



GENESIS 1-11

Second Edition

GENESIS I–II

Table of Contents



GENESIS I

Session 1 - God's account	4
Session 2 - It was good	6
Session 3 - Created in His image	8
Session 4 - Created in His image 2	10

GENESIS 2

Session 1 - God and rest	12
Session 2 - Why did God create us?	14
Session 3 - The two trees	16
Session 4 - The first marriage	17
Session 5 - Divine Word	19

GENESIS 3

Session 1 - The secret to victory	21
Session 2 - The secret to victory 2	22
Session 3 - When I'm tempted	24
Session 4 - When I'm tempted 2	26
Session 5 - The discovery	28
Session 6 - The consequence	30
Session 7 - The consequence 2	31
Session 5 - The greatest loss	33

GENESIS 4

Session 1 - Cain's offering rejected	34
Session 2 - How does sin crouch?	35
Session 3 - It's in the attitude	37
Session 4 - What's with the names?	39
Session 5 - God is sovereign	40

GENESIS 5

Session 1 - Why are there genealogies?	42
Session 2 - Read between the names	43
Session 3 - Walking with God	45

GENESIS 6

Session 1 - Increasing Sin	46
Session 2 - Noah's Ark	47

GENESIS 7–8

Session 1 - What's in a Number?	50
Session 2 - Dry Land!	51

GENESIS 9

Session 1 - Being Blessed	54
---------------------------	----

GENESIS 10–11

Session 1 - The Table of Nations	57
Session 2 - Everyone is important	58





THE PURPOSE OF THIS BOOKLET

Everyone has a story. Our lives are a collection of stories that we share with others to tell them who we are. Our stories concern our past, our present, and our future. When we first meet other people, we communicate a part of our story to begin to "get to know one another." As we get to know each other, we tell more of our story, and hear more of our friends' stories. When deep relationships develop, we want to learn every detail of the story of the one who means so much to us, for it is through this process that we grow in knowing them more intimately. God also has a story, found in the Bible, by which he has made himself known to us. If we want to know God more fully and intimately, we will have to immerse ourselves in His story. By knowing God's story we come to know what He is really like and how we might expect him to act in different situations or circumstances. So, in short, **this booklet has been written to help you to get to know God** and to know how to reflect his image in the world that we live in.

HOW TO USE THE BOOKLET

Like any other relationship, getting to know God will take some work. Proverbs 14:23 says, "All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty." You will determine what you get out of the Bible, and this booklet. What you put in is what you will get out!

The booklet is divided into sessions that should take more or less 5-10 minutes to complete. It is up to you to decide how many sessions you want to do at a time.

Throughout the booklet there are several icons that will give you some extra information in order to better understand the text and give you some direction.



Back Then: Although the bible was written for us it was not written to us. Before we can apply a passage to ourselves we first need to understand what it most likely meant to its original audience. There might be some things, culturally, historically, or philosophically, that might have been obvious to them, but are not obvious to us, in our day and time. The "back then" section brings us up to speed as to what their world looked like and how that might have influenced the way

they interpreted the scripture.



Highlights: Serves up bite size notes about specific words and phrases in the Bible that might not be as obvious today as they were when they were written. The meaning of these words or phrases will enhance your understanding of the scripture.



Digging Deeper: This section will give you insights on how to dig deeper into the scripture that you have read.



Google it: These are topics for you to 'Google' in order to deepen your understanding of a concept.



YouTube it: These are particular videos for you to 'YouTube' in order for you to deepen your understanding of a topic.



Knowing God: The aim of the game is to know God. Not just know about Him, but to really know Him. We have to constantly read the Bible through the lens of: what do I learn about God from this story or this passage of scripture?



The Descendant: This section will help you to see where Jesus fits into the picture throughout the story of the Bible.



Soul Fuel: Memorizing and meditating on these verses can ignite your soul. (Read Psalm 39:3).



Search Me: The Bible wasn't written just for us to increase our knowledge of God. Knowing him should affect the way we live. This section will give you some guiding questions in order to search your own heart.



Further Study: This section will help you to make the most of the related scripture by studying it further.



Dear God: This section will give you some guidance on things to add to your prayers based on what you have learned from the session.



The Setting:

Author: Moses

Audience: The people of Israel/Jewish nation

Setting: Middle East

Date Written: 1445-1405BC

Theme: The Hebrew word for Genesis - *Bereisheet* (ba-reh-sheet) means "in the beginning" and that is exactly what Genesis is all about, beginnings. Here we find the beginnings of the universe, the earth, humanity, sin and God's plan of salvation.

Genesis teaches us that:

- Yahweh is the one true God and creator of the universe;
- The earth is well-made and good;
- People are special to God and unique;
- God created and sustains all life;
- God deals with sin swiftly and justly;

Genesis 1-11 is a record of four key events:

1. Creation (Genesis 1-2)
2. The Fall (Genesis 3-4)
3. The Flood (Genesis 6-9)
4. The Judgment at Babel (Genesis 11)

SESSION 1 - GOD'S ACCOUNT



Back Then: The nations that surrounded the people of Israel had ancient traditions that "explained" the origin of the universe and humankind. One prominent myth was that of the creator god (sometimes referred to as Atum and other times Amon) who emerged from the ancient waters of Nun through an act of self-creation. He then created demi-gods (through sneezing, according to some account), as a representation of the various parts and forces of nature.

Battles among these gods eventually brought the universe into existence. One account (called *Enūma eliš*) talks of Marduk (a god) who after conquering Tiamat (a goddess) split her body in two (like a fish for drying). With one half he created the heavens and with the other half,



Marduk: The patron god of the city of Babylon.

the earth. Using the heavenly bodies, he also ordered time. After this, he decided to make human beings by executing Qingu (the demon-god) and mixing his blood with clay. **This almost sounds like the times of our friend Percy Jackson.**

The simple creation account of Genesis 1 & 2 was not written to fight the science and evolution battles of our day but to set the record straight for their day. Yahweh (The LORD in English – Genesis 2:4) created the universe. Marduk didn't do it, nor did Baal, Atum, Amon so called "gods." Yahweh is the **one** true God who **alone** is God. He created our world and the universe and has set up residence as ruler of all.

Now 'this account' is more believable!

READ GENESIS 1:1-13

When God Speaks, THINGS Happen! (And you thought that the mighty THOR is powerful??)



Highlight: The word **"God"** (v. 1) in Hebrew is **"Elohim"** and refers to his being, his fullness of might and his absolute, unqualified and unlimited energy.

The Hebrew word for **"create"** - *bara* (baw-law), is used in the Old Testament to refer to divine activity only. It seems like the writer wanted to emphasize that people cannot create in the way that God creates. *Bara* is used again in Genesis 1:27 for the creation of people.

The phrase, **"The heavens and the earth"** (in v. 1) refers to the whole of creation. The Old Testament often uses opposing word-pairs to refer to the whole.

The Hebrew phrase for **"Formless and empty"** (in v. 2), *"tohu wabohu"* (to'hoo wa-bo'hoo), describes absolute waste, emptiness and ruin. That was the condition of the universe before God got involved.



Digging Deeper: What was the very first thing that God created? Try to answer without looking at the scripture. _____

If you said light, you are in a "sense" right, but if you think about it more carefully, you will actually realize that he created time. He created time by separating light from darkness.

If light and darkness were the beginning of time, what was the expanse (in v. 7) the beginning of? The ancient Near Eastern cultures

believed that climate originated from the heavens, and the expanse was seen as the mechanism that regulated moisture and sunlight. They viewed the expanse (or sky) as solid, almost like a huge piece of plastic that separated what they believed to be a mass of water above the earth from the earth. So by creating the expanse, God created the regulator of climate that would let water through as needed. He is the One responsible for setting up all the aspects of human existence, like the availability of water, the ability of the land to grow vegetation, the laws of agriculture and the seasonal cycles. He designed our world with everything we need, not only to survive, but also to thrive.



Search Me: Maybe you are looking for something extra in your life? You are hoping to have more confidence, meaning or joy, but you cannot seem find it. If that is you, Genesis 1 brings good news! Why? God specializes in creating something amazing out of nothing. (Read Hebrews 11:3, Psalm 33:6-9.)

Name at least two things that you would love for God to create in you and why? *Example: I would love for him to make me courageous so that I don't feel so invisible around my friends ...*



Dear God, thank you for everything you have created and for setting the record straight as to where I come from. Please create something "good" out of my life and give me the courage to surrender my life to You.

SESSION 2 - IT WAS GOOD

READ GENESIS 1:14-25



Digging Deeper: God confirms His handiwork six times in chapter 1 (see v. 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31) by calling it "good". The Hebrew word "*tob*" (toob) has a broad range of meanings but generally describes **what is desirable, beautiful or right**. A new element is added to God's work in Genesis 1:21-22 when he "**blessed**" the creatures he had made. This is the first time that the word – *bā-rek* (baw-rak) is used in

the Bible. The meaning of the word is "to invoke divine favour" (which in short means to pour out amazing things from heaven). God's blessing enabled mankind (Genesis 1:28; 5:2) and all creatures to reproduce abundantly and enjoy all that he had made for them. We see God's blessing continually being fulfilled (through the genealogies), even though sin escalates as the chapters roll by (from Genesis 3-11).



Google the most interesting fact that you can find on:
The sun: _____

The amount of stars in the universe: _____



Knowing God - 30 Unbelievable facts about the universe



Knowing God: Name at least 3 things that you learned about God from Genesis 1? *Example: Some other god did not create him for he is self-existent, sovereign; self-sufficient and supreme. He created time, placed us in time and is therefore the master of time.* _____



Search Me: Read Psalm 104. What do you find desirable and beautiful about God's creation and why? *Example: I love the clouds on a stormy day as it reminds me of God's splendor and majesty ..* _____

Ask your parents and at least one other disciple about the ways in which they have seen God's power displayed in their lives and write down their

answers. _____



Dear God, (Read Psalm 33:6-9.) What I love about these verses and your creation is ... Please help me to always appreciate the beauty that you have created.

SESSION 3 - IN GOD'S IMAGE

READ GENESIS 1:26-31



Back then: In the ancient Near East the people believed that "the gods" created the world and other demigods (children of the gods) for themselves, for their enjoyment and to bring comfort to their existence. People were only created as an afterthought for when the gods needed slave labour to help provide the conveniences of life (such as food and digging irrigation trenches).

The God of Genesis however has no needs, therefore, he didn't create us as slaves but as servants who would act on his behalf. Through the story of creation, we see that we don't take care of God's needs; he takes care of ours by giving us a world to live in and providing food for us. The ancients believed that an **image** (including an idol) carried the essence of that which it represented. These cultures believed that the god accomplished its work through the idol. Furthermore, kings set up images of themselves in places where they wanted to establish their authority. God made us in His image in order to accomplish His work through us as representatives of His authority.



Knowing God: What do you learn about God from Genesis 1:26-31? *Example: He created us. We matter to him. He wants to have a relationship with us. He wants to work with us.* _____



Soul Fuel: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." Revelation 4:11



Search Me: What do you think are some of the implications (for you) of being created in God's image? (Genesis 1:26-27)

Example: Because we all are made in God's image, we must respect one another and treat one another with dignity and respect. _____

Have you ever been told that you look like one of your parents or siblings? (Who and why?) _____

Have you ever been told that you dress like a friend? (Who and why?) _____

When others point these things out, they are seeing glimpses of that person in you. They recognize that you belong to that family or group of friends. It is the same with God and us. We were created in His image so that others can recognize that we belong to Him, so that we can reflect Him to them.

What are some clear "signs" to **you** that someone belongs to God?

Example: They radiate kindness, are interested in all people (not just their friends).

In what way will people currently recognize you as someone pursuing a relationship with God (or not) and why would you say so? *Example of pursuing: They see me digging into the bible on a consistent basis and becoming a warmer and kinder person as a result of drawing closer to God.*

Example of not pursuing: They see me going to church on a regular basis, but they don't see me living any differently to them. _____

In what other ways would you like to be recognized as someone belonging to God? _____



Dear God, thank you for creating me in your image. Please help me to know how to reflect you better in all that I do. Please help me to see you for all that you are and to understand your purpose for my life. Please help me to get to know you better day by day as I read my bible and build a relationship with you.

SESSION 4 - CREATED IN HIS IMAGE 2



Further Study: Read Ephesians 4:22-24 & Colossians 3:8-10. What do you think the old-self is, that he is referring to? *Example: Previously my whole life revolved around me (what I want, when I want it and how I want it), but now I am more mindful of the needs of my friends and family.*

What makes our desires deceitful and in what way do you think they can corrupt us? *Example: My desire can tell me that there is nothing wrong with just* _____

wanting to have fun all the time, not realizing that my character won't be developed unless I do hard things as well.

What do you think it means to be made new in the attitude of your mind and to put on a new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness? Example: Previously I could think of no one but myself and now I start to see that there are other people who also have a need to be loved, served and noticed.

What are some things that you think you need to get rid of? Examples: Bad attitudes, being lazy and only thinking of myself.

Read Leviticus 19:2. The word holy in Hebrew – *qa-dosh* (kaw-doshe) means to be sacred, pure or set-apart. What do you think it would mean for you to live a "holy" life as a teenager?

Read Ephesians 5:1. In what way do you think you can and should imitate God? Example: Be more helpful to others, like my family, around the house.

SESSION 1 - GOD AND REST

READ GENESIS 2:1-3



Back Then: Human Robots: In some of the ancient creation accounts the Mesopotamian gods were in such desperate need of rest that they created humans to do all their work and meet their needs. In general the Mesopotamian gods were viewed as very needy.



Highlight: Does God get tired? (v. 2): "on the seventh day He rested from all His work." The word "**rested**" is *shabath* (shaw-bath) doesn't indicate that He was tired and now needed rest. God's Sabbath is not a withdrawal from the world and its operations (e.g. "My work is done, it's all yours now good luck!"); instead, it represents Him taking His place at the helm of what He created. This is what Israel's observance of the Sabbath gave recognition to.



Knowing God: What do you learn about God from the "Does God get tired" section above? *Example: He desired to be involved in his creation ...*

READ GENESIS 2:4-14



Back Then: A god that created other gods! The ancient people believed that the focus of the gods was to bring forth other gods and goddesses to meet their needs. All these gods and goddesses were constantly plotting, scheming and killing one another for power. People were created as slave labour by mixing the blood of a slain god with clay.



Digging Deeper: What is the difference between "God" and "the Lord God?" (v. 4-6). Why does the Bible sometimes refer to God as "God" and other times as "**the LORD God**?" Is there a difference?

The word "God" in Hebrew – *Elohim* (El-o-heem) refers to His being, His fullness of might and His absolute, unqualified and unlimited energy. It describes who He is, but it is not His name. His name is "the LORD." The Hebrew word for "**the LORD**" is **YHWH**. This four-letter name (YHWH) is called the tetragrammaton and appears about **6,800** times in the Bible. The Hebrew language has no vowels and therefore we actually have no idea how to pronounce it.

In the ancient times people were forbidden to say the name "YHWH", except by the High Priest in the Holy Temple on the Day of Atonement. (More on the high priest and the Day of Atonement can be found in the booklet on Exodus.) Whenever the High Priest said YHWH, on the Day of Atonement, everyone in the temple court would fall flat to the ground and prostrate himself or herself before God. This happened once a year for hundreds of years until around the 3rd century BC (before Christ).

So, if we have no idea how to pronounce YHWH, how did we get to the name Yahweh? Since YHWH was too holy to be spoken, the Jews replaced it with another name "**Adonia**" which is translated into English as "My Lord." The name Adonia was then used whenever YHWH had to be said in prayer or read in scripture, but couldn't be used outside of prayer and Bible reading. Eventually in 1200BC the vowels of Adonia were combined with YHWH, giving us the name **Yahweh**.

If you wanted to refer to YHWH outside of reading the bible and prayer, you would have to use the name **Hashem** which, when translated to English is, "**The Name**."



Search Me: The people of old treated both God and his name with reverence and awe. What do you think it would mean for you to treat God with reverence and respect every time you open your bible to read from it or when you pray. *Example: To not just look at the bible as a book from God, but rather as the very words of God.*



Dear God, thank you for taking up residence in our cosmos and for meeting my needs. Help me to always live in reverence and awe of who you are and what you have done by sending your son into our world and into my life.

SESSION 2 - WHY DID GOD CREATE US?



Highlight: Creation flows out of who God is. This is a natural expression of his attributes—just as a person with a great singing voice is inevitably going to sing and an artist is destined to draw. God's attributes intrinsically lead to His creative work.

(v. 7) "The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground". In the Hebrew text, the word dust does not refer to our chemical composition, but to our nature, our mortality. The verb "**formed**" – Yî-ser (yat-tshar) suggests a potter making a work of art with his skilled hands. The human body is indeed a work of art; an amazingly complex organism that only the wisdom of God could design and the power of God could create – bara (baw-raw). Although Adam's physical body came from the ground (the name "Adam" means "taken out of the ground"), the life Adam possessed came from God as He breathed life into him.

The word "**Eden**" means either "delight" or "place of much water" and suggests that this garden was a paradise from the hand of God. It was not, strictly speaking a garden for man, but rather it was the garden of God (read Isaiah 51:3, Ezekiel 28:13). The author of Genesis does not view the Garden of Eden simply as Mesopotamian farmland, but as a sanctuary, a place where God dwells and where man should worship Him. The presence of God was the key to the garden, which the author and the audience understood as a given from the ancient worldview. His presence is seen as the fertile source of all life-giving waters.

Bible history begins with a beautiful garden in which man sinned, but the story ends with a glorious "garden city" (read Revelations 21–22) in which there will be no sin.



Knowing God: How does Yahweh differ from the gods that the ancient people believed in? _____

Read 1 Corinthians 3:9, 2 Corinthians 6:1 and 1 Thessalonians 3:2. What do these passages teach you as to why God created us? _____

What do you learn about God from the way that He made Eden and the "garden city" in Revelation 21-22? _____



YouTube it: Knowing God - Why your body is amazing



Search Me: Read Psalm 139:13-14. What do you learn from this passage, with regards to how God made us? _____

What abilities and opportunities do you think God has given you in order for you to partner with Him in building His Kingdom and reflecting His glory? *Example: I am creative and can maybe use my creativity to help within the Kids Zone.* _____

Ask your parents, and at least one friend, what abilities and opportunities they think God has given you, in order for you to build His Kingdom and reflect His glory and write down their answers. _____



Dear God, thank you for skillfully creating every part of my body and being. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:13-14). Please give me insight to know the abilities and opportunities that you have given me in order to build your kingdom and reflect your glory, and give me the wisdom to know how to use them.

SESSION 3 – THE TWO TREES

READ GENESIS 2:1 5



Highlight: Was Adam a landscaper? (v.15) "... to work it and take care of it." Hebrew word-studies suggest that these activities are priestly tasks rather than landscaping or gardening tasks. The garden is a sacred space because of its proximity to God's presence, and people serve him there. Therefore, Adam's duty in the garden was to maintain it as a sacred space, not as a food cupboard. He was to preserve its holiness and its character, just as the priest would do in the future temple.



Knowing God: What do you learn about God from the job that he gave Adam to do? _____



Search Me: In many ways Adam was God's first priest, not just a landscaper. In the New Testament we are all called to be priests (read 1 Peter 2:9-10). What do you think it would mean for you to be a priest? _____

READ GENESIS 2:1 6-17



Highlight: The Two Trees. (v.16-17) God placed two special trees in the middle of the Garden: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:9, 17, 3:3, 22, 24). Continually eating from the tree of life would enable them to live forever (read Genesis 3:22). Eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would enable them to experience knowledge of good and evil, but it would also lead to their death (v.17).

Hebrew word-studies also suggest that this tree is associated with mature wisdom. There is nothing wrong with wisdom, but it must be acquired

in appropriate ways at appropriate times. The tree is not something arbitrarily chosen at random for a test of obedience—the fruit actually gives wisdom equal to that of God. Since they had never experienced evil, Adam and Eve were like innocent children. When they disobeyed God (Genesis 3), they became like Him in being able to discriminate between good and evil, but they became unlike Him in that they lost their innocence. As a result of their disobedience, God booted them out of the garden and by doing so, cut off their access to the tree of life. This would eventually lead to their death.



Search Me: Read Proverbs 16:32. In what ways have you tried to short cut things in your life and why? _____



Dear God, Please give me the heart and wisdom to know how to be the best priest that I can be for you. Give me the wisdom to never try to short cut your plan for attaining different things in my life.

SESSION 4 - THE FIRST MARRIAGE

READ GENESIS 2:18-25



Highlight: Womankind made from one side of all Mankind. Adam notes that Eve is both his bone and flesh. God takes one side of Adam and builds it into a woman. This is not an issue of anatomy; it is an issue of the nature of the ultimate relationship between man and woman (as Genesis 2:24 indicates). All womankind is made from one side of all mankind. The same God who made Adam also made Eve and created her in His own image (Genesis 1:27). Both Adam and Eve exercised authority over Creation (Genesis 1:29).

She is also referred to as his helper (Genesis 2:18, 'ezer'), a word perhaps best understood as "ally." This term does not imply subordination (that she is somehow beneath him). Elsewhere, this word

is often used to describe Yahweh as the helper to Israel (e.g. Read Deuteronomy 33:29; Psalm 33:20; 89:18–20). The Bible commentator Matthew Henry wrote, “She was not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.”



Knowing God: In (v. 23) the man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman’, for she was taken out of man.” Adam’s wording is poetic and glorious. Seeing Eve was both shocking and exhilarating because the match was perfect for him. Adam’s poem focuses on naming the delight of his heart in this newly found companion. The man (ish) names her “woman” (isha) because she had her source in him.

What do you learn about God from the kind of companion he gave to Adam?



Search Me: How would you describe a godly man and why?

Example: He treats his wife with kindness and respect. He serves around the house.

Ask your parents how they would describe a godly man and why?

How would you describe a godly woman and why? Example: She has a gentle and quiet spirit.

Ask you parents how they would describe a godly woman and why? _____



Dear God: (Men) Please help me to always treat women with respect and to always see the gift that you have made them to be. (Women) Thank you that you see me as equal to men. Help me to always remember my role as a godly woman. Help me to surrender to your teaching and training in everything that I do.

SESSION 5 - DIVINE WORD



Further Study: The same "Heavenly Word" that brought the universe into existence also expressed God's will and love to Adam and Eve and to their descendants. As our creator, God has the right to tell us what we can and cannot do. All His commands are good and bring good things to those who obey them.

What do you learn about God's commands from Psalm 19:7-11? Name at least 6 things. *Example: It is perfect and has the ability to revive my soul.* _____

What do you learn about God's word from the following scriptures? Read Psalm 119:105. _____

Read Isaiah 40:8. _____

Ask your parents and another disciple, what it is that they love about God's word and write their answers below. _____

Which of God's commands do you find easy to obey and why? _____

Which of God's commands do you find hard to obey and why? _____

Which of God's commands do you wish weren't there and why? Example: Ephesians 6:1 that says, "Children, obey your parents..." Why? Hey, it is a lot easier to just do what I want. _____

SESSION 1 -THE SECRET TO VICTORY

READ GENESIS 3:1



Digging Deeper: "IF YOU KNOW THE ENEMY AND KNOW YOURSELF, YOU NEED NOT FEAR THE RESULT OF A HUNDRED BATTLES. IF YOU KNOW YOURSELF BUT NOT THE ENEMY, FOR EVERY VICTORY GAINED YOU WILL ALSO SUFFER A DEFEAT. IF YOU KNOW NEITHER THE ENEMY NOR YOURSELF, YOU WILL SUCCUMB IN EVERY BATTLE."

(Sun Tzu, Army General, ancient China +- 490BC)



What do you learn from the quote above?

How well would you say you know Satan and why would you say so?

If you think of Satan, what comes to mind? What does he physically look like and how would you describe him to someone else?

Let's see what the Bible says about Satan.

Read Revelations 12:9. What do you learn about Satan from this passage?

Read 1 Peter 5:8. What do you learn about Satan from this passage?

What did Jesus call Satan in John 8:44 and why do you think he called him that? _____

What did Jesus call Satan in Matthew 13:19 and why do you think he called him that? _____

What do you learn about Satan in 2 Corinthians 11:4 and how do you think he goes about doing that today? _____

What did Paul call Satan in 2 Corinthians 4:4? _____

What is Satan's mission according to 2 Corinthians 4:4? _____



Dear God, please help me to know that Satan is the enemy, open up my eyes to see him for all that he is. Help me to be aware of the fact that he is ...

SESSION 2: THE SECRET OF VICTORY 2



Google it:

Read Revelations 9:11. What do Satan's names "Abaddon" and "Apollyon" mean? _____

Read Ephesians 4:27. What does the word "devil" mean in Greek?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:18. What does the word "Satan" mean in Greek?



Search Me: Read Ephesians 4:27. What footholds do you think Satan currently has in your life and why would you say so?

Speaking of Satan, Paul said in 2 Corinthians 2:11, "we are not unaware of his schemes." How do you think you can become more aware of Satan's schemes?

Ask your parents and another disciple, the two questions above and write down their answers.

Dear God, please help me to know that Satan is the enemy, open up my eyes to see him for all that he is. Please give me the wisdom to be aware of his schemes and the courage to not give him a foothold into my life.

SESSION 3 - WHEN I'M TEMPTED

GENESIS 3:1-5



Highlight: Should I feel guilty when I'm tempted? Being tempted is not a sin, but giving into temptation is. Temptation occurs when Satan entices you with the opportunity to sin (to choose an action that goes against the character and will of God) with the belief that there won't be any painful consequences.



Digging Deeper: Satan's strategy! How does Satan go about doing his work?

1. He Disguises Himself. He didn't approach Eve as a dragon, but disguised himself as a snake (one of God's creatures that He had pronounced "good" in Genesis 1:31). If it will advance his plans, he will even masquerade as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

2. He Questions God's Word and Goodness. In (v.1) Satan said: "Did God really say, 'You may not eat from any tree in the garden?'" Satan's weapon of choice is deception. By questioning what God said, he raised doubts in Eve's mind (read 2 Corinthians 11:3) concerning the truthfulness of God's Word and the goodness of God's heart. He was subtly hinting, "If God really loved you, He would be much more generous. He's holding out on you!" Satan wanted Eve to forget that God had said that they could eat freely of the trees of the Garden and that it was for their own good that He didn't want them to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve's reply shows that she either didn't care about what God said or didn't pay attention to what He said.

Compare Genesis 3:2-3 with Genesis 2:16-17. What are the two things she left out in "quoting God" and what is the one thing that she added?

Why do you think she did that? _____

In what way could the changes that she made, influence her view of God? _____

3. He denied God's Word (Genesis 3:4). "You will not surely die" is a direct contradiction of God's "You will surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Eve should have reminded herself of God's Word, believed it, left the serpent and went and found reinforcement in her husband. But she didn't, she lingered and lingering in the place of temptation always leads to disaster.

What about Adam? Wasn't he just an innocent bystander? Did the man get the short end of the stick, suffering a punishment because of the act of his wife? By no means! He is equally culpable, if not more so.

Genesis 3:6 makes it clear that he was "with her" during the interchange with the serpent, but he remained silent. He should have interrupted. He should have chased the serpent away. When it comes down to it, when he is offered the fruit, he eats it — no questions asked, no protests given.

Adam and Eve together rebelled against their Creator, so they both suffered the horrible consequences.

4. He Promises Pleasure but DOES NOT Mention the PAIN. In

Genesis 3:5 Satan tried to get Eve's attention by saying, "you will be like God." Yeah Right! Jesus said of Satan in John 8:44, "He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Through the centuries, teenagers and adults alike have, in rebellion against God, exchanged His truth for Satan's lies. They believe that they can be their own god to do whatever they like, whenever they like and not suffer consequences.



Dear God, please help me not be so easily deceived by Satan. Open my eyes to his plans and help me to more clearly see the consequences of the temptations that he puts before me.

SESSION 4: WHEN I AM TEMPTED 2

What do you learn from the following two passages with regards to us having to give an account for our lives?

Read Ephesians 2:1-3. _____

Read Matthew 7:13-23. _____

Read Revelation 20:10-15. _____



Search Me: In what ways have you found Satan disguising himself? *Example: A friend enticing me to do something that sounds like a lot of fun, but that I know in my heart of hearts, would not be a good idea.* _____

In what way do you think Satan masquerades as an angel of the light (2 Corinthians 11:14) today? *Example: He tries to make us believe things like, "just try to be a good person and you will be right with God."* _____

In what way has Satan tempted you to **question** God's Word or His goodness and how did you respond to it? Example: If God really loves me why doesn't he give me the things that I want? _____

In what ways has Satan tempted you to **deny** God's Word and how did you respond to it? _____

In what ways has Satan promised you pleasure without mentioning the pain? Example: He would say things like, "don't get too serious about God now, you are still young, you can pay attention to God once you have had a lot of fun." He doesn't mention the fact that the so called 'fun' will harden your heart as the month's roll by until you will have NO interest in God. _____

Ask your parents how Satan has done all of the above to them. _____



Dear God, please help me to be more aware of temptation and to develop a plan to overcome it.

SESSION 5 - THE DISCOVERY

READ GENESIS 3:6-7 & JAMES 1:13-15



Digging Deeper: What do you learn from those passages as to where temptation starts, what path it follows and where it ends?

READ GENESIS 3:8-13

"AN EXCUSE IS THE SKIN OF REASON STUFFED WITH A LIE."

- Billy Sunday



Knowing God: Why do you learn about God from Genesis 3:8-11?



Search Me: Why do you think God asked them a question that He already knew the answer to?

Have you ever felt like hiding from God or people because of what you had done? If so, what happened and did it better your life in any way?

In what way do you think Adam and Eve could have taken responsibility for their sin? _____

Have you ever tried to explain away your sin? What happened and how did you try to explain it away? _____

What are some sins that you think you need to take responsibility for and what do you think taking responsibility for them would look like? *Example: Doing well at school by working out a proper study program, working through old exam papers and getting lots of advice from my teachers.* _____

Ask your parents and another disciple, in what ways they have had to take responsibility for their sin over the years. Write down what you have learned from their experience. _____



Dear God, please help me to clearly see my sin, to take responsibility for it, and to see more clearly how it hurts you and others.

SESSION 6 - THE CONSEQUENCE

READ GENESIS 3:14-19



Highlight: To be **cursed** – ‘*arar* (aw·rar) is to have divine harm invoked upon you (aka to have heaven send massive problems your way). Ouch! That doesn't sound good! Take note that while God cursed the Serpent and the ground, He never cursed Adam and Eve. The word **desire** (v. 16) – *tâshuwqah* (tesh-oo-kaw) is also used in Genesis 4:7, talking about sin's desire to control Cain. In the same way, the woman's desire should be seen not as a "romantic desire" for her husband, but as a desire to control Adam. Thus this curse describes the power struggle between genders even to this day.



Knowing God: What do you learn about God from the following passages?

Read 1 John 4:8, 16. _____

Matthew 25 (yes the whole chapter) as well as Psalm 89:14 and Colossians 3:25. _____

Isaiah 6:3 & 1 Peter 1:16. _____

God's love for sinners in no way diminishes His holy hatred for sin. A holy God (Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 1:16) must deal with sin, for the good of the sinner and for the glory of His name. Therefore He consistently judges sin and does not let human rebellion go unnoticed. He does not completely

reject humanity either. He pursues them with His blessing. Whether it is through tokens of grace (that you will see throughout the stories of Genesis 3-11) or the promise of the Descendant (Genesis 3:15).



Dear God, please help to live in awe and reverence of who you are and of the final judgment that is to come.

SESSION 7: THE CONSEQUENCE 2



The Descendant: Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

This is the first time in the Bible that God speaks of a coming redeemer (**a Descendant of Eve**) that will overcome Satan and crush his head. In its original setting this passage would have been confusing. Who are the offspring (children) of the serpent and the offspring (children) of the woman? How will the serpent’s head be crushed and how would the woman’s heel be struck? As the bible story unfolds, we soon see that humankind is split into two groups, the “godly” and the “ungodly.” Indeed, we will see this split in the stories that follow in Genesis 4–11 as well as in the genealogies (a list of ancestors) that include Cain and Seth, one notably evil and the other following God (Genesis 4:17–26 and Genesis 5). Throughout the Bible, conflict erupts between these two groups. Even though it is unlikely that the original readers of Genesis had a clue about the final outcome of this battle, the New Testament locates its climax in Jesus’ death on the cross (read Colossians 2:15). In Jesus’ crucifixion, the serpent strikes the foot of the (remove the word “seed”) Descendant of the woman (Jesus the Christ), but by dying and being raised again to life, he (Jesus) crushes the serpent’s head.



Highlight: The word Christ is not Jesus’ surname. In Greek, it is – *Christos* (khris-tos), which refers to the fulfiller of Israel’s expectations of a king that would deliver them from their enemies. He was also known as The One or the Messiah.



Knowing God: What do you learn about God from this promise in Genesis 3:15? _____



Search Me: What were the consequences of Satan's (v.14-15), Eve's (v.16) and Adam's sin (v.17-19)?

What are some of the consequences of other people's sin that you currently have to live with? *Example: My parents fight a lot and it is certainly not pleasant to be around them.*

What are some of the consequences of your sin that others currently have to live with? *Example: I can be very moody which make people feel like they need to walk on egg shells when they are around me.*

Ask your parents what some of the consequences of their sins are, that others are currently living with?

READ GENESIS 3:20-22



Knowing God: What do you learn about God from v. 21?



Dear God, thank you so much for sending Jesus into our world in order to bring me closer to you. Please help me to know and

understand that my sin does have consequences, that it does not only affect my relationship with you, but also with people around me.

SESSION 8 - THE GREATEST LOSS

READ GENESIS 3:23-24



Highlight: The **cherubim** are supernatural creatures (referred to over ninety times in the Old Testament) who usually function as guardians of God's presence. (You can read Ezekiel 1 for a further description of what the cherubim looked like.)

Because Adam and Eve disrespected and dishonoured God, He banished them from the garden, cutting off their access to the tree of life. Without the antidote to ageing, death was inevitable. Through all of this, God extended his grace to them by keeping the blessing of living things intact. (They, the animals and plants, were still able to reproduce).

Their overwhelming loss was not that of paradise, but the loss of God Himself. Throughout the rest of the Old Testament, one never hears talk of regaining the comfort of Eden, but rather regaining access to God's presence and the only way that access could be regained would be through, "The Descendant."



Digging Deeper: The account of the fall demonstrates a pattern that will be repeated in the stories that follow in Genesis 4-11 (Cain and Abel, the flood, the tower of Babel). The pattern narrates (1) a sin, followed by (2) a judgment speech of God. However, before (4) God executes the judgment, he (3) gives them a token of his grace (he clothes Adam and Eve, protects Cain, spares Noah and his family etc.).



Knowing God: What do you learn about God from v.23-24? _____



Dear God, please help me to always seek your presence and to know that fulfillment can ultimately only come through having a growing relationship with you.

SESSION 1 - CAIN'S OFFERING REJECTED

READ GENESIS 4:1-6



Highlight: The word offering – *minchah* (min-khaw) refers to an offering, sacrifice, gift, tribute or present. In relation to God, it would refer to an act of worship. The word **“worship”** is derived from Old English – *weorthscipe* (worth-ship), that is, worthiness, dignity, merit, the recognition accorded or due to someone and the paying of homage or respect.

The Hebrew word for worship – *chavah* (khaw-vah) “means, “to bow down.” The two main words in Greek translated to worship in English are – *latreuo* (lat-ryoo-o) that means “divine service” and – *proskuneo* (proskoo-neh-o) that means “to fall down.”

Sin in Hebrew is – *hattā’t* (Khat-taw) which means to miss the mark or to fail to live up to expectations.



Digging Deeper: Was Abel’s offering better than Cain’s? The story doesn’t make it clear why Cain’s offering (or act of worship) wasn’t acceptable, while Abel’s was. It seems to have something to do with the attitude or faith in which the gift was given (read Hebrews 11:4). What it does make clear is that certain acts of worship are acceptable to God, while others are not.

When do you think worship is acceptable to God and when do you think it is not? *Example: Acceptable – when it is given with all of my heart. Unacceptable: When I do it without even thinking. It is just what we do.*

Why do you think Cain became angry? _____

What do you think would have been a better way for him to respond to

his sacrifice not being accepted? _____



Search Me: According to Romans 6:13, we can use our bodies as an instrument for one of two things. What are the two things and what do you think it means to offer your body to it? _____

Read Ephesians 4:1. What do you think it would mean for you to live a life worthy of God? *Example: To live a life that in some way or another bring him honour.* _____



Dear God, please help me to know how to worship you in a God-honouring way as I desire to live a life worthy of you. Help me to know how to use my life as an instrument of righteousness and open my eyes to see (and be disturbed by) any sin that is currently separating me from you.

SESSION 2 - HOW DOES SIN CROUCH?

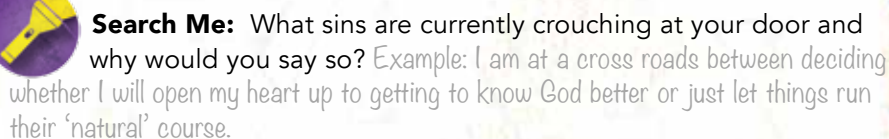
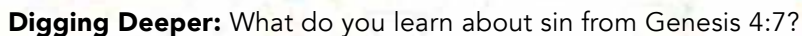
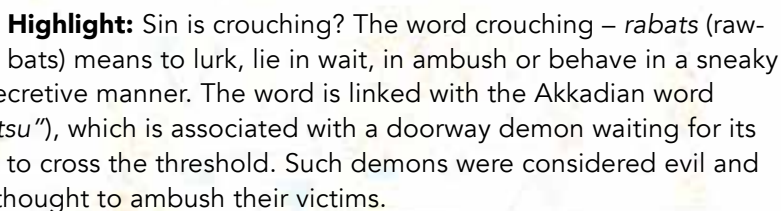
READ GENESIS 4:7



Soul Fuel: "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." Genesis 4:7



Knowing God: What do you learn about God from Genesis 4:7? _____



What would it take, or look like, for you to master it? Example: Get help from a disciple. Study out God's will for my life in the bible. _____

According to the following scriptures, what would help you to tackle these sins in your life?

Read Psalm 119:11.

Read James 5:16.

What are some sins that you need to be open about? Examples: Impurity, lies, bad language etc. _____



Dear God, thank you for showing your grace to me in the following ways ... Please help me to see in what ways sin is crouching "at my door." Help me to fear sin and to understand its impact. Please give me the courage to be open about my sin. Please give me the knowledge and faith to master it.

SESSION 3 - IT'S IN THE ATTITUDE

READ GENESIS 4:8



Digging Deeper: Sin starts with your attitude. Cain's lack of acceptance led him to "feeling sorry for himself", which led to anger, which led to ignoring God's warning, which led to more anger, jealousy, murder and lying to God! With sin, one thing usually leads to another. Often sin begins in our attitudes before it results in our actions. When we allow sin to occupy our lives, it grows! We should grab the opportunity when God gives us the chance to make things right.

What were some of the consequences of Cain's anger? _____

What do you learn about anger from James 1:19-20? _____



Search Me: In what ways have you seen one sin lead to another in your life? Example: You do something wrong and tried to cover it up with a lie. The lie leads to another lie and leads to you avoiding the people that you lied to.

What are some things that REALLY make you angry, and why? Example:
My parents not understanding me. _____

In what way do you usually express your anger? What does it look like?
Example: By running away from the problem. By losing control emotionally. _____

In what ways has your anger affected the people around you? Example:
They are hurt. They are afraid. _____

What do you think would be a godly way to deal with your anger? (Read
Proverbs 29:11, Ephesians 4:26 and Proverbs 15:1.) _____

READ GENESIS 4:9-10



Knowing God: What do you learn about God from Genesis 4:8-10, Hebrews 4:13, Psalm 33:13-15 and Psalm 139:1-4? _____



Search Me: Cain tried to cover-up his sin, but it was to no avail. Is there anything that you are currently hiding in your life, hoping that it would just go away? If so, what is it? Example: Impurity. I try to pretend like there is nothing wrong. I avoid God and people. _____

**Make a decision TODAY to talk to a trusted
disciple about it and get help.**

READ GENESIS 4:11-15



Knowing God: What do you learn about God from Genesis 4:11-15? _____



Dear God, please help me to take hold of my sin before it takes hold of me. Please help me to know how to deal with my anger in a godly manner. Help me to always depend on you above all else. I want to confess ... and say that I am really sorry for hurting you. Please help me to not only confess to you but also to be open with ...

SESSION 4 - WHAT'S WITH THE NAMES?

READ GENESIS 4:16-22



Digging Deeper: Why do I need to know all these names? This particular genealogy simply indicates a passage of time (that years are rolling by) and shows us that God's blessing (Genesis 1:28) is still being carried out even though sin is escalating. (We will talk more about genealogies in Genesis 5.)

READ GENESIS 4:23-24



Digging Deeper: Is there hope against sin escalating? Sin is escalating at a rapid pace. It moves from disobedience and hiding it (Adam and Eve), to murder and hiding it (Cain), to murder and boasting about it (Lamech).

The only ray of hope on that dark day was God's promise that a redeemer (The Descendant) would one day be born of the woman and that he would conquer the serpent (Genesis 3:15). However, now that Abel was dead and Cain, his unbelieving, murdering brother had

wandered off into “no-man’s land”, never to be heard of again. Could God’s promise still be fulfilled, and if so, how?

READ GENESIS 4:25-26



Digging Deeper: Hope - after Abel’s death. God is **sovereign** in all things and His plans aren’t frustrated by the foolish and sinful ways of mankind. The Lord enabled Eve to conceive and bear another son, whom she named Seth (“granted”), because God had appointed him to replace Abel, and through him The Descendant (that would crush the head of the snake) would still come about.

The Bible also says “at that time men began to call on the name of the Lord.” All is not lost. There were still some who sought the presence of God that Adam and Eve had lost.



Google it: What does the word “sovereign” mean?



Knowing God: What do you think it means for God to be sovereign? _____



Dear God, thank you for being sovereign and being in control of everything. Thank you for Jesus and the hope that he brings us every day.

SESSION 5 – GOD IS SOVEREIGN



Further Study: The Sovereignty of God. What do you learn about God from the following passages?

Read Jeremiah 32:17. _____

Read Psalm 103:19.

Read Isaiah 46:10.

Read Job 42:2.

Read 1 Chronicles 16:31.

Read Romans 8:28.

Read Romans 11:33-36.



Dear God ... (Pray through everything that you have learned about God's sovereignty ...)

SESSION 1 - WHY GENEALOGIES?

READ GENESIS 5:1-32

Yes this is a VERY boring chapter (besides v.22 & 24), but read it anyway.



Highlight: More Names? There are a number of these lists of names throughout Genesis (2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1 [36:9]; 37:2) and the rest of the Bible. Hebrew word – *toledoth* (to-led-aw) has been translated in a number of different ways, including “these are the generations”, “this is the family history”, “this is the history of the descendants” and “this is the account.”

What is the purpose of these genealogies? There are several:

1. To show that God’s blessing (of being fruitful and multiplying) is still being carried out even though sin is escalating.
2. To take us through the passage of time.
3. To indicate an important key person per generation.
4. To indicate most of the people in that generation.
5. To indicate the “line of descent” from Adam to Noah to Abraham to David to The Descendant.



The Descendant: In Genesis 3:15 God made a promise about a particular “Descendant” later on called the Messiah (John 1:41) or the Christ (Matthew 1:1). Both the words (Messiah and Christ) mean “Anointed One” or “Special One.”

The whole Bible is most significantly about *This Descendant*. Tracing the family line of descendants from Adam and Eve, keeps us tuned in to what is most important in the Bible’s story, or really *who* is most important — the promised Descendant (Special One) who will one day be born and will do battle with the offspring of the ancient serpent and win.



Dear God, thank you that you did not give up on the human race after Adam, Eve and Cain, but that you left us with continual hope. Please help me to never give up on getting to know you through the Bible, even though some parts seem boring and very difficult to understand.

SESSION 2 - READ BETWEEN THE NAMES

READ GENESIS 5:1-32

You only have to read Genesis 5:1-32 again if you can't remember it from the previous session ...



Digging Deeper: Who was the oldest dude in the scripture above, and how long did he live for? _____

What depressing phrase appears eight times in Genesis 5? _____

What do you think that phrase means? (You will find a clue in Romans 5:12.) _____

Read Genesis 5:22; 24. What did Enoch do "with God" and what do you think that means? _____



The Descendant: "For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:17 – The New Living Translation)

What hope does Jesus bring to our very bleak situation with regards to sin? _____



Soul Fuel: "Enoch walked with God for 300 years... then he was no more because God had taken him away". Genesis 5:22, 24



Search Me: What do you think it would mean for you to “walk with God?” Example: To seek his guidance in everything that I do. _____

What does the Bible say it means to walk with God according to ...
Read Psalm 27:4. _____

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. _____

Read Galatians 5:22-24. _____

Read 1 Samuel 3:10. _____

Ask your parents and at least one other disciple what they think it means to walk with God? _____



Dear God, thank you so much for Jesus, and that I can have hope in Him. Please help me to get to know Him better and allow Him to have full reign in and over my life. Please show me the things that are currently preventing me from fully surrendering my life to you. Help me to know what it means to walk with you and to include others in my journey as I do so.

SESSION 3 - WALKING WITH GOD



Further Study: What do you learn about walking with God from these passages?

Read Matthew 18:1-4. _____

Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. _____

Read 2 Corinthians 7:1. _____

Read John 13:34-35. _____

Read James 3:13. _____

Read 1 John 2:4-6. _____

SESSION 1 - INCREASING SIN

READ GENESIS 6:1-8



Back Then: Ancient Mesopotamia had 3 major accounts of the flood (the Gilgamesh Epic, the Eridu Genesis and the myth of Atrahasis.) The big motivator behind these floods was that "the gods" were tired of the "noise" of humanity (because of overpopulation) and so decided to destroy humanity. Since the gods were lazy, they saved a few humans to continue to do their work and meet their needs. This is very different to the biblical account of the flood, where the world was destroyed because of its moral failure, not divine inconvenience.



Highlight: Who are the Sons of God in v. 2 and 4? Some scholars think they were angels, others that they were a line of ancient kings, yet others that they were heroes of old. The reality is, no one knows for sure. The only thing that we can clearly see is that sin is increasing.



Knowing God: What do you learn about God from Genesis 6:5-7, 12-13, 2 Peter 3:1-14? _____

Why do you think Noah found favour in God's eyes? _____



Soul Fuel: "Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming." 2 Peter 3:11



Search Me: v. 6 says that God was "grieved" by sin and that "His heart was filled with pain" to the point of destroying the world. What sinful actions of others causes you the most pain and why? _____

What is currently the "biggest" sin in your life and how do you feel about that sin? *Example: I am living a secretive (or double) life and it doesn't really bother me.*

Throughout Genesis 6-9 God used Noah and his family to fulfill his purposes? In what ways do you think God would like to use you for his purposes? *Example: He would like to use me to help my friends to know him better and become followers of Jesus.*



Dear God, please open my eyes to see what you see in my life. Help me to have a deeper understanding as to how you feel about MY sin and to know how it is hurting you and those who are close to me. Give me the wisdom and sincerity to know how to appropriately apologize to both you and those whom I have hurt through it.

SESSION 2 - NOAH'S ARK

READ GENESIS 6:9-22



Highlight: Did you know that ships today are built according to the same dimensions as Noah's ark (v. 15-17)?

What on earth is a **covenant** (v.18)? Covenant making was a custom common in the ancient world. It was a bond formed between individuals or groups in which they promised under oath to do or not do certain things.



Youtube it: Knowing God - Noah's Ark



Digging Deeper: What are the three things that you learn about Noah from Genesis 6:9 and what do you think they mean? (Don't

look at the answers on the next page till you have written down yours.)

Read Genesis 6:22. What do you learn about Noah from this passage?

Read Hebrews 11:7. What do you learn about Noah from this passage?



Search Me: *(Look at the answers to the question on Genesis 6:9 on the next page before answering the following.)*

What do you think it would mean for you (personally) to live "righteously" and "blamelessly" among the people of our time?

Example: Somehow I have to stand out. Maybe by how I walk, talk and spend my time?

Ask another disciple what they think it would mean for **you** to live "righteously" and "blamelessly"?

What changes would you like to make in your life towards what the person said with regards to your question above?

What do you think it would mean for you to “walk with God?”

What are some of the toughest things in the Bible for you to obey and why?

How do you think you can overcome this (referring to the questions above)?

What do you think it would mean for you to take steps of faith towards God’s will for your life? (Ask for help from a mature disciple and your parents if you don’t know how to answer this.)

Answers: *The Bible says that Noah lived righteously and blamelessly amongst the people of his time, but what does that mean?*

Genesis 6:9 is the first passage in the bible in which the word righteous—saddîq (tsad-deek) is used. To be “righteous” (saddîq) is to conform to an ethical or moral standard and to be just and lawful. (Noah was also called a preacher of righteousness according to 2 Peter 2:5.)

“Blameless”—tā-mîm (taw-meem) doesn’t mean “sinless”, but rather “having integrity, being whole or unblemished.” It was used to describe the animals acceptable to God for sacrifice (Read Exodus 12:5.) Noah’s conduct was such that his neighbors couldn’t find fault with him (Philippians 2:12–16). He stood out amongst the people of his time.



Dear God, please help me to constantly take steps of faith towards you. Help me to know what a privilege it is to walk with you and please give me the courage and insight to know how to live righteously and blamelessly among the people of my time.

SESSION 1 - WHAT'S IN A NUMBER?

READ GENESIS 7:1-24



Highlight: Did you know that there are special numbers in the Bible?

7: Seven is the number of **completeness and perfection** (both physical and spiritual). There are 7 days in a week and God's Sabbath is on the 7th day. The number seven is used 735 times in the Bible. Some examples: Noah led the clean animals into the ark in sets of 7 pairs for each species. Joshua led the Israelites, with the Ark of the covenant, 7 times around Jericho. When Jesus fed the 4,000, his Disciples picked up 7 basketfuls of food afterwards.

12: The number 12 symbolized **completeness or totality**. Jacob had 12 sons that became the leaders of the 12 tribes of Israel. Jesus chose 12 men to be His Apostles. The New Jerusalem, which is made in heaven and brought to the earth by God himself, contains 12 gates made of pearl which are each manned by an angel. Over each gate will be one of the names of Israel's 12 tribes. The number 12 appears 187 times in the Bible.

40: The Bible uses 40 to denote **completion and fulfillment**. It is used 146 times throughout the Bible. It is the traditional Hebrew number for the duration of a trial of any kind, when times are hard and a person's faith is tested. The Israelites slaved in hard bondage under the Egyptian pharaohs for 400 years, 40 x 10. God forced them to wander in the Wilderness of Sin, throughout the Sinai Peninsula, for 40 years as punishment for their "stiff-necked unbelief." Moses' life is described in the book of Exodus in three sections of 40 years each. Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai receiving God's Law and another 40 days on the mountain after the golden calf episode. Elijah spent 40 days on the same mountain worshipping God. There are tons of references to "40 days and 40 nights" throughout the Bible. The most notable are the 40 days and nights of rainfall that caused the Flood, Jesus fasted for 40 days and he remained on earth for 40 days after his resurrection, appearing to the Apostles and teaching them, before ascending to heaven.



Digging Deeper: See if you can figure out how many days Noah spent on the ark counting from the day that God shut the door behind him to the day that he set foot on the land?

(Answer is on the next page.)

Answer: The rain stopped after 40 days, which would be on the twenty-seventh day of the third month (Genesis 7:12). However, the water continued to rise for another 110 days and reached its peak after 150 days (Genesis 7:24). At that time, the ark rested on a mountain peak of Ararat (Genesis 8:4). It would take 150 days for the water to recede (Genesis 8:3), which takes us to the twelfth month, the seventeenth day. Two months and ten days later, Noah and his family left the ark and set the animals free (Genesis 8:14). From the day that God shut them in, they had been in the ark for a year and ten days.



Search Me: According to Genesis 7:1, God found Noah to be the only righteous person of his generation. What do you think God currently knows you for? *Example:* I would like to be known as someone who stands up for what is right, but I am most likely known as someone who compromises on my beliefs in order to fit in with my friends. _____

What would you like Him to know you for? *Example:* Trustworthiness. That he can depend on me to represent him well. _____



Dear God, please give me clarity as to how you would like me to be known. I desperately need you to save me from myself, from my own sin, and from the culture that we live in.

SESSION 2 - DRY LAND!

GENESIS 8:1-22



Highlight: What is a **Burnt offering** (v. 20)? The animals that Noah sacrificed were a symbol of his total devotion and dedication to God, seemingly in response to God's faithfulness in sparing him and his family. The words "pleasing aroma" indicates that it was acceptable and pleasing to God. At this stage in the Bible story, God hadn't made it clear as to what an acceptable offering would be.



Knowing God: Read Genesis 8:1; Genesis 19:29; Genesis 30:22; 1 Samuel 1:11, 19 and Psalm 9:12. What do you learn about God from these scriptures? _____



Digging Deeper: In order to bring back “stability” to the earth, God had to eliminate the source of “chaos” (that was people). To do so, He brought back the waters (that we encountered first of all in Genesis 1:2) over the created world with Noah’s ark floating on top of it. From there we almost have a re-enactment of creation. The waters separate, the dry land emerges (just as it had back in Genesis 1), we have the people brought forth and the animals brought forth (just as we had in Genesis 1). So in one way it was the end, but in another it was only the beginning, a new beginning. Noah and his family begin to repopulate the world, as was anticipated in the initial blessing and now is reaffirmed in the blessing to Noah.

The flood represents God’s judgment, His willingness to judge, but also His compassion and His grace as He is giving a second chance to humankind in this re-creation narrative.

(v. 13-16) – After being in the ark for an entire year, Noah saw that the ground was dry, but he didn’t make a move out of the ark until the Lord told him to leave. One month and twenty-seven days later, that order came and he obeyed it. He trusted God and did not lean on his own understanding.

What is the first thing that Noah did when he got off the ark and why do you think he did it (v. 20)? _____



Search Me: Have you ever felt forgotten by God? When and why? _____

Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11. What do you learn from this scripture as to why God sometimes allows us to go through difficult times? _____

Proverbs 3:5-6. What do you think it means to trust God and not to lean on your own understanding? _____

What do you think it means to "in all your ways acknowledge him?" _____

What do you think he means by saying "and he will make your paths straight?" _____

How would **you** describe a life that is pleasing to God in today's day and age? _____

How do you think **God** would describe a life that is pleasing to Him in today's day and age? _____



Dear God, thank you for always remembering me. Help me to trust you like Noah did, particularly when it comes to ... Help me to acknowledge you in all my ways, particularly when it comes to ... Help me to (through the help and guidance of Jesus) live a life that would be pleasing to you and open my eyes to see you for who you really are.

DID YOU
KNOW?

SESSION 1 - BEING BLESSED

READ GENESIS 9:1-7



Highlight: The sense of the word **Blessed** – *bā-rek (baw-rak)* in v. 1 and 7 is “to invoke divine favour” (aka pour out amazing things from heaven). God’s blessing enabled mankind and all creatures to reproduce abundantly and enjoy all that He had made for them. We see God’s blessing continually being fulfilled (through the genealogies) even though sin escalates as the chapters roll by (from Genesis 3-11).



Knowing God: What do you learn about God from Genesis 9:1-7?

READ GENESIS 9:8-17



Highlight: (v. 9) What is a covenant? Covenant making was a custom common in the ancient world. It was a bond formed between individuals or groups in which they promised under oath to do or not do certain things.

READ GENESIS 9:18-29

All that begins well doesn’t necessarily end well.



The Descendant: Read Genesis 9:1, 7, 18. All of Noah’s descendants were important to the plan of God, especially the family line of Shem. From that line, Abraham would be born, the man God chose to found the Jewish nation. From that nation would come the Redeemer who would fulfill Genesis 3:15 and crush the serpent’s head.



Digging Deeper: How do you think Noah moved from being righteous, blameless and walking with God to getting drunk and lying around naked?

Read Matthew 24:12-13. What do you think is the cause of love growing cold for God? Example: Allowing more and more 'little sins' into your life. _____

How would you describe someone's life whose love towards God has grown cold? Example: They go to church and teen devotionals, but God's word does not impact or influence their heart. _____



Search Me: If one's love for God could be measured on a scale of 1-10 (with 1 being cold and 10 being red-hot) where would you currently place yourself on the scale and why? Example: I would say a 5, because I am neither good nor bad. _____

In what way do you think you can increase your love for God? Example: By getting more help from others who are close to him and spending more time reading my bible with an open heart. _____

Read 1 Corinthians 10:12. What do you think someone looks like that think they are standing firm? Example: They don't seek a lot of spiritual help in their lives. They are not pursuing spiritual growth. _____

What are some things that you think can safeguard you from falling?

Example: Constantly being open about what is happening in my heart and in my life.



Dear God, I desperately need your spiritual blessing in my life.

Please pour yourself into me again and again. Please help my love for you to grow from strength to strength as I seek you with all of my heart.

SESSION 1 - THE TABLE OF NATIONS

READ GENESIS 10



Highlight: This chapter talks about the nations and the people that came from Noah's three sons. It's not an accident or a coincidence that we end up with seventy names. The idea of seventy names expressed completeness in the ancient world.



The Descendant: In Genesis 3:15 God made a promise about a particular Descendant later on called the Messiah (John 1:41) or the Christ (Matthew 1:1). Both the words Messiah and Christ mean, "The Anointed One" or Special One. The whole of the Bible is most significantly about THIS Descendant. Tracing the family line of descendants from Adam and Eve right up to Noah, and from Noah to Seth, and then to Abraham (Genesis 10, 11:10-26) keeps us tuned in to what is most important in the Bible's story, or really *who* is most important — the promised offspring, The Descendant or special one — who will one day be born and will do battle with the offspring of the ancient serpent and win (Genesis 3:15).

READ GENESIS 11:1-9

"THOSE WHOM THE GODS WANT TO DESTROY THEY FIRST MAKE DRUNK WITH POWER." - Charles Beard



Back Then: The central feature of these early cities in southern Mesopotamia was the temple complex. Often the city as a whole formed the temple complex, other times it would consist out of two sections within the city. The first section would be the temple itself (where the "local deity or god" was worshipped) with the second section a tower (called a Ziggurat) built right next to it. These Ziggurats were structures designed to provide stairways from the heavens (the gate of the gods) to earth so that the gods could come down into their temple and into the town and bring blessings to the people. At the same time it also gave the people an opportunity to meet the needs of "the god" with things like food and clothing. YES, these were very needy



"gods!" The Ziggurats had no rooms, chambers or passageways of any sort on the inside. The structure itself was simply made to hold up the stairway. At the top was a small room for the god, equipped with a bed and a table supplied regularly with food. In this way the god could refresh himself on his way down to earth.



Soul Fuel: "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:2



Digging Deeper: Read Genesis 11:4. Why did they decide to build a tower? _____

Why do you think they wanted to make a name for themselves? _____

Read Isaiah 43:6–7. Why did God create us? _____

The word **glory** – *Kā-bôd* (kaw-bode) refers to a state of high honour, splendor or wealth.



Dear God, please help me to have a greater understanding of who Jesus is and how special He is. Please give me the wisdom and the heart to know what it means to live for your glory.

SESSION 2 - EVERY ONE IS IMPORTANT

READ GENESIS 11:1–9

(Yep, you need to read it again.)



Soul Fuel: "Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth — everyone who is called by my name, whom I

created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” Isaiah 43:6–7



Search Me: In what ways do we try to make a name for ourselves today? Example: We will do anything to be recognized, noticed or accepted by our friends. _____

What do you think it means to display God’s glory and to live a life that would make his name great? Example: Somehow my life needs to magnify who he is. In other words, my life should somehow point people to him. _____

What are some ways that you can personally display God’s glory and make His name great? Example: By being warm and kind to all people and not just those with whom I naturally connect with. _____

Read Proverbs 16:18 What are some big plans that you have made in the past that simply didn’t work out? _____

What do you think it means to be “prideful” and how can that lead to your fall? Example: Always thinking that I know what I am doing. Always knowing better whether I say it out loud or think it in my heart. _____

Ask your parents and another disciple, how they have seen this (pride before the fall) play out in your life? _____



Soul Fuel: “Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31



The Descendant: What humankind can’t achieve by means of our “proud towers,” Jesus Christ (The Descendant) has achieved by dying on a humiliating cross. All who surrender and submit their lives to Him are one in Him (Galatians 3:27) and will share heaven together, regardless of race, nation, language, or tribe (Revelation 7:9).

READ GENESIS 11:10-32



The Descendant: Here we go AGAIN! Another bunch of Names!!! The important thing about this genealogy is that it records the faithfulness of God in watching over His people and fulfilling His promises (irrespective of their shortcomings). What to us is only a list of names was to God a “bridge” from the appointment of Shem to the call of Abraham through whom He would build a nation, from whom the Descendant (Anointed One – Christ – Messiah) would come.



Dear God, thank you for setting a plan into motion thousands of years ago that would bring a saviour into my life today. Please help me to always live for Him and to appreciate Him. Give me the courage to stop living for my plans and my ways and to start developing a heart to live for you, your glory and your plans.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

This booklet doesn't have an author because everything in the booklet comes from one of the sources below in one way or another. For a further and deeper study, please consult these sources.

The IVP Bible background commentary: Old Testament. Matthews, V. H., Chavalas, M. W., & Walton, J. H. (2000).

Faithlife Study Bible (Logos Bible Software). Barry, J. D., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Mangum, D., & Whitehead, M. M. (2012)

NKJV, Ignite, Paperback, Multicolor: The Bible for Teens. Nelson, Thomas. (2013)

NKJV, Extreme Teen Study Bible, Real Faith for Real Life. Nelson, Thomas. (2012)

Chronological Life Application Study Bible NLT by Tyndale. (2012)

The Bare Bones Bible® Handbook for Teens: Getting to Know Every Book in the Bible (The Bare Bones Bible® Series). George, Jim. (2008)

How to read Genesis. Longman, Tremper, III. (2005)

How to Read the Bible Book by Book. Fee, Gordon D.; Stuart, Douglas. (2002)

The Bible Story Handbook: A Resource for Teaching 175 Stories from the Bible. Walton, John H; Walton, Kim E. (2010)

OT302 Book Study: Genesis. Walton, J.H. (2016)

OT303 Theology of Genesis. Baker, D.W. (2016)

The NIV Application Commentary: Genesis. Walton J.H. (2001)

The New American Commentary: Genesis (Volume 1A). Mathews, Kenneth A. (1996)

Word Biblical Commentary, Volume 1: Genesis 1-15. Wenham, Gordon J. (1998)

Be Basic. Wiersbe, Warren. (1998)

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 2: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers. Gaebelein, F. E., Sailhamer, J. H., Kaiser, W. C., Jr., Harris, R. L., & Allen, R. B. (1990).





