

Fall 2022 Calendar

Week 1	September 15	Genesis 1-3	Intro/Study
Week 2	September 22	Genesis 1-3	Teach & Application
Week 3	September 29	Genesis 4-6	Study
Week 4	October 6	Genesis 4-6	Teach & Application
Week 5	October 13	Genesis 7-9	Study
Week 6	October 20	Genesis 7-9	Teach & Application
Week 7	October 27	Genesis 10-12	Study
Week 8	November 3	Genesis 10-12	Teach & Application
Week 9	November 10	Genesis 13-15	Study
Week 10	November 17	Genesis 13-15	Teach & Application

Welcome to Women's Bible Study!

We are so glad you are here and have chosen to invest your time with us, doing one of the most important activities you can do. It is my strong conviction that a woman who knows and studies God's word and so in turn becomes a Godly woman (more and more!), has an influence and impact that is incalculable. The fruit will look a bit different in each of our lives, but the opportunity to glorify God and build His kingdom is front and center every single day.

You cannot measure the impact your walk with Jesus and your application of His word to your life will have. You will influence and impact your spouse, your children, your extended family, your church family, and your community. Historically, wherever Christians have been--there has been transformation on the place they reside. It may be small, it may be large, or somewhere in between, but their presence has been felt and had an effect.

Live each day for our precious Savior. Seek to "occupy until He comes back!" The foundation, the power, the grounding for living this way is God's word. It is a sweet sweet thing to study the word with sisters in Christ. What a privilege we have that we can gather and do this.

Feel free to contact me with questions or conversations.

Much love in Christ,

Luann Kirkham
Women's Ministry Director
208-818-8022

Some thoughts and guidelines:

Please don't use commentaries or study bible notes until you have completed the homework and earnestly considered the text. This will keep you in the process of discovering what it actually says and then working towards understanding its meaning and then applying it to your life (observation, interpretation, and application). When you read initially and start having questions and jump right to notes or commentary you are just taking in another person's conclusion. You will gain a much greater understanding and benefit if you learn to wrestle with it yourself. Commentaries and notes are certainly useful, but we first must engage with the text on our own. Feel free to consult outside sources when you have completed observation and interpretation.

Please use cross references. Other passages can explain a lot of things we read.

Please use dictionaries (English ones—like Websters or whatever your phone app is)

Please use other translations of the bible. You can get a fuller understanding by reading several.

You may want to print out a copy of Genesis 1-15 so you can really mark it up. (biblegateway.com) Repeated phrases, words, or ideas can be marked, things that stood out to you, and/or questions that you have.

Here are some helpful resources:

Webster's 1828 Dictionary (webstersdictionary1828.com)

Blueletterbible.com (commentaries, concordance, word meanings)

Openbible.info (search cross references)

Biblegateway.com

calvaryrathdrum.com/messages (if you miss a message--look under Luann Kirkham/Genesis)

Genesis 1-15 Introduction

Who wrote Genesis:

What kinds of questions does it answer? What are some of the topics that this book establishes foundations for?

When was it written?

What is the setting?

In what style was it written?

What are you most looking forward to in this study?

Week 1: Genesis Chapters 1-3

Chunk 1 – 1:1-19

Observation:

1. Who is the subject in vs. 1?
2. What did God create first? From what did He create them? How did He create them?
3. Describe the condition of the earth in vs. 2. What other elements are mentioned?
4. Who is introduced in vs. 2?
5. What did God create in vs. 3? How did He create it? How did it allow for the creation of time?
6. What did God create on Day 2? How did He create it? How is it different from what He created in vs. 1?
7. What did God create on Day 3? How did He create it? What is the repeated theme pertaining to the vegetation?
8. What did God create on Day 4? How did He create it? (Do you see a theme here?) For what purpose(s) were they created?
9. What does God say about His creations at the end of each day?

Definitions:

Created (Create):

Heavens:

Expanse:

Cross-References:

Psalm 102:25

Isaiah 40:21-22

Jeremiah 10:12

Interpretation:

1. Was there anything/anyone before God? Where did God come from? What was before “the beginning”? What process do you think God used to create the heavens and the earth?
2. In the original Hebrew, the word “God” in verse 1 is *Elohim*, the plural of *Eloha*, meaning “a deity or the Deity.” In Hebrew, the suffix “-im” can have two functions. 1) It can serve as a “plural of majesty”, elevating the greatness of the single noun to which it is attached, or it makes the noun plural. How do you think *Elohim* was intended to be understood by the original audience? What concept might it be pointing to?
3. Did God create everything from nothing? Is this easier/not as easy to believe as the Big Bang Theory (nothing created everything from nothing)? Does it matter?
4. What is the significance of how God created everything – by speaking it into existence?
5. God created certain things on certain days. What does this tell you about the nature of God?

6. God created vegetation on Day 3, with “seed in them, after their kind”. Why do you think He created them in this way? What does it reveal about His plans for the earth?
7. Vss. 14-19 describe the expansion of the concepts of light, space, and time. How does God do this? What do you think the original “light” was in vs. 3? Why do you think the day was described as “evening and morning” rather than how we normally think of a day as “morning and evening”?

Chunk 2 – 1:20–2:3

Observation:

1. List the living beings God created in vss. 20-23. Where were their habitats? What did God tell them to do?
2. List the living beings God created in vss. 24-25. Where were their habitats? What is the refrain used for these created things?
3. Is there anything unusual about the beginning of vs. 26?
4. How is the creation of man different from the creation of everything previously created? How is man’s creation described in vs. 27?
5. What did God tell man to do after He created them?
6. What does God designate as food for both man and animals?

7. What does God proclaim over His creations at the end of each day? What is special about the end of Day 6?

8. What happened on Day 7? What did God do on that day?

Definitions:

Kind:

Image:

Good:

Rest:

Cross-References:

Psalm 8

Matthew 19:4

Mark 10:6

Interpretation:

1. Do you interpret each of the seven days as 24-hour periods, or something more like “ages”? Does it matter?
2. What makes God’s creation “good”?
3. Who is God talking with in vs. 26? How did He make us “in His image”?

4. In vs. 27, it states God created man male and female. How is that making us “in His image”? Why does He not also mention that He made all the creatures in vss. 20-25 male and female?

5. How do you see man’s primary role in this new creation? What authority did they have? What was their purpose?

6. Do you see death yet in the world? What are all the created beings eating?

7. Why did God rest on Day 7? How do we typically interpret the idea of needing to rest? What does it say about God’s character that He wanted man to rest every seven days?

Observation & Interpretation for the remainder of the passage:

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Complete these steps for each chunk of scripture in the passage.

A key component for observation and interpretation is to read the passage several times. Read it a couple of times a day. Use different translations. This is very important for understanding the passage within its context and for seeing what is actually in the text and gaining meaning. If you don’t have time for anything else, read the passage several times!

Prayer Requests

Week 2: Genesis chapters 1-3

Teaching Notes

Application:

1. God is a God of order, not chaos. How does that truth help you navigate in the world? How does it help you discern what is of God and what is of the enemy?
2. How do the first three chapters help you understand purposeful creation by a Creator as opposed to the Big Bang Theory and life randomly coming into existence? Would you be able to make an argument for/against either of these concepts?
3. At the beginning of Genesis, God introduces the idea of relationships. God-Creation; God-Humans; Humans-Humans; and Humans-Creation. What qualities did each of these relationships have here in the beginning? In what state are they now? What current events/issues come to mind that go directly back to these core relationships?
4. The Bible is very clear that God created two genders: male and female. Both genders were made in the image of God and given specific roles in order to glorify Him. In marriage, they point to the Christian's relationship to Jesus. It's no surprise that these truths are constantly under the attack of Satan. How would you appeal to the heart (or mind) of someone who believes there are 70+ genders? That men can get pregnant? That sex outside of marriage is acceptable and normal?
5. Vss. 3:1-5 describes Satan speaking to Eve through the serpent. What can you learn from this brief encounter about how Satan operates, and how you can recognize him?

6. How do you try to hide your sins from God? Do you grab a fig leaf and hope He doesn't notice? When He convicts you, do you rationalize your decision, blame others (as Adam and Eve did), or immediately repent? Do you think the story may have turned out differently if Adam and Eve had confessed right away instead of hiding themselves from Him? "Where are you?"

7. Does the revelation of 3:15*, describing God's plan to reconcile man back to Himself, open a new understanding of the entire 66 books of the Bible for you? Would you be able to explain to a non-Christian how the entire Bible begins and ends with Jesus? Can you point to specific ideas or images just from these first three chapters of Genesis?

[*3:15-a bruised or a crushed heel is not a deadly wound, but a crushed head is fatal. God was telling mankind that Satan would one day bruise Jesus Christ the Messiah, but the Son of God would crush the head of the serpent once and for all. This is the first glimpse of God's plan of salvation for mankind.]

8. Death enters the garden in vs. 3:21 when God kills an animal to clothe Adam and Eve and cover their shame. This is the first blood spilled. How did this change relationships – between God-Creation; God-Humans; Humans-Humans; and Humans-Creation?

9. Describe why God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden was both a punishment and an act of mercy. Has God ever denied something that you really wanted, and you later found out it was an act of mercy?

10. God's foundational truths, built on solid rock, are very clearly stated in these first three chapters of Genesis and are repeated throughout Scripture. The beliefs of the world are built on shifting sands: ever-changing, chaotic, and often contradictory. What does this tell you about spiritual warfare? Who is the real enemy? How can we more effectively share God's truth with the world?

Personal Application:

1. What does this passage reveal about God and His character?
2. How do you respond to the account of God's created order? How do you respond to the idea that God has ordained levels of authority?
3. What do you learn about God's love from these chapters and how does this affect your relationship with Him?
4. Who has headship over you in your life? How much of God's headship do you submit to in your relationship with Him?

Prayer Requests

Week 3: Genesis Chapters 4-6

Chunk 1 – 4:1-16

Observation:

1. How is the creation and birth of Cain described in vs. 1?
2. What were the vocations of Cain and Abel?
3. Why do Cain and Abel bring offerings to the Lord?
4. What is the Lord's reaction to each of their offerings?
5. What was Cain's reaction to the Lord's disregard of his offering?
6. What was the Lord's counsel to Cain, and what did Cain then do?
7. How does the Lord react after Cain murders Abel? What does He say about Abel's blood?
8. What is the curse on Cain? How does Cain react?
9. How is the Lord merciful to Cain? Where does Cain go?

Definitions:

Regard:

Keeper:

Vengeance:

Cross-References:

Hebrew 11:4

Job 5:2

Romans 2:6-10

Interpretation:

1. In vs. 1, what is Eve's perception of the role the Lord plays in Cain's creation? Why do you think she believes this?
2. Do you think the Lord asked man to make offerings to Him, or do you think man started offering them on his own? Are they "offerings" or "sacrifices"?
3. Why did the Lord have regard for Abel's offering but not Cain's?
4. What was the ultimate cause of Cain's attitude?
5. Why does the Lord ask Cain about the location of Abel, and what Cain had done? Didn't He already know? What does Cain mean in vs. 9 with his flippant response? Didn't he learn anything from his mom and dad?

6. What is the symbolism of blood in vss. 10-12? How does this affect Cain's vocation?

7. Why does Cain feel his punishment is too great to bear? Who else is on the earth at this point to kill him?

8. What is missing from Cain's response to the Lord's announcement of punishment?

9. What is the sign that the Lord appoints for Cain?

10. The Lord tells Cain he will be a vagrant and a wanderer, yet Cain immediately settles in Nod. Did the Lord mean this literally or figuratively?

11. In vs. 16, "...Cain went out from the presence of the Lord..." What does this mean on God's part? On Cain's part?

Chunk 2 - 4:17-26

Observation:

1. What does Cain do immediately after settling in Nod?
2. How many generations are there between Cain and Lamech?
3. What sin, recorded for the first time in the Bible, does Lamech commit in 4:19?
4. What are the vocations of Cain's descendants?
5. What sin does Lamech boast about? How does he twist God's mercy for Cain to glorify himself?
6. What is the name of Adam and Eve's third son? How does Eve describe him?
7. What do men start doing at the end of Chapter 4?

Definition:

Avenge:

Cross-References:

Genesis 2:24

Matthew 18:22

Psalms 116:17

Interpretation:

1. Who could Cain's wife have been? We don't know her name, but what are the possibilities?
2. Why do you think Cain built a city, a permanent settlement, even though God cursed him to be a vagrant and a wanderer?
3. What do you notice about the list of vocations of Cain's descendants?
4. How is Cain's sin affecting the generations after him? Why did God allow this sinful family to continue and seemingly thrive?
5. What do you think it means that "men began to call upon the name of the Lord"?

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Week 4: Genesis Chapters 4-6

Teaching Notes

Application:

1. We see in the beginning of Chapter 4 that service and sacrifice to God is a heart issue. He sees our motivation and attitude. When they aren't aligned with Him, we become easy prey to sin. How can we be more like Abel and less like Cain?
2. In Cain's story, we see 1) Cain committing the sin, 2) conviction of the sin by God, 3) Cain's denial of the sin (adding sin to sin), 4) punishment for the sin by God, 5) Cain's complaint about the punishment, and 6) mercy given to Cain by God. What's missing in this sequence of events? Is this why Cain's line was cursed, and all his descendants lost in the Flood? Do you ever take God's mercy for granted and not repent?
3. With Cain's descendants, we see the beginning of generational sin. The effects of sin can be passed down in families. What is God's solution for generational sin? Do you have personal experience with generational sin?
4. When you read the genealogy of Adam to Noah, you see that Adam died just a century before Noah was born. Adam could easily have passed down the story of creation (he was a witness to some of it!) to his descendants, and Noah would have been able to pass it on after the Flood. How could you use this idea to talk with someone who claims the creation story is just a collection of myths and legends? How do you plan to pass down your own stories to your descendants?
5. Chapter 6 gives very detailed reasons for God's destruction of every living thing on the earth, instructions for the building of the ark, and God sending select animals to Noah for their preservation (6:20). Jesus regarded the Flood as historical fact and likened the time of His second coming to the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37-39). Do you believe there was a worldwide flood? Does it feel like the current days are like the days of Noah? How would you explain this to an unbeliever? Do you feel like Noah sometimes? How is Noah an example for us of standing in obedience against the force of culture?
6. In 5:1-2, some foundational truths are repeated. When God repeats ideas, we can be sure He wants us to listen. Today's culture wants to redefine words and create truths out of lies. God knew this would happen and so repeated His truth throughout Scripture. Could you explain to someone why these truths make sense and how Satan took them and twisted them for his own purposes?

Personal Application:

1. What does this passage reveal about God and His character?
2. Are you insisting on your own way and your own rights or are you seeking to do things God's way, seeking Him for wisdom?
3. Do you regularly and generously give to God's work? What is your heart posture as you give?
4. Are you like Noah--quick to obey, standing strong in a hostile culture, quick to worship the Lord. What changes do you need to make?

Prayer Requests

Week 5: Genesis Chapters 7-9

Chunk 1 – 7:1-12

Observation:

1. Why did the Lord choose Noah?
2. Aside from his household, what did the Lord tell Noah to take with him, and how does He describe them?
3. Why did He tell Noah to bring these animals? How much time did Noah have to load them into the ark?
4. How long did the Lord say it would rain, and what did He say He was going to do?
5. How did Noah respond to the Lord?
6. How old was Noah at this time? Who belonged to his household?
7. How are the animals, birds, and crawling things described in vs. 9?
8. Are there any living creatures or kinds that are NOT mentioned?
9. Where did the waters of the Flood come from? How long did it rain?

Definitions:

Ark:

Flood:

Cross-References:

Matthew 24:37-39

2 Peter 2:5

Luke 17:27

Interpretation:

1. How many people do you think were on the earth at this time? Do you find it plausible that there was absolutely no one else besides Noah and his family who were righteous?
2. Why did the Lord tell Noah to preserve more pairs of clean animals and birds than the unclean animals?
3. How long did it take Noah to build the ark? Do you think he had help, aside from his sons?
4. How many animals, birds, and crawling things do you think ended up in the ark? How could there have been room for large animals like elephants, moose, and giraffes? Were there creatures like woolly mammoths and dinosaurs at this time?
5. Were all animals still herbivores, or had some become carnivores after the Fall? What did Noah do about food for all these creatures?
6. Were all the fish and creatures living in the waters preserved during the Flood?

7. Could this have been a local flood? Were all the people in the world (Cain's and Seth's descendants) living in one location then? What evidence is there of a local vs. a worldwide flood?
8. Cultures all over the world have flood stories. How does the biblical account compare? Is it possible all the stories came from one source?

Chunk 2 - 7:13-24

Observation:

1. What were the names of Noah's sons?
2. How are the creatures entering the ark described?
3. What happened immediately after everyone and everything entered the ark?
4. How high did the waters rise?
5. List the living things that perished in the Flood.
6. What living things are NOT listed?
7. How long was the water upon the earth?

Definitions:

Prevail:

Destroyed:

Blotted:

Cross-References:

Luke 13:24-25

Ephesians 1:13

Psalm 104:6-9

Interpretation:

1. Why did God preserve these eight people instead of just destroying everything and starting over?
2. Vs. 16 describes what happened after everyone and everything entered the ark: "Then the Lord shut him in." (CSB) Noah didn't shut the door – the Lord shut him in. What do you think that looked like? Does it remind you of any other Scriptures or truths in God's Word? How does it relate?
3. How could so much water be produced to cover the entire earth, including the mountains? What kind of environmental conditions did the earth have in Noah's time that could explain how this could happen?
4. The Lord used water to destroy everything on the earth the first time. He has promised that the next time He destroys the earth, it will be with fire (2 Peter 3:7). What is the symbolism of water vs. fire? How have both elements been used in biblical history?

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Week 6: Genesis Chapters 7-9

Teaching Notes

Application:

1. In 2 Peter 3:4, scoffers say “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” When scoffers today say the same thing, what historical events can you mention that dispute that point? What is the ultimate truth about God’s nature that is behind this?
2. The Flood is a picture of salvation and deliverance from an overwhelming judgment. In Gen. 7:1, many translations say “Then the Lord said to Noah, “**come into** the ark...” suggesting that the Lord was **already in** the ark. He was beckoning Noah to join Him inside, and He would be with Noah and the others during the Flood. Describe how this interpretation relates to salvation and judgment, and where God is during our storms.
3. Do you give thanks to God immediately after coming through a “Flood” in your life? Do you do so with a glad and willing heart? How do you glorify God after He delivers you?
4. In vs. 8:21, the Lord said “...the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth;” Since the Fall, man’s nature has been sinful, yet he has continued denying this with efforts to create utopias on earth (through communes, socialism, communism, etc.). Studies show that most people, including professing Christians, believe that man is “basically good.” What information have you learned so far in Genesis that helps you refute this claim? Where has the beginning of God’s plan of salvation shown itself?
5. In vss. 9:4-6, God proclaims that life is in the blood. Since God is the author of life, life is God’s property. The life of man, being made in God’s image, is especially sacred to God; only God has the right to take it. How does this affect your stance on issues like abortion, capital punishment, and euthanasia?
6. What are the consequences of the changes God makes after the Flood? For instance, the establishment and predictability of the seasons? The giving of every moving thing as food to man? The punishment for murder?
7. Is there any genealogical/DNA evidence to support the theory that the world’s population has descended from just three couples? Or just one couple?

Personal Application:

1. What does this passage reveal about God and His character?
2. Hebrews 11:7 *By faith Noah, after he was warned about what was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear, built an ark to deliver his family. By faith he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.* What do you think it means to have godly fear as we do the Lord's work? Is this how you live?
3. Noah sins relatively quickly after leaving the ark (after experiencing the judgment of sinners he was radically saved from). What can you learn from this? What should your posture and response to Jesus be, in light of His mercy?

Prayer Requests

Week 7: Genesis Chapters 10-12

Chunk 1 – 10:1-20

Observation:

1. List the names of Japheth's sons. Of these sons, how many had sons of their own?
1. Where did the descendants of Japheth settle?
2. List the names of Ham's sons. How many sons did Cush have?
3. Who was Nimrod? How is he described? What accomplishments of his are recorded? Where did he settle?
4. How many sons did Mizraim have? What people group came from his line? Where did they settle?
5. How many sons did Put have?
6. How many sons did Canaan have? What are the names of the Canaanite nations? Where did they settle?
7. How were the families divided? How is their separation described?

Definitions:

Language:

Land:

Nation:

Cross-References:

Isaiah 66:18-19

Psalm 52:7

Jonah 1:2

Joshua 3:10

Interpretation:

1. Why does God include this detailed account of the repopulation of the earth through Noah's sons? Does this bolster your confidence in the historicity of the Bible? Do any of the names sound familiar from other books of the Bible?
2. What patterns do you see as you look at how the families are dispersed across the earth? Can you see how they could have spread out into the entire world? Is there a correlation with genealogical/archeological evidence for the spread of humanity over the earth from a central point?
3. How do you see the curse of Canaan play out with his descendants and the territory they inhabit? Why do you think God planned it this way?

Chunk 2 - 10:21–11:9

Observation:

1. What's different about the introduction to Shem's genealogy?
2. How many sons did Shem have? Of his sons, how many had sons of their own? What was the name of Shem's one great-grandson?
3. What is unique about Peleg? What is unique about Joktan?
4. Where did Shem's descendants settle?
5. Who are the people referenced in the beginning of chapter 11?
6. Where is the land of Shinar?
7. What materials did the people use to build the tower? Is there anything significant about their use of tar/asphalt/bitumen as mortar?
8. What was their reason for building this tower into heaven? What had the Lord previously told them to do?
9. What did the Lord do after they built the tower? What was his objection to it? What reference to the Trinity is made?
10. What was the Lord's solution to this mess? What happened to the people?

Definitions:

Mortar:

Tower:

Confuse:

Babel:

Cross-References:

Acts 17:26

John 5:44

Luke 1:51

Interpretation:

1. Shem is described as “the father of all the children of Eber” and the **older** brother of Japheth. Why is Eber singled out in the family line? Genealogies usually started with the oldest son, but Shem is listed last. Why?
2. Where in the line of Shem does the scattering of peoples from Shinar take place? How many generations had passed between the Flood and the building of the tower of Babel? (The events of the tower of Babel occurred earlier than some of the events in chapter 10)
3. How do you interpret vss. 11:1-2? Are these all of Noah’s descendants – in other words, everyone listed in vs. 10:1-32? Did they stay together as one big family after leaving the ark and journeying back to Babylonia?
4. Where were Noah and his sons as the people began to build the tower? Were any of them still alive? Where was their Godly influence on their descendants?

5. Who was the leader of the tower project? What was the true motivation behind the people's desire to build the tower? We know they used tar (or asphalt or bitumen) for mortar to hold the bricks together. These substances were often used in ships to keep the vessel water-tight. Does this give some indication of the people's state of mind and relationship with God?

6. How do you think "The Lord came down" in vs. 11:5? Why did He have to come down if the tower "reached into heaven"? What about vs. 11:7? How do you see that playing out?

7. Was God threatened by man's newfound ambition to "make for ourselves a name"? In vs. 11:6, what was His concern about the path man was heading down?

8. Why did confusing the language cause the people to scatter over the earth? Looking back at chapter 10 to where all of the people settled, can you see how many languages may have developed from Babel?

Observation & Interpretation for the remainder of the passage:

For the rest of the passage, divide it into chunks and then do the steps of observation and interpretation for each chunk. (A chunk is a group of verses that fit together by subject matter or a main idea. Some passages fall into chunks more easily than others. Don't be too overly concerned about getting your chunks "right". You will just want to break down a passage into manageable sections.) First, **observe** what is in the text. Ask yourself who, what, where, when, why and how. You are not looking for meaning yet. Notice repeated words and phrases. Ask questions about the text similar to the ones above. Summarize or paraphrase the chunk. Take notes below.

After you have completed observation, move onto definitions and cross references, which is a part of **interpretation**. For each chunk you want to seek to understand the meaning of the text. Ask yourself: What would the original audience have thought? Notice carefully the context. How does this fit within the greater story of the bible? How does it fit within the gospel? What is the main idea?

Complete these steps for each chunk of scripture in the passage.

A key component for observation and interpretation is to read the passage several times. Read it a couple of times a day. Use different translations. This is very important for understanding the passage within its context and for seeing what is actually in the text and gaining meaning. If you don't have time for anything else, read the passage several times!

Prayer Requests

Week 8: Genesis Chapters 10-12

Teaching Notes

Application:

1. All the people of the world descended from these three sons of Noah. Is there extra-biblical evidence to support this truth (archeological, genetic, etc.)? Does this truth help you love other people who may not look like you, or live on the other side of the world?
2. Do you see the sin of pride today in people trying to make for themselves a name, or building their own "Towers of Babel"? Who are today's Nimrods? Is there a difference between humans striving to use their ingenuity and talents, and trying to "be like God"? Do you see a response from God to any of these endeavors?
3. The James Webb Telescope could be seen as a modern-day Tower of Babel – man trying to reach into heaven to prove there is no God. But there are many astronomers, astrophysicists, and other scientists who are believers, and view this achievement as proof that there IS a God. What do you think about man's search for meaning through science? Is it drawing people away from God, or bringing people to Him?
4. Are the different languages/dialects (over 3,000) in the world today still an issue? How have humans learned to adapt and communicate? Do you see this as a positive, or is it giving rise to a new Babel?
5. The Lord called Abram out of Ur and into the land of Canaan. He left the wealthy, populous, sophisticated pagan center of Mesopotamia for a long journey to an unknown land. Would you be able to pull up stakes and do something similar? Is this something you have done yourself? Is there any situation in which you would probably have to say no? What if you had a "Lot" in your life? Would you bring him along?
6. Why did the Lord call Abram out of Ur in the first place? How did Abram respond? What does the Lord continue to do and how does Abram continue to respond throughout this journey? Do you see a pattern here? Is this a pattern you find yourself following in your own life? If not, what part is missing?

7. God promises in vss. 12:1-3 that in Abram “all the families of the earth will be blessed”. This includes the future Jewish people and the Gentiles. Do you feel united with the Jewish people and Israel? Do you consider Abram as a patriarch? Do you pray for the Jewish people to realize Jesus is their Messiah?

8. What countries have been blessed and cursed through history because of their relationship with Israel? Do you follow current events regarding Israel (the Palestinian BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement, military aggression, terrorism, etc.) and different nations’ support or condemnation of Israel? How are these relationships playing out in these last days?

9. Abram fails to trust God to be his Provider during the famine and goes to Egypt instead. He ends up lying, making Sarai lie, and returning to Canaan without food. When we try to fix problems ourselves instead of relying on God, we usually waste our time and end up back where we started, or worse. Have you found this to be true in your own life? Can you think of a time when you wasted your time and energy trying to fix a problem yourself when you should have turned to God for help?

Personal Application:

1. What does this passage reveal about God and His character?

1. In what ways has God called you to believe His word on faith (like Noah), despite the beliefs of the world around you?

2. What is your view of sin? Are you disgusted by it as God is? Are there some areas in your life where you are more tolerant of sin? If so, what can you do to turn those areas over to God?

3. How do you generally respond to other’s sin--especially a christian? Are you more like Ham, or Shem and Japheth?

4. Are you using the gifts of God for your own profit or for His glory? Is your life characterized more by your own glory or the glory of God?

Prayer Requests

Week 9: Genesis Chapters 13-15

Chunk 1 – 13:1-9

Observation:

1. Where did Abram journey from Egypt, and who was with him?
2. How was Abram rich?
3. What did Abram do when he reached his original resting spot, between Bethel and Ai?
4. What were Abram's and Lot's vocations?
5. Why was there strife in their relationship?
6. Who was dwelling in this land while Abram and Lot were there? Of whom were they descendants?
7. What was God's solution for Abram and Lot to reduce the strife?

Definitions:

Strife:

Cross-References:

Genesis 36:6-7

Genesis 26:20

Romans 12:18

Interpretation:

1. What of Abram's character is revealed in vs. 4?
2. Why had Abram's and Lot's possessions grown so large while they were wandering? Was sharing grazing lands a common problem with herdsmen?
3. Why is Abram so conciliatory with Lot? Isn't he Lot's superior, being older and his uncle?
4. Why is it mentioned here that the Canaanites and the Perizzites are dwelling in the land at this time?

Chunk 2 - 13:10-18**Observation:**

1. What did Lot see when he lifted up his eyes in vs. 10?
2. How is this valley described?
3. What land did Lot choose? What land did Abram then receive?
4. How are the men of Sodom described?
5. What does the Lord tell Abram after Lot separates from him? What promise does the Lord reaffirm to Abram?
6. Where does Abram eventually settle?

7. What does Abram do as soon as he gets there?

Definitions:

Separated:

Offspring/Descendants:

Dust:

Cross-References:

James 3:16

Proverbs 4:14-16

Nehemiah 9:7-8

Interpretation:

1. Why did Lot choose all the Jordan valley? What do you think motivated him? He could have taken the southern end and given Abram the northern end, for instance.
2. Do you see God's hand in this separation? How? What has Lot's role been so far in Abram's calling to Canaan?
3. Why do you think God made sure vs. 13 was inserted right where it is?
4. Do you think Abram felt cheated after Lot chose the fertile valley?
5. How was Abram's faith in God strengthened after the separation and throughout his journey to his final settlement in Hebron? What evidence do you see?

Observation & Interpretation for the remainder of the passage:

For the rest of the passage, divide it into chunks and then do the steps of observation and interpretation for each chunk. (A chunk is a group of verses that fit together by subject matter or a main idea. Some passages fall into chunks more easily than others. Don't be too overly concerned about getting your chunks "right". You will just want to break down a passage into manageable sections.) First, **observe** what is in the text. Ask yourself who, what, where, when, why and how. You are not looking for meaning yet. Notice repeated words and phrases. Ask questions about the text similar to the ones above. Summarize or paraphrase the chunk. Take notes below.

After you have completed observation, move onto definitions and cross references, which is a part of **interpretation**. For each chunk you want to seek to understand the meaning of the text. Ask yourself: What would the original audience have thought? Notice carefully the context. How does this fit within the greater story of the bible? How does it fit within the gospel? What is the main idea?

Complete these steps for each chunk of scripture in the passage.

A key component for observation and interpretation is to read the passage several times. Read it a couple of times a day. Use different translations. This is very important for understanding the passage within its context and for seeing what is actually in the text and gaining meaning. If you don't have time for anything else, read the passage several times!

Prayer Requests

Week 10: Genesis Chapters 13-15

Teaching Notes

Application:

1. What can we learn from Abram's humility with Lot? Abram is clearly referred to as the main sojourner, with Lot "also with him". God called Abram to go to Canaan, leaving all his family (vs. 12:1), yet he brought Lot. And now Abram graciously allows Lot to choose the land he wants first. When God calls us to serve and we have a "Lot" in our lives, what do we do?
2. Do you think that the Canaanites and Perizzites, also dwelling in the land, may have been watching how Abram and Lot would resolve this conflict? Did that have anything to do with Abram's actions? What lesson or truth is God teaching us?
3. What can we learn from Lot's choice of land? When we're given a similar choice, should we always choose what is pleasing to the eye? What other considerations should we weigh? Did Lot ask God for guidance first?
4. After Lot heads eastward to claim his land, God shows Abram all the land around him and tells him it is his forever. He urges him to walk the length and breadth of it – explore and wander. The same can be said about our inheritance. The Kingdom of God is ours the moment we accept Christ. We don't have to settle for just gazing upon it. God wants us to walk around in it, explore the length and breadth of it, staking our tent as we go. Are you exploring the entirety of the land God gave you? Or have you staked your tent between Bethel and Ai and there you stay? How do you grow in your knowledge and depth of all you have in Christ?

5. The story of Abram's incredible military victory (the first recorded war in Scripture) and rescue of Lot from the four kings, his mysterious meeting with Melchizedek, and his tempting offer from the king of Sodom, shows us an encouraging picture of how we should approach spiritual matters in our own lives. What should we do immediately after a big spiritual victory in our lives? What should we be on guard against? How should we react to the enemy's temptations?

6. Lot chose to live in Sodom, a sinful city that made him vulnerable to temptation and danger. Abram chose to live quietly in Hebron as a well-respected man with loyal friends. Even after being rescued by Abram from the four kings, Lot returned to Sodom. Why do you think he did that? Was Lot just being foolish or greedy, or did he really think he could remain righteous in the middle of all that sin? What about Christians today? Is it wise for them to live in places like San Francisco and New York City? Is this their mission field? How do we know the difference between a Sodom and a Nineveh? How difficult is it to remain righteous when surrounded by sexual sin and materialism?

7. Have all the promises in the Abrahamic Covenant now been fulfilled? There are about 2,500 prophecies in the Bible, about 2,000 of which have already been fulfilled. Do past fulfilled prophecies make you confident in those remaining being fulfilled, even if some of them seem impossible? Are you looking forward to Christ's return? Is there anything you have yet to do to be "rapture ready"?

Personal Application:

1. What does this passage reveal about God and His character?
2. How do you stay in a place of humility personally? Pride creeps in in the most unexpected places. How do you remember who you are and who you belong to? How does this keep you humble?
3. What is the significance of God making a covenant with Abraham and requiring nothing of him, but God fulfilling it entirely? Going forward, how does this truth play out in your life? How much do you rely on God in your daily walk?
4. Abraham believed God without “seeing” the promise. He walked in faith. Is there some situation you cannot see a solution to or rescue from? How are you walking in faith? If you aren’t walking in faith (but in fear), tell a friend who loves Jesus and ask them to walk with you and help you. Right now ask the Lord to help you to trust Him.

Prayer Requests