

T H E B O O K O F
GENESIS

GENESIS 1-24
SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

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RULES FOR THE ROAD

- 1 Be concise.** Please share your thoughts and answers, but be considerate so that others will have time to share their answers also. Be charitable and kind. Be willing to share with the group, but do not try to dominate the conversation. Use the time after the class to find help with any personal issues or problems you may be confronting in your life.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

(James 1:19–20)

- 2 Be thoughtful with your answer.** Consider your words. Do not simply regurgitate what you have always heard. We can have the tendency to speak in a way that only people who grew up on the pews would understand. Think about how your words will be heard by others. Will they understand what you are saying? Is what you are about to say going to be useful for the building up of the faith of others? Or will your words be confusing, cause hurt, or worse, damage someone’s faith? Speak without harshness or anger, but with kindness and humility.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

(Ephesians 4:29)

- 3 Rely on the scriptures for truth.** It is easy to rely upon conventional, worldly wisdom as truth. Bible study is about seeking God’s answers for our lives, not dispensing the advice of the world. We must consider that our natural answers may be the wrong answers if they are not founded on God’s word.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

(1 Corinthians 1:25)

Have you ever read a chapter in the Bible but then could not remember what you had read? Have you ever fallen asleep while reading? An hour after you read, do you retain what you have read? These problems destroy enjoyment in Bible reading and therefore we must use a method of Bible reading that will solve this problem. To read properly we must be keen observers. We must see words and phrases that stand out while at the same time collecting the whole thought. Remember, the important thing is not how many times you have gone through the Bible, but how many times the Bible has gone through you!

Observe // what do I see?

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, "What do I see?" This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for your study. The text is given to you so that you will underline, circle, box, and highlight important words as you read. As you read look for comparisons, contrasts, purposes, results, causes, explanations, conclusions, and conditions. Ask yourself who, what, where, when, why, and how as you read. Keep asking these questions as you read to prevent a lazy brain while reading. Look for themes and main ideas from the passage.

Interpret // what does it mean?

Our observation of a passage should stir interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study: interpretation. Reread through the passage after your observation notations have been made looking to answer what the passage means. Record your explanations of the text in the workbook.

Apply // how does this affect me?

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. Write down lessons that you have learned for you own life especially things that you see you need to change. Only you know your heart and what is happening in your life to be able to apply God's word directly to you. Bible study is fruitless if we do not take the information we have learned and directly change our lives. Write down how the passage affects you. The transformation section in the workbook will help you in this effort.

Share // how can I share my findings with us?

Now we want to share our findings with others. We want to share our observations, interpretations, and applications with others in the Bible class. This is your opportunity to hear what others have found in their studies and for you to share what you found. By doing this we are able to build one another up and grow up in the unity of the faith (Ephesians 4:12-13). If we do not share what we have found then we will be unable to grow together as the family of Christ.

GENESIS

1

- 1 As the creation account opens, what is God proclaiming about himself?

- 2 What are we learning when we see that “the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2)? What is about to happen?

- 3 How is creation put into existence? What is God proclaiming about himself?

- 4 What was created on the first day? Why? What is God proclaiming about himself? Consider John 1:1-3 as you think about the importance of the first day.


- 5 What does God see at the end of each day? Why is this important? What is God proclaiming about himself?

- 6 What does God say and do on the sixth day (1:26)? What makes humans different from the rest of the creation?

- 7 What commands were given to humans (1:26-31)? Explain what these commands meant for humans to do.

- 8 What do we learn about God from the events of the sixth day?

TRANSFORMATION:

 What questions do you have from the lesson?

 What have you learned about God and/or about yourself that changes how you will think or act?


- 1 What happened on the seventh day (2:1-2)? Explain what this “rest” means.
- 2 What did God do, according to Genesis 2:3? Explain what this means.
- 3 What was the world like before the creation of man (2:4-14)?
- 4 How did God create the man (2:7-9)? What are we learning about the man?
- 5 What task did God give the man (2:15-17)? What command did God give the man?
- 6 What problem does God see in his creation (2:18)? What does it mean for God to make Adam “a helper fit for him?” Compare other translations to help. Also, read some of the other places where this same Hebrew word translated “helper” is used (cf. Exodus 18:4; Deuteronomy 33:7,26; Psalm 33:20; 77:5; 115:10-11; Hosea 13:9). Does being “a helper” imply inferiority or lack of value? Who is often called a helper in scriptures?
- 7 What was the purpose of creating woman? What makes her different from the rest of creation (2:19-20)?

8 How does God created the woman (2:21-23)?

9 Why were man and woman not created at the same time? Were man and woman created to be different from each other? Explain from the text your answer.

10 What is supposed to happen in marriage (2:24)? Explain what God expects in marriage.

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 What questions do you have from the lesson?

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- 1 Explain the nature of the serpent (3:1).
- 2 Write down how the serpent approaches the woman and tempts the woman (3:1-5).
- 3 How did the woman respond to the serpent (3:1-5)?
- 4 Look carefully at verse 6. What moves the woman to submit to the serpent's temptation? What do we learn from this?
- 5 What were the initial results from the sin (3:7-8)? What do we learn from this?
- 6 Describe the discussion between the Lord God, the man, and woman (3:9-13). What are some of the problems in this discussion? What do we learn?
- 7 Write down and explain the curse placed on the serpent (3:14-15). Where do we see this curse referred to in the New Testament?
- 8 Write down and explain the curse placed on the woman (3:16).
- 9 Write down and explain the curse placed on the man (3:17-19).
- 10 What is the final consequence from the sin of the man and woman (3:20-24)? What do we learn?

TRANSFORMATION:

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- 1 Explain what happens with Cain and Abel in Genesis 4:1-7. What does God say in verse 7 is the reason why he had no regard for Cain's offering?
- 2 What warning does God give Cain in verse 7 about sin? How would Cain "rule over sin?" What does that look like? What do we learn?
- 3 What was Cain's response (4:8)? Why did Cain do this? Consider that all of these events unfolded because Abel's offering was accepted by God while Cain's offering was not. What do we learn about how we handle our failures before the Lord?
- 4 What is Cain's response to the Lord's question about where Abel is (4:9)? Is there anything wrong with that answer? Explain.
- 5 What do we learn about God from verses 10-11?
- 6 What curse does God place on Cain in verse 12?
- 7 What is Cain's response to the curse (4:13-14)? How does God show mercy for Cain (4:15)?
- 8 Where did Cain get his wife (4:17)? Consider Genesis 3:20 in your answer.
- 9 Consider the descendants of Cain (4:17-24). What do we learn about their character and accomplishments?
- 10 What does Seth's name mean (4:25)? Why is this important?

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- 1 What is the purpose of this genealogy in Genesis 5? How is it contrasted to the genealogy in Genesis 4?
- 2 What do we learn about Enoch? Where else do we read about Enoch in the New Testament? What more do we learn about him?
- 3 What is unique about Methuselah?
- 4 What does Noah's name mean? How is God going to fulfill the meaning of Noah's name?
- 5 Who are the sons of God and the daughters of man in Genesis 6:1-4? What are some options? Does the context of the prior chapters help any?
- 6 What does God proclaim about the lifespan of humanity?
- 7 Who were also on the earth during this sinful time (6:3-4)?
- 8 What was the result of the sons of God and the daughters of man upon the earth (6:5)?
- 9 What is God's response (6:6-8)? What do we learn about God?

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- 1 What is the state of the earth at this time?
- 2 What does God tell Noah is his plan? Why? What provision is made for this event? What does this teach us about God?
- 3 What covenant does God make with Noah (6:18)?
- 4 Why is Noah selected by God for this deliverance (7:1)?
- 5 What directions are given to Noah?
- 6 Describe how the flood occurred, according to chapter 7.
- 7 Was this a localized flood or a global flood? How do you know? What does the text say?
- 8 How long did the waters remain on the earth (7:24)?
- 9 Read 1 Peter 3:20-21. How does the Noah account foreshadow the work of Christ?
- 10 Read 2 Peter 3:3-7. How does the Noah account reveal a future judgment?

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- 1 What does it mean that “God remembered Noah” and all the animals (8:1)? Does this mean that God had forgotten them? Explain.
- 2 What directions does God give to Noah after the flood?
- 3 What does God promise after the flood (8:20-22)?
- 4 What further directions does God give Noah after the flood (9:1-7)?
- 5 What covenant does God make and what is the sign of the covenant (9:8-17)?
- 6 What sin is committed by Noah’s sins? What is the purpose of recording this sin event?
- 7 Read 1 Peter 3:18-22. How does Peter apply the events of the flood to salvation?
- 8 Read 2 Peter 3:1-10. How does Peter apply the events of the flood to God’s promises?

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- 1 What is the message of the genealogy recorded in chapter 10?
- 2 What do the people purpose to do in Genesis 11:4? What is the reason for the construction project?
- 3 What does God say is the problem with what the people are doing (11:6)? What does this mean?
- 4 What does God do (11:7-9)? What is ironic about what God does considering the purpose of the construction project?
- 5 What is the purpose of the genealogical record at the end of chapter 11? What important information is given to the reader at the end of chapter 11?
- 6 What does the Lord tell Abram to do (12:1-3)? What promises are made to him?
- 7 What else does the Lord tell Abram (12:9)? How does Abram respond?
- 8 Why does Abram go to Egypt (12:10-20)? How does Abram fail while in Egypt?

TRANSFORMATION:

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- 1 What problem arises between Abram and Lot in chapter 13? How do they resolve this problem? What do we learn? Are there any New Testament teachings or examples of this?
- 2 What are we told about the land and the people where Lot settled?
- 3 What promise does God make to Abram (13:14-18)?
- 4 What happens in Genesis 14:1-12?
- 5 What does Abram do (14:13-16)?
- 6 Who is Melchizedek? What does he do? What does Abram do?
- 7 Read Psalm 110:1-4? What promise was made regarding Melchizedek?
- 8 Read Hebrews 7. What important points are made about Jesus in regards to Melchizedek?

TRANSFORMATION:

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- 1 What does God promise to Abram at the start of chapter 15? What is Abram's response?

- 2 How does God answer Abram's concern (15:4-5)?

- 3 How does Abram respond to God in 15:6? Read Romans 4:18-25. How does Paul apply this event to Christians? What do we learn about faith? What do we learn about salvation from this event?

- 4 What does Abram ask for at this point (15:7-8)? What is God's answer (15:9-16)?

- 5 How long will Abram's offspring live as foreigners in the land (15:13)?

- 6 What does God promise will happen with Abram's offspring (15:14)? When will his offspring come back to the land (15:16)? Why will the return take this long, according to the text? What does this mean?

- 7 What was the range of the land promised to Abram and his offspring?

TRANSFORMATION:

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- 1 What is Sarai's situation? What is her solution?
- 2 What problems begin because of this plan (16:4-6)? What does Sarai do?
- 3 What does the angel of the Lord do? What promise is made to Hagar? Does this promise sound familiar?
- 4 Why is Hagar's son named Ishmael?
- 5 What does the angel of the Lord proclaim about Ishmael and his offspring (16:12)? Is this true? Do we still see this today?
- 6 What does Hagar proclaim about the Lord (16:13)? What do we learn from this?
- 7 How old was Abram when Ishmael was born?
- 8 Think about the problems that came from Abram and Sarai's plan. What do we learn from what they did? Do we sometimes do the same thing?

TRANSFORMATION:

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- 1 How old is Abram when God comes to him this time? What does God proclaim to Abram? What does God expect from Abram (17:1-2)?
- 2 What covenant does God make with Abram (17:3-8)? Write down all that God says he will do. What is ironic about Abram's name change?
- 3 What else does God tell Abraham (17:9-13)? Read Hebrews 11:8-12. Why did Abraham believe?
- 4 What was the purpose of circumcision (17:11)?
- 5 What would happen to those who were uncircumcised (17:14)?
- 6 What does God promise regarding Sarai (17:15-16)? What will she do? What is her name changed to?
- 7 What was Abraham's response (17:17-18)? What is Abraham's alternative plan?
- 8 What is God's response to Abraham (17:19-22)? What does God promise regarding Isaac? What does God promise regarding Ishmael? What time frame is given?
- 9 What does Abraham do after this encounter with God?

TRANSFORMATION:

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- 1 What is Abraham doing in the first seven verses of chapter 18?
- 2 What does the Lord promise in verse 10?
- 3 What is difficult about this promise (18:11)? What was Sarah's response when she overheard this promise (18:12)?
- 4 What is the Lord's response to Sarah's laughter? What do we learn from her response and the Lord's response?
- 5 What does the Lord reveal to Abraham (18:16-21)?
- 6 Explain verse 21. What does this mean?
- 7 What does Abraham do for the city of Sodom?
- 8 Are there things in our lives that we think are too hard for God to do anything about (cf. 18:14)? What should we do when we face impossible obstacles in our lives?
- 9 What do we learn about God and his character through Abraham's intercession? Do we look at the righteous and the lost the way Abraham did?

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- 1 What happens in Sodom when the two angels come into town (19:1-8)?
- 2 The angels have come to see about the wickedness of the city (cf. 18:20-21). How great is the wickedness in Sodom? Note how many things in 19:1-11 show the depths of the city's depravity.
- 3 What do the angel proclaim will happen (19:12-13)? Why will this happen?
- 4 Consider and evaluate Lot's responses to the angel's instructions in verses 15-22. Has Lot been affected by the city?
- 5 What directions are given for escape (19:17)? Did Lot's family follow these directions (19:23-29)? What happened? How does Jesus use Lot's wife as an example in Luke 17?
- 6 Explain verse 29. What does Abraham have to do with what has happened?
- 7 What happens in Zoar (19:30-38)? Did living in Sodom have an influence on Lot's family?
- 8 Who are the offspring from this event (19:36-38)? Will these offspring become a future problem for Israel?
- 9 What message does Jude teach from Sodom's example in Jude 7?

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- 1 Where does Abraham go and does he tell Abimelech (20:1-3)? Why?
- 2 What does the Lord tell Abimelech (20:3-7)? What is Abimelech's response?
- 3 How does Abimelech confront Abraham (20:8-13)? What was Abraham's defense?
- 4 Evaluate what Abraham did. What is God teaching Abraham through these events?
- 5 What does Abraham do for Abimelech (20:14-18)? What had God done?
- 6 How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? Did God keep his word? What is God teaching Abraham(21:1-7)?
- 7 What was Sarah's response to Ishmael's laughter (21:8-14)? What was Abraham's response to Sarah? What was God's response to Abraham?
- 8 How does Paul use this event in Galatians 4 to instruct Christians about the role of the Law of Moses and the new covenant?
- 9 Did God keep his promise regarding Hagar (21:15-21)? What was God teaching?
- 10 What happens with Abimelech and Abraham in 21:22-34?

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- 1 What does God tell Abraham to do (22:1-2)?

- 2 What was Abraham's response (22:3-4)? Is this response surprising to you?

- 3 What does Abraham tell Isaac regarding the animal needed for the sacrifice (22:7-8)? What faith is Abraham showing?

- 4 What was God's response (22:10-12)? Explain God's answer.

- 5 What does Abraham name this place (22:13-14)? Read 2 Chronicles 3:1 and notice what would be built on this site. What other sacrifice would be made on this site?

- 6 What does the Lord tell Abraham after this event (22:15-24)?

- 7 Read Hebrews 11:17-19. What did Abraham believe that turned his faith into action?

- 8 How can we have the faith like we see in Abraham?

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- 1 Why is the death and burial of Sarah recorded in chapter 23? What messages is God communicating through Abraham buying land to bury Sarah?
- 2 What is Abraham's concern in 24:1-9?
- 3 Describe how the servant of Abraham finds a wife for Isaac (24:10-21).
- 4 What is the servant's response to finding Rebekah (24:22-28)?
- 5 What does the servant tell Rebekah's family (24:29-41)?
- 6 How did the servant prepare to find a wife for Isaac (24:42-49)?
- 7 How did Rebekah's family respond to what the servant told them (24:50-55)? What was the servant's response?
- 8 What was Rebekah's response (24:58-67)?
- 9 Why is this recorded for us and what is God's message through the telling of these events?

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