3:13-18

1 Peter 1:23-2:3

11. What do you learn of the Lord's grace from this chapter?
12. Why would Judith and Basemath cause grief for Isaac and Rebekah? What did they want for their sons? (see also 27:46)

READ CHAPTER 27:1-40

Note: The blessing that Isaac passed on to his son was legally binding and made him heir of God's covenant.

13. Chapter 27 offers a clear picture of a dysfunctional family. How does each family member sin?

Isaac:

Rebekah:

Jacob:

Esau:

14. What do you see as the root causes for the family trouble and what personal warning do you find in this?
15. What is lost through the family conflict?
16. Was any family member really worthy of receiving the covenant blessings? What hope do these verses give as you consider the new covenant that Jesus offers today? (see Luke 22:20, Hebrews 8:10-12, Hebrews 9:15)

Memory Verse: "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham." *Genesis 26:24*

Prayer Guide: Good Shepherd, satisfy my desire with good things.

LESSON SIXTEEN: GENESIS 27:41-30:24

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever bargained with God?*

READ GENESIS 27:41-28:22

1. What was Esau's response to Jacob's deception?
2. Reflect on your response to hurt or deception. What guidance is provided by these verses? (Hebrews 12:14-15, Colossians 3:13, Philippians 2:1-4)
3. What had God promised Rebekah regarding Jacob's future? (Genesis 25:23) How did she manipulate instead of trust? What warnings are in this for you?
4. What instructions and blessing did Isaac send with his son?

Note: The journey from Beersheba to Haran was about five hundred miles. Jacob traveled without map or companions.

5. What might Jacob's thoughts have been as he left his family?
6. Describe the dream. How was this a display of God's grace to Jacob?
7. How did Jesus later speak of himself as the stairway between heaven and earth? (John 14:6-7, John 1:51, I Timothy 2:3-6)
8. What was Jacob's response to God? What do you learn from him?

Genesis 28:16-17

Genesis 28:18

Genesis 28:19

Genesis 28:20

9. How do you think he changed through this experience with God?

10. Have you ever had a powerful encounter with God in an unlikely place?
If so, how did the experience change you?

READ CHAPTER 29:1-30:24

11. How did Jacob introduce himself to Rachel and Laban?
12. Jacob had deceived his own father. How did Laban now deceive him?
13. Read Galatians 6:7-10. What truth about deception is spelled out in these verses?
What option is presented?
14. Is there any area in your life where you are tempted to be deceitful? Seek God's strength as you commit yourself to living in truth.
15. Describe Jacob's home life. What problems plagued his family from the beginning?
16. How did God show grace to Leah?
(see Genesis 29:30-35, Genesis 49:10, Matthew 2:6)

Memory Verse: "...Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." *Genesis 28:16b*

Prayer Guide: LORD, give me eyes to see You in unexpected places.

LESSON SEVENTEEN: GENESIS 30:25-32:31

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever run away or felt like running away?*

READ GENESIS 30:25-43

1. What kind of servant was Jacob to Laban? (Genesis 30:25-30)
2. How can you follow his example in your present place of service? (see also Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Peter 4:11)
3. Why did Jacob want to leave?

Note: Mandrakes have fleshy, forked roots that resemble the lower part of a human body and were therefore superstitiously thought to induce pregnancy when eaten. (NIV)

4. How did Jacob and Rachel both use magic?

Genesis 30:14-15

Genesis 30:37-43
5. Who was the real source of fertility and blessing for them and who is that source for you today?

READ CHAPTER 31

6. What reasons did Jacob and his wives have for fleeing Laban? Which reason was most important?
7. Describe the deception that accompanied the flight.

Genesis 31: 19, 34-35

Genesis 31: 20, 26-28

Note: Laban traveled about 300 miles to reach Jacob.

Note: Household gods were small portable idols.

8. What were the stipulations of the covenant Laban and Jacob entered into at Mizpah with a heap of stones as witness? Why do you think they needed such an agreement?

9. What were God's provisions for Jacob and his family?

Genesis 31:3

Genesis 31:7

Genesis 31:24, 29

Genesis 31:42

READ CHAPTER 32

10. What were Jacob's thoughts as he prepared for his reunion with his brother?

What did he do? (vv. 3-23)

What did he pray? (vv. 9-12)

11. What did Jacob want to gain when wrestling with God? What did God give him? (see also Hosea 12:4-5)

12. How does Jacob's example encourage you to wrestle with God in prayer for a specific need?

13. Why do you think God came to Jacob at this point in his life? Have you experienced His coming at points of need in your life?

14. What was the meaning of the new name given to Jacob and the Jewish people? (Genesis 32:28) What change did it represent for Jacob?

15. Is there a name you hope to receive from Jesus? (see also Revelation 2:17)

Memory Verse: "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with both God and human beings and have overcome." *Genesis 32:28*

Prayer Guide: Gracious God, bless me.

LESSON EIGHTEEN: GENESIS 33:1-35:15

OPENING QUESTION: *Share a memory of a special reunion.*

READ CHAPTER 33

1. How was God's grace evident in the reunion of Jacob and Esau?

How was human frailty and failure evident?

2. Is there a reunion that God might be urging you to pray and plan for?
What hope do you find in Jacob and Esau's reunion?
3. Where did Jacob end up settling? Give several reasons why he should have moved on.
(see Genesis 31:13)

READ CHAPTER 34

Note: Dinah, the only daughter of Jacob, by Leah, was about 14 years old at this time.

4. What heartbreaking crisis faced Jacob? What aspect do you think he found most difficult?
5. Why did the Shechemites want to intermarry with the Israelites?
6. What warning would God later give about intermarriage?
(see Deuteronomy 7:3-4, see also 2 Corinthians 6:14)

Do you think the brothers had God's law in mind as they responded to the Shechemites?
What was their concern?

7. How did the brothers deceive Shechem and Hamor and how did the deception dishonor God's covenant sign? (vv. 13-17)
8. What do you find most troubling about the vengeance taken by Levi and Simeon?

9. What do you need to remember when tempted to take revenge or “get even”?

Deuteronomy 32:35

Romans 12:17-21

10. What was Jacob’s response to his sons? (Genesis 49:5-7)
11. Why do you think this story is in the Bible? Why did God seem absent during these events? (Note that God’s name does not appear anywhere between 33:20 and 35:1.)

READ CHAPTER 35:1-15

12. Where did God send Jacob and why did he send him there? (see Genesis 28:12-19, 31:13)

Note: The “rings” were worn as amulets or charms as part of pagan worship. (NIV)

13. What preparations did the people make and why were they necessary?
14. What preparations help people return to God? Are there any of these you need to make today?
- 1 John 1:8-9
- Psalm 51:7-10
- 2 Corinthians 7:1
- Psalm 139:23-24
15. What blessings did God pour out on Jacob and his family after fellowship with him was restored? (vv. 5-15)
16. Bethel, which means “house of God”, remained a special meeting place with God all of Jacob’s life. Is there a “Bethel” in your life where you have met God or where you are in the habit of meeting Him?

Memory Verse: “Come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.”
Genesis 35:3

Prayer Guide: God answer me in my day of distress.

LESSON NINETEEN: GENESIS 35:16-38:30

OPENING QUESTION: *Did you ever receive a gift that made you feel very special or set you apart?*

READ GENESIS 35:16-36:43

1. What new sorrows came into Jacob's life? (Genesis 35:16-29)

Note: Jacob changed his son's name from "Ben-Oni" (son of my trouble) to "Benjamin" (son of my right hand).

Note: Reuben forfeited his rights as the "first born" because of his offense with Bilhah.

Note: Esau was also called Edom and was known as the father of the Edomites. The Israelites and Edomites were related.

2. Who were Esau's wives and where were they from? (see also Genesis 28:6-9, 26:34)
3. What do we learn about the relationship between Esau and Jacob at this point? (vv.35:29, 36:6-8)

READ CHAPTER 37

4. Where did Jacob live with his family?
5. Who was Joseph? Describe him as fully as you can.
6. Why did the brothers hate Joseph? How did Joseph contribute to their hatred?
7. How did Jacob contribute to their hatred? What dangerous pattern of parenting did he repeat? (v.3, see also Genesis 25:27-28)

If you are a parent, what warning is here for you?

8. What did the brothers do to Joseph and what does it reveal about them?

9. What were Reuben and Judah's roles with Joseph?

Reuben:

Judah:

10. What might Joseph's questions have been as he was put into the pit and then sold?

11. How do you respond to injustice? (see also 1 Peter 2:23)

12. What was Jacob's response to the loss of his son and what seems most painful to you in this?

13. Where was Joseph taken?

READ GENESIS 38

14. How did Judah compromise God's standards?

Genesis 38:1

Genesis 38:2

Genesis 38:11, 14, 26

Genesis 38:15-16

15. Who was Tamar and why do you think Judah called her "more righteous than I"?

16. What was Perez' place in salvation history? (see Ruth 4:18, Matthew 1:3)
How does this reveal God's grace?

Memory Verse: "When they hurled their insults at Him He [Jesus] did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly." 1 Peter 2:23

Prayer Guide: Righteous Father, bring justice.

LESSON TWENTY: GENESIS 39:1-40:23

OPENING QUESTION: *What is the most unusual work you have ever done?*

READ CHAPTER 39

1. Who was Potiphar?
2. What work did Joseph do for Potiphar?
3. How did Joseph gain favor with his Egyptian master?
4. In the midst of his trials, what blessings came to Joseph because of his relationship with God?

Genesis 39:2-7

Genesis 39:20-23

Acts 7:9-10

5. What specific steps did Joseph take to resist temptation? List as many as you can from the passage.

6. How do these passages help you to resist temptation?

Matthew 26:41

Psalm 141

7. As you reflect on a current area of temptation in your life, which of the above verses do you most need to practice in order to avoid sin?

8. What was the cost Joseph paid for resisting temptation? What was the reward he gained?

What are the costs and rewards in making good choices? (see Psalm 73)

Note: Death was the expected penalty for the charge made against Joseph.

9. How did God provide for Joseph in prison?
10. What must it have meant for Joseph to be given responsibility and satisfying work to do even in prison?
11. Have you seen the grace of God through his provision of work for you, even in the midst of difficult circumstances?

Can you thank him for a current project or job that is an evidence of his grace? (see Ephesians 2:10)

READ CHAPTER 40

Note: The cupbearer was a trusted official who tasted the king's wine to make sure it was not poisoned.

12. How did Joseph reveal compassion for his fellow prisoners?
13. How did Joseph honor God as he interpreted dreams? How can you follow his example as you use your gifts?
14. How can Joseph's story give you hope when you are in a place of great darkness? (see also Romans 15:4-6,13, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18,)

Memory Verse: "Let not my heart be drawn to what is evil, to take part in wicked deeds with those who are evildoers; let me not eat of their delicacies." *Psalm 141:4*

Prayer Guide: Holy God, let not my heart be drawn to what is evil.

LESSON TWENTY-ONE: GENESIS 41:1-42:38

OPENING QUESTION: *Has there been a model of integrity in your life?*

READ CHAPTER 41

1. How long did Joseph spend in prison after he accurately interpreted the dreams of his fellow prisoners? How long had he been away from his father's house? (Genesis 37:2, 41:46)
2. What were the reasons Pharaoh sent for Joseph?
3. What did Joseph reveal about God as he spoke to Pharaoh of his dreams?

Genesis 41:16

Genesis 41:25

Genesis 41:32

4. Why did Pharaoh choose to put Joseph in charge of the land?

Note: With Pharaoh's signet ring, Joseph received power to authorize whatever he decided was best for Egypt.

5. What changes occurred to make Joseph "Egyptian"? How did this help to fulfill his role?
6. What indicates that Joseph remained faithful to God?
7. What did Joseph do during the years of abundance? What resistance might he have come up against as he did his job and what enabled him to continue in faithfulness?
8. Are you enjoying a time of abundance now in some area of your life? (Health, financial, family, career, friendship, etc.) What insight from this passage might help you plan for the future as a wise and godly steward?

9. Describe the famine that followed the years of abundance.
10. How was Joseph blessed and how did he become a source of blessing?

Genesis 12:3

Genesis 41:50-52

READ CHAPTER 42

11. Who had replaced Joseph as Jacob's favorite son and why was he not sent to Egypt? (vv. 3-4, 38)
12. How did Joseph's brothers fulfill the dreams he had as a child? (Genesis 37:5-11)
13. What harsh treatment tested the brothers?
14. Why do you think Joseph tested his brothers this way and what was his own heart like as he did it?
15. What did the testing reveal about the character of his brothers? What maturity did it reveal in Reuben?
16. Is there an area in which you are currently being tested? How does this lesson help you? (see also Psalm 139:23-24)

Memory Verse: "... God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering." *Genesis 41:52b*

Prayer Guide: Gracious God, make me fruitful even in the midst of suffering.

LESSON TWENTY-TWO: GENESIS 43:1-44:34

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever found something precious that another had lost and what did you do with it?*

READ CHAPTER 43

1. Why did Israel's [Jacob's] sons return to Egypt? What pressures did the return put on Israel and his sons?

2. Where did Israel's confidence lie in the midst of his pressures? (v. 14)

3. In the midst of the pressures of your life, how can you have such confidence?

Psalm 18:2

Psalm 56:3

Matthew 7:7-11

Philippians 4:6-8

4. What did Judah promise his father? How was his offer even more generous than Reuben's? (Genesis 42:37)

5. What were the fears of the brothers? (vv. 15-25)

6. Describe the hospitality Joseph showed his brothers. What surprised them most?

7. How did the brothers respond to the obvious favoritism shown Benjamin by Jacob and Joseph? What had changed in their attitudes since Joseph's youth?

8. What do you learn of Joseph's character from his meeting with Benjamin? (vv. 26-34)

READ CHAPTER 44

Note: Joseph's silver cup was a prized personal possession and the theft of it was a crime worthy of death.

9. Why do you think Joseph had his cup placed in Benjamin's sack?
10. How did the brothers respond to the cup's discovery and what does this reveal about them?
11. What did Judah offer? How was this a marked contrast to earlier behavior, which revealed God's work in his heart? (vv.44:18-24, see also Genesis 37:26-27, 38:1-3, 38:15-16)
12. What hope is found in the life of Judah? (see also Genesis 49:8-10, Matthew 1:1-3)
13. How do Judah's example and these verses encourage you as you pray for yourself or someone else?

Psalm 103:2-5

Psalm 32:1-7
14. How was Joseph treated by his brothers and why do you think this was so?

Memory Verse: "Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD." *Isaiah 2:5*

Prayer Guide: Lord Jesus, let me walk in Your light.

LESSON TWENTY-THREE: GENESIS 45:1-47:31

OPENING QUESTION: *Have you ever met someone from your past who surprised you by who they turned out to be?*

READ CHAPTER 45

1. Why do you think Joseph waited so long to reveal himself to his brothers?
2. Describe Joseph's revelation of himself to his brothers.
3. How did the brothers respond to Joseph and what might they have been anticipating from him?
4. What were God's plans for Joseph?
5. How did his acceptance of God's plans help him to live without anger or bitterness toward his brothers?
6. How do these verses help you to accept God's plans for your life, especially in disappointment?

Romans 8:28

Jeremiah 29:11

Genesis 50:20
7. How does Joseph's example help you to forgive others who have hurt you?
8. What special provisions did God make through Joseph for his family and why were they necessary?
9. What warning did Joseph send with his brothers and why do you think he gave it?
10. What was Jacob's response to the news about Joseph?

READ CHAPTER 46

11. Where did Israel [Jacob] stop and worship? Who else had worshipped there before him? (Genesis 21:33, 26:23-25)
12. What did God promise Israel? How must this have comforted him as he left the promised land?
13. Just as God promised to go with Israel, He promises to go with you. How do these verses assure you of that?

Isaiah 43:1-2

Exodus 14:13-14

Exodus 33:14-15

Romans 8:35-39

READ CHAPTER 47

14. Why do you think Joseph wanted to keep his family from living right in the middle of the Egyptian community?
15. How did God use wise leaders to preserve the people?
16. How did Israel's request show his faith in God's promise? (vv. 28-31)

Memory Verse: "But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God." *Genesis 45:7-8a*

Prayer Guide: Sovereign God, here am I. Send me.

LESSON TWENTY-FOUR: GENESIS 48:1-50:26

OPENING QUESTION: *What is hardest about saying good-bye for you?*

READ GENESIS 48:1-50:26

1. How would Jacob's adoption of Joseph's sons affect their future?
(see 1 Chronicles 5:1-2)
2. On his deathbed, what blessings of God did Jacob review?
List as many blessings as you can from verses 1-16.
3. How do you think the family was impacted by hearing of God's blessings from Jacob's own lips?
4. Has your family been impacted by hearing of God's blessings from your lips?
What blessings can you praise God for today?
5. What eventually happened on the piece of land Jacob gave to Joseph?
(Note that this is today's disputed West Bank)

Joshua 24:32

John 4:4-6

READ CHAPTER 49 AND 50

6. How did Reuben's, Simeon's and Levi's past actions affect their blessings?
(see Genesis 34:25-29, 35:22).
7. What warning do these men provide about the consequences for sin even to future generations?
8. What future did Jacob prophesy for Judah?

Note: The New Testament affirms that the anticipated king is Jesus, the Messiah, who came as a son of David from the tribe of Judah.

9. How did Jacob describe Joseph?
10. What blessings were to rest on Joseph and his sons?
11. What were Jacob's burial instructions? (Genesis 49:29-32) What were Joseph's burial instructions? (Genesis 50:24-25) What did these reveal about both men? (Hebrews 11:21-22)
12. How did Joseph honor his father in death? (Genesis 50:1-14)

Note: The mourning period of seventy days for Jacob was just two days short of the mourning period observed for a Pharaoh.

13. Our culture often avoids and denies death. Are there any lessons in this passage about dealing with death?
14. Why do you think Joseph wept again over the message from his brothers?
15. How did Joseph show amazing grace to his brothers?
16. Are you experiencing a strained relationship with someone? How could you show amazing grace that goes beyond words of forgiveness?
17. What did you learn about the God of Jacob and Joseph in the last three chapters of Genesis? Spend time praising the God of Jacob and Joseph who is also your God.

Memory Verse: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." *Genesis 50:20*

Prayer Guide: God of Hope, I trust in Your unfailing love.

REVIEW LESSON II

1. What verses do you most want to take with you from this study?

2. READ PSALM 105

Which of God's judgments will you remember from the study of Genesis?

Which of God's wonders and miracles will you remember?

How does the Psalm remind you of God's provisions for his people?

3. What lesson will you take from the life of

Adam and Eve?

Cain and Abel?

Noah?

Abraham?

Sarah?

Jacob?

Joseph?

4. What did you learn about God's promises?

5. How has your vision of God been enlarged through the study of Genesis?

6. What insight did you gain about living as a faithful person and what difference will that make in your life?

7. Have you come to any new understandings that equip you to live through difficult and dark times?

8. What are you thankful for?

THE ROUTE OF THE EXODUS

