

In His Image

**Discovering Christ
Through Creation**

FROM THOMAS ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH



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Introduction

Welcome to our study on Genesis 1-11,
*In His Image: Discovering Christ
through Creation!*

Why Genesis 1-11

Genesis 1-11 contains some of the most well-known stories in the Bible: the creation of the world, the fall of humanity, the flood, and the Tower of Babel. These narratives are not just ancient history; they are foundational in understanding who God is, who we are, and how we relate to Him. By studying these chapters, we gain insight into the character of God, the nature of humanity, and the overarching story of redemption, culminated in Christ.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Throughout this study, we will:

Examine the Creation Accounts: We will look at the creation of the universe and humanity and explore what it means to be made in the image of God.

Understand the Fall: We will delve into the story of Adam and Eve, to examine the consequences of sin and the promise of redemption.

Explore the Nature of Humanity: We will study the following stories: Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood, and the Tower of Babel. We will see how these events set the stage for God’s plan of salvation.

Discover Christ in Genesis: We will trace the foreshadowing of Christ and God’s redemptive plan through these early chapters.

KEY THEMES

As we study Genesis 1-11, we will focus on several key themes:

The Nature of God: His power, creativity, and desire for a relationship with humanity.

The Image of God in Humanity: Define what it means for us to be created in His likeness.

Sin and Redemption: The impact of sin and the hope of salvation through Christ Jesus.

God’s Sovereignty and Grace: His control over history, and His unending grace towards humanity.

Study Purpose

Thomas Road’s mission is to “*change our world by developing Christ-followers who love God and love people.*” We do this through practicing the values of Scripture, Prayer, Worship, Community, Serving, and Sharing.

HEAD, HEART, AND HANDS

At Thomas Road, we want to clearly identify the “*Head,*” “*Heart,*” and “*Hands*” of each study before we begin:

Head: We will know this foundational truth that when we learn who God is, we learn who we are designed to be. We can then connect the dots between God’s creation, His promises, and the ultimate fulfillment of those promises through Jesus Christ.

Heart = We will believe and value that from the initial stories of Genesis, God reveals His plan, from the start of human history, to fix our brokenness through the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Hands = We will be able to do this: live as image bearers of the living God, replicate His Son in our broken world, and actively lead others into the saving knowledge of Him.

Study Structure

Throughout this study, we will explore three key terms to help us discover the Word of God, learn about each verse, and rightly apply these scriptures into our lives.

“DISCOVER” is digging into what the passage says. These questions will push us to understand the passage’s setting, keywords, and the overall context of the main message.

“LEARN” is investigating specifically what was being taught in the verses we read. These questions will teach us about the triune God, what the passage reveals about our part in the story, and what the writer tries to convey to the audience.

“APPLY” is where we will be challenged to find practical ways to implement the teachings from each passage into our everyday life.

EACH WEEK WILL INCLUDE:

Reading and Reflection: Start by reading the five daily devotionals provided each week. Use the space below each devotional to answer questions, write personal prayers, and reflect on how you are challenged to grow deeper in your personal relationship with God.

Listen, Comprehend, and Discuss: At the end of each week, gather with your group to listen to a teaching of a passage in Genesis. Then, engage in discussions guided by the questions in the daily devotionals to delve deeper into the text and apply its lessons to your lives.

Connecting to Christ: Throughout each week, we will see how the story points towards Jesus and the fulfillment of God's promises. Therefore, as these stories unveil the character of Christ, we will discover how we are meant to live as His image bearers.

Follow Along at Home

In His Image: Discovering Christ through Creation is not just a book! We have created a series of videos for you to view each week. This resource is perfect for individuals studying without a group, life groups studying at home, or for group members who miss a week of teaching.



Preparing for *the Journey...*

We encourage you to approach this study with an open heart and mind, ready to learn how the first stories of Scripture reveal the beauty of God's plan through Christ and still speak to us today.

As we begin this study, take a moment to consider the following questions →

1. What are your initial thoughts or impressions of Genesis 1-11?

2. What stories or passages in these chapters have always intrigued you?

3. Are there any questions or topics in Genesis 1-11 that you find confusing or challenging?

4. Are there any questions about Genesis you would love to have answered during this study?

Week 1 In His Image

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Genesis 1

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 1:26-27 (NKJV)

²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Overview

DISCOVER & LEARN

Background & Themes

Devos

IN THE BEGINNING GOD

Genesis 1:1-3

REVEALED WISDOM IN CREATION

Genesis 1:3-25

IN HIS IMAGE

Genesis 1:26-27

DOMINION AND STEWARDSHIP

Genesis 1:28-31

CHRIST, THE IMAGE OF
GOD'S REDEMPTION

Colossians 1:15-20

Discussion

SCRIPTURE & NOTES

Genesis 1

APPLY

Application Questions

Overview Week 1

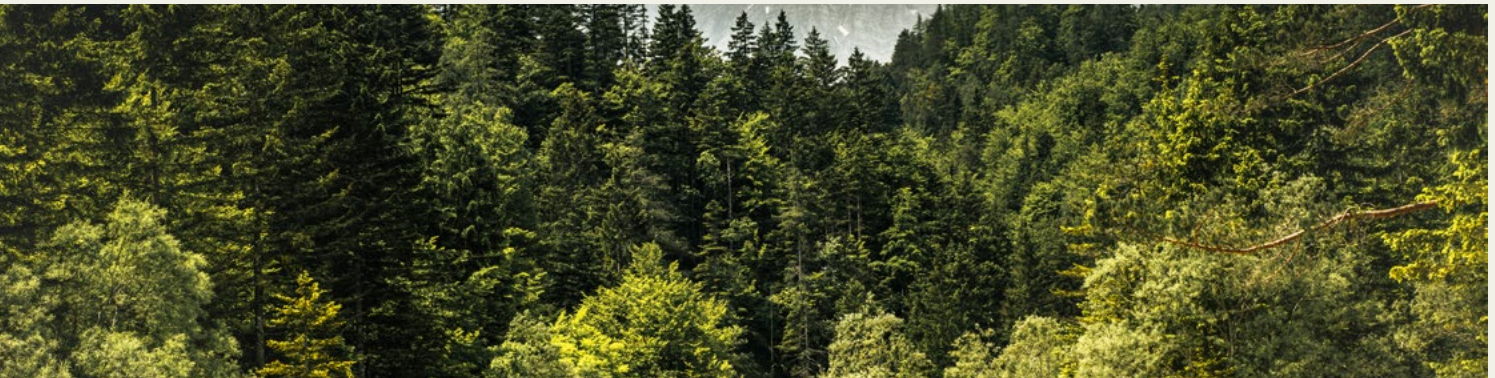
DISCOVER: WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE PASSAGE?

Author & Time Period

The authorship of the book of Genesis, including its first chapter, is attributed to Moses. Genesis was written during the period of Israel's wilderness wanderings, which occurred around the 1400's BC.

During this time, Moses authors the Pentateuch, which includes Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. While the events

described in Genesis span from the creation of the world to the death of Joseph in Egypt, the actual writing of the text likely occurred during the Israelites' sojourn in the wilderness. In short, Moses wants to help his people understand the story of how they became a people through God's inspiration.



Setting & Audience

The setting of Genesis 1 is the creation of the world, as it describes the foundational events of God forming the universe and all living creatures. It is at the beginning of time, marking the initiation of creation.

Genesis 1 is positioned as the opening chapter of the Bible, immediately following the introductory verses of Genesis 1:1-2, which set the stage by declaring, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” The audience for Genesis was the ancient Israelites, particularly those who were receiving the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) as foundational scripture. However, the message of Genesis extends beyond its original audience to all people, as it provides essential insights into the nature of God, the origins of the universe, the purpose of humanity, and the call of His people.

The interpretation of Genesis 1 raises significant questions about the literal versus figurative meanings of the text, particularly concerning the creation account and the concept of “days” described in the chapter. While some advocate for harmony between the theory of evolution and the biblical creation narrative, Genesis presents a clear and explicit account

of God creating the world in six literal days, followed by a day of rest. This presents a challenge to the concept of evolution, which requires death and natural selection over millions of years, whereas Genesis portrays a world that is initially created perfect and without death or sin.

Moreover, the Hebrew word for “day” used in Genesis, “yom,” consistently denotes a literal 24-hour period throughout the chapter and elsewhere in Scripture. This further supports the traditional understanding of the creation account which describes six literal days of creation. Interpreting Genesis non-literally undermines its historical validity and challenges the accuracy of God’s Word, as it suggests a departure from the intended meaning of the text.

Therefore, Genesis demands careful consideration and reverence for its significance as the foundational account of God’s creation of the world. It calls for a commitment to handle Scripture accurately, recognize its inherent truthfulness and God’s intended message, as emphasized in passages such as 2 Timothy 3:16 in which we acknowledge it as the inspired Word of God.

Key Words & Phrases

One of the most significant repetitions in Genesis 1 is the phrase **“GOD SAID,”** which occurs ten times throughout the chapter as God speaks creation into existence. This highlights the power and authority of God’s word in bringing about the creation of the world.

Another important repetition is the phrase **“IT WAS GOOD,”** which appears after each stage of creation to indicate God’s satisfaction and approval of His work. This repetition underscores the goodness and perfection of God’s creation and His intention for harmony and order in the created world.

Additionally, the phrase **“LET US”** is repeated in Genesis 1:26, where God says, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.” This plural form suggests the presence of a divine plurality within the Godhead, and hints at the Trinitarian nature of God.

Lastly, the phrase **“IN HIS IMAGE”** is a key repetition found in Genesis 1:26-27, emphasizing the unique status of humanity as created in the image of God. This phrase highlights the dignity, value, and purpose inherent in every human being, as well as humanity’s special relationship with God as His representatives on earth.



LEARN: WHAT IS THE PASSAGE TEACHING?

Biggest Lesson

Genesis 1 reveals that humanity is created in the image of God, a profound mystery and truth that is best understood through Jesus Christ. Jesus is God revealed! Colossians 1:15 says, “He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” Therefore, when we become more like Christ, we become more like who God designed us to be, image bearers. Through His redemptive work on the

cross, Christ restores us, and empowers believers to reflect God’s character in every aspect of their lives. Embracing Christ as the true image of God compels us to manifest His love, wisdom, and grace, thereby fulfilling our vocation as God’s beloved children and active participants in His redemptive mission within a fallen world.

God & His Character

GOD THE FATHER

Genesis 1 depicts God as the supreme and sovereign Creator who brings the universe into existence through the power of His spoken Word. His creative activity is deliberate, purposeful, and orderly, reflecting His wisdom, majesty, and authority as the Father. The repetition of the phrase “God said” shows His command over creation, while the declaration “it was good” reflects His satisfaction and pleasure in His work. Here we see clearly God is all knowing, sovereign, and all good. It may be easy to ask, not just how God created but why He created. God’s creation reveals not only his might, but ultimately, His love. He is self-sustaining and self-sufficient, and yet He is loving and created us so that we could love and know Him.

GOD THE SON

The concept of the Word of God is implicit in Genesis 1 through the repeated phrase “God said.”

This emphasizes the creative power of God’s spoken Word, which brings about the formation and order of the universe. In the New Testament, the Gospel of John explicitly identifies Jesus Christ as the Word through whom all things were created (John 1:1-3), thus it links the creative activity described in Genesis 1 with the person and work of Christ.

GOD THE SPIRIT

The presence of the Spirit of God hovering over the waters (Genesis 1:2) suggests the active involvement of the Holy Spirit in the creative process. The Spirit’s role is seen as a divine presence and enabler. When He initiates the work of creation highlights His role as the agent of God’s creative power and renewal. This foreshadows the Spirit’s ongoing work in the world, bringing about renewal in accordance with God’s purposes.

The Nature of Humanity

MADE IN HIS IMAGE The declaration that humanity is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) is central to understanding the nature of humanity. This implies that humans possess inherent dignity, value, and worth given to them by their Creator. Being made in God's image signifies that humans share in certain qualities and characteristics of God, such as rationality, creativity, moral responsibility, and the capacity for relationships. As image bearers of God, humans have the capacity to love and build relationships, particularly with their Creator. The fact that God created humans in His image implies a desire for communion and intimacy with humanity. Thus, humans are called to cultivate a personal relationship with God. This relational aspect of human nature reflects the relational nature of the triune God and reveals the importance of fellowship with God as the ultimate fulfillment of human existence.

STEWARDS OF CREATION Genesis 1:28-30 presents humanity with the mandate to exercise

dominion over the earth and its creatures, signifying humans' role as stewards or caretakers of God's creation. This stewardship responsibility entails care and cultivation of the natural world in a manner that reflects God's wisdom, goodness, and love. Thus, humans are called to exercise their dominion over creation in a manner that honors God and preserves the integrity of His created order.

CALLED TO REFLECT GOD'S CHARACTER Finally, as bearers of God's image, humans are called to reflect the character and attributes of their Creator in their thoughts, attitudes, and actions. This involves living out characteristics such as love, righteousness, compassion, justice, and mercy in their relationships with others and in their stewardship of creation. Humans who reflect God's character fulfill their purpose and bring glory to their Creator as they participate in God's ongoing work of redemption and reconciliation.

In the Beginning God...

Genesis 1:1-3

¹*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* ²*The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.* ³*Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.*

DISCOVER

In the very opening of Scripture, Genesis 1:1, we are immediately introduced to the main character of the grand narrative: God. The Hebrew term used here, “Elohim,” is not just a name; it is a profound revelation of His character. Elohim is plural, yet in its plurality, it conveys a singular, whole meaning. It speaks of God’s omnipotence (unlimited power) and might also reveal the complex unity within the Godhead, the Trinity. Pause for a moment to consider the significance of this. The Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is not simply a theological idea, it is the heartbeat of creation. In the beginning, as God speaks the universe into existence,

the Trinity is at work. Distinct functions operate in perfect harmony, bring forth light, separate waters, and sculpt mountains—all by the Word of God. Just as God speaks the universe into existence, John 1:1 reveals that this Word, through whom all things were made, is none other than Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus exists since the beginning of time. This act of creation, solely attributable to God, demonstrates His authority and power over all things, crafting existence from nonexistence by His mighty Word.

LEARN

If we really believe Genesis 1:1, it’s easy to believe everything else in the Bible. If God made everything, He’s in charge of everything and can do anything. God’s work in creation reveals His eternal power and divine nature; it affirms that He is infinite, eternal, existing forever, self-existent, and self-sufficient. While our minds often attempt to compare God to something we can understand, He is entirely unique; He is, after all, God. When we rightly understand God’s power, we can shed our misconceptions about our own significance. We are not here by chance or

because God lacked something without us. Rather, He is holy, and He created us simply because it pleased Him to do so. We must reject the thought that we have anything to add to who God is. This should move us to live in awe and wonder of His genuine glory and image. Let Him be the Creator, Author, and main Character of your life. Our holy, eternal God creates life not just so that we can see His power, but so He might just show you what it is like to experience genuine and true love in its purest form.

APPLY

A.W. Tozer says it perfectly, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” When we internalize the truth

of God’s character and creative power as revealed in Genesis 1:1, it fundamentally transforms our perspective on everything else in life. If we truly believe God created all things, then we must acknowledge His sovereignty over every aspect of existence. Also, the creation narrative is a true invitation to trust God. As the many characteristics of God are revealed, we must understand we have a choice of where we will place our trust. Will we continue to trust in the fleeting, fading, and changing world, or in the rock-solid eternal power of God? How does understanding God as the ultimate authority over all things affect your trust in Him during challenging circumstances?

REFLECTION

Revealed Wisdom in Creation

Genesis 1:3-25

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” ⁷So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. ¹²The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness.

And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” ²¹So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” ²³And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

DISCOVER

In Genesis 1:3-25, we witness the unraveling of creation, a magnificent display of God’s power simply comes to be through His Word. With each decree, light pierces the darkness, limits are set, and life comes forth upon the land and in the waters. Through these acts, God reveals His divine order, laying the foundation for all existence. From the very

beginning of time, we see He has a purpose and plan unfolding at His very command. His authority over creation and humanity is absolute. It demonstrates that what God says holds power, what God decrees will exist, and what God does is perfect. The world began without a stain of sin. From morning to evening, nothing needed to evolve, it appeared by His command.

LEARN

God’s creative act is not merely a display of power but a revelation of His wisdom. Proverbs 3:19-20 tells us the Lord founds the earth by wisdom and establishes the heavens by understanding. In 1 Corinthians 1:22-25, Paul emphasizes that God’s wisdom confounds human wisdom, for what seems foolish to the world is the very power and wisdom of God. But what does it even mean for God to be wise? God’s wisdom refers to His perfect understanding and knowledge, thus it enables Him to discern what is best for humanity in every situation. His wisdom reveals His flawless plans and goals for our well-being. When God commands, His wisdom ensures His instructions are best and will achieve what He intends without any problems. In short, His wisdom within His commands perfectly accomplishes His glory and is always for our good.

APPLY

Reflecting on the perfection of God’s creation, we are confronted with the reality of our obedience to His commands. Just as all of creation obeyed His

word, so too should we submit to His will. By our submission, we will receive His wisdom. Yet, often, we find ourselves withholding obedience, clinging to our desires and agendas, genuinely believing we just might know something greater than the Author of life. Consider any areas of your life where you are resisting God's commands. Are

there habits, attitudes, or relationships that you know are not aligned with His Word? Surrender them to Him. Remember, God's commands are not burdensome but liberating. Trust in His wisdom and sovereignty, knowing His plans for you are perfect.

REFLECTION



Devo Day 3

In His Image

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

DISCOVER

Throughout the beginning of Scripture, these verses hinted at the Trinity working together to form creation. As we examine Genesis 1:26–27, it is quite interesting how the language of the Trinity immediately shifts. In days one through five, the Triune God says, “Let there be,” but as we go deeper into this passage, it changes to “Let us make.” This change in language immediately shows the very nature in which we were created. It reveals to us that what the Trinity made is much greater and uniquely different than all He previously created. The expression

“let us” informs us what it means to be made in His image, to reflect the very community and relational desire God has for us, as we were created by the Trinity. The reflection of God’s image in us is beautifully evident in our tendencies: to love and form relationships, to communicate, steward, and create. Even the simple act of passing down stories is the very means we use to share our wonderful Creator. By creating us in His image, His heart and desire has always been that we experience perfect and genuine love in Him.

LEARN

The truth of being made in God’s image becomes significantly important as we realize we live in a society that desperately asks the question, “Who am I?” It is necessary to address this conversation in a world where we can be and act as we wish, and where such behavior seems acceptable and even encouraged. We must revisit the beginning of Scripture and recognize, regardless of our age, gender, race, or socioeconomic status, and despite what we ultimately believe, the Bible declares we

are image bearers of the living God. Yet, when we examine our lives, the great brokenness in the world makes it difficult to see people as being created in God's image. However, in the act of creation, we realize brokenness was never God's intent, for what He created was deemed as utterly perfect. We will soon see in Genesis 3 that sin distorts this perfect image in which we were created.

APPLY

As we start to truly understand what it means to be created in His image, we will recognize from the very beginning of Scripture to the end of time, God's image will be affirmed and upheld. More specifically, we see how Jesus is the divine image of God, as

stated in Colossians 1:15, which says, "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." Therefore, Genesis 1:26-27 is just a glimpse of what we will witness in the future through the coming of Jesus who defines how to live through His character, conviction, calling, and community. From the outset, we must recognize the need to become more like Jesus. As we reflect Him, we become more like the image bearers God intended. God knew at the very beginning of the world that neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation would be able to separate us from the love of our Father that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord (Romans 8).

REFLECTION

Dominion and Stewardship



Genesis 1:28-31

²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

²⁹And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so. ³¹Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

DISCOVER

God declared what He made on the sixth day was “very good.” It was not merely “very good” in human terms, which might acknowledge slight imperfections, but the literal Hebrew term means “exceedingly good.” In God’s omniscience, sovereignty, beauty, and perfect knowledge, He proclaims that what He makes is “exceedingly good.” And in it, He is delighted. The goodness of this world displays God’s glory, making His glory known throughout all of creation. There is no sin, death, disorder, brokenness, natural disasters, or pollution, and ultimately, no separation in our unity with God. The Kingdom of Heaven is as it should be as man walks with God, reflecting His image at the beginning of Creation. There are many attributes which show how humanity is made in the image of God, but one of the first commands which demonstrates this is found in this passage, directing man to rule over the earth. Mankind is the only being with the capacity to lead

and take dominion over what God creates. In doing so, God provides us with everything necessary on this earth to accomplish this task.

LEARN

While God's intent is clear, when we examine the perfect picture of creation, it becomes evident perfection is not in our world today. This is a direct result of choosing glory for ourselves. Our pride leads us to distort the dominion given by God; we believe we can improve upon His creation. However, our accomplishments pale in comparison to His goodness. Our longing for glory clouds our judgment and causes us to forget that our worth lies only in God's image. In our pursuit of greatness, we forget that our creations can never match the goodness inherent in God's work. Only He can do good. It is impossible for us to do anything good without Him. We must realize that what God commands us to steward and rule over is only good when we humbly

acknowledge it is He who gives it to us, accomplishes it through us, and receives the glory from us.

APPLY

1 Corinthians 10:31 reminds us that everything we do must be done for the glory of the Lord. This means approaching our responsibilities, whether in our families, workplaces, or communities, with a mindset of stewardship. We must recognize what we have is given by God for His Kingdom, rather than for our pride and our kingdom. Everything we possess originates from God. Thus, when we steward our possessions well, we fulfill God's plan. Consider how your resources, talents, and influence can reflect God's image and bring glory to Him. This involves consciously choosing humility and attributing credit to the Lord. By doing so, we actively contribute to building the kingdom of God. Think about what you could directly steward. How can you shift your focus to ensure everything you do is done for the glory of the Lord rather than for personal gain?

REFLECTION

Christ, the Image of God's Redemption

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

¹⁹For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

DISCOVER

Genesis 1 reveals that humanity is created in the image of God, a profound mystery and truth which is best understood through Jesus Christ. Jesus is God revealed! Colossians 1:15 says, “He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” Through His redemptive work on the cross, Christ restores us and empowers believers to reflect God’s character in every aspect of their lives. Embracing Christ as the true image of God compels us to manifest His love, wisdom, and grace, and fulfills our vocation as God’s beloved children and active participants in His redemptive mission within a fallen world. Therefore, through Christ, we not only see God’s character and attributes but also His redemptive plan for humanity.

LEARN

To understand Christ as the image of God's redemption reshapes our perspective on creation, the fall of humanity, and our ultimate restoration. Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, Christ reconciles all things to Himself, and makes peace through His shed blood on the cross. Christ's rescuing work goes beyond human comprehension, offering forgiveness and hope to all who believe in Him. In Christ, we find the fulfillment of God's original plan for creation, as He restores humanity to its intended purpose to glorify God and enjoy eternal fellowship with Him.

APPLY

Just as Genesis calls us to reflect God's image in creation, Colossians calls us to participate in Christ's redemptive work. As image bearers of God, we are called to embody the character and mission of Christ in the world. This means living lives modeled by love, compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation. When we actively participate in God's ongoing work of redemption, we can share the message of salvation by demonstrating God's kingdom values in our relationships, communities, and vocations. When we align our lives with the image of Christ, we bear witness to God's saving power and contribute to the restoration of all things in Him. How does the awareness of Christ's image and our call to reflect His image affect the way we live in our world today?

REFLECTION



Discussion Week 1

Scripture & Notes

Genesis 1

THE HISTORY OF CREATION

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.
⁴And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

⁶Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.”
⁷Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. ⁸And God called

the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

⁹Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. ¹⁰And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. ¹²And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³So the evening and the morning were the third day.

¹⁴Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. ¹⁶Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. ¹⁷God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

²⁰Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth

across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” ²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

²⁹ And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰ Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air,

and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so. ³¹Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Discussion Week 1

Application questions

1. How does understanding God as the ultimate authority over all things affect your trust in Him during challenging circumstances?

2. Consider what areas of your life are resisting God's commands. Are there habits, attitudes, or relationships that you know are not aligned with His word?

3. Thinking about what is given directly to you to steward, how can you shift your focus to ensure that everything you do is done for the glory of the Lord rather than for personal gain?

4. How does the truth of knowing that all people are created in God's image directly impact how you treat those around you?

5. How can you live today with the awareness of Christ's image and our calling to reflect His image in the world?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- How does the truth of knowing that all people are created in God's image directly impact how you treat those around you?

Genesis 2+3

Week 2
The Fall

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 2:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Overview

DISCOVER & LEARN

Background & Themes

Devos

REFLECTION AND REST

Genesis 2:1-3

IT STARTED IN THE GARDEN

Genesis 2:4-17

MAN SHOULD NOT BE ALONE

Genesis 2:18-25

THE FALL

Genesis 3:1-13

THE CURSE

Genesis 3:14-24

Discussion

SCRIPTURE & NOTES

Genesis 2:1-3:24

APPLY

Application Questions

Overview Week 2

DISCOVER: WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE PASSAGE?

Setting & Audience

Genesis 2 and 3 exclusively take place in the garden of Eden. In this portion of Scripture, we get the details of the garden and the roles both Adam and Eve play in the earliest days.

Moses picks up the narrative with the creation of both Adam and Eve. Adam is created first, and Eve is formed shortly after from Adam's side. We do not know the exact amount of time which elapsed between the creation of man and the fall, but it is reasonable to believe it was likely a matter of days.

The audience of the entire book of Genesis is the people of Israel. Unlike the Gospels where Jesus speaks to others, or the epistles that are messages to specific churches and peoples, Genesis is meant to be a record for Israel as well as future readers.

Key Words & Phrases

DUST, GROUND, YOU SHALL, CURSED, CREATED, TREE, GOOD, and EVIL are all common in Genesis 2 and 3. The most significant of these is likely “good” and “evil” because of the conflict between them which is established as sin is introduced. From here on, the Bible records the history of good and evil which starts in the garden. Many other repeated words are about creation and its goodness. God creates a perfect, beautiful earth, which is then cursed because of humanity's sin.



LEARN: WHAT IS THE PASSAGE TEACHING?

Biggest Lesson

Genesis 3 reveals to us humanity's fall into sin and foreshadows the coming redemption through Jesus' work on the Cross. From just the third chapter of the Bible, we are given a glimpse of God's final triumph over sin and death. The events of the Fall in Genesis 3 set forth the story told throughout Scripture, which eventually concludes in Revelation.

God & His Character

God's instructions to Adam about the Garden of Eden reveal His authority over all creation. Since we are created in His image, when He creates Eve, this demonstrates His desire for and the value He places on relationships. We also learn through Genesis 3 about Jesus' coming and victory over Satan through the details of the curse of the serpent.

The Nature of Humanity

COMPANIONSHIP: Although we are told man was created on the sixth day in Genesis 1, Genesis 2 gives a series of specific details regarding what happened that day. God chooses to make a companion for Adam to help him in his dominion over this new world (Genesis 2:18). The two are created to be relational beings. They are not just meant to be coworkers; they are meant to have a relationship with each other and become one flesh. To this day we have a natural draw towards companionship and

fellowship with others. God did not create us to walk through life's challenges alone.

SIN NATURE: Genesis 3 displays the struggle with temptation that results in the disobedience of Adam and Eve. They give into the first temptation presented to them, and from that moment forward, every person is born with a sinful nature. This nature is present in each of us and is something that we will battle all our lives. Thankfully, we can conquer this nature through a relationship with our Heavenly Father.



Devo Day 1

Reflection and Rest

Genesis 2:1-3

¹Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ²And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

DISCOVER

Start your time of reflection by picturing an earth that is just a few days old. At first, it was filled with life. There is sense of finality in these verses; the word “finished” is used twice, yet it is also just the beginning. After six days of work, God takes the seventh day to rest and makes it holy, setting it apart from the others. He completes His masterpiece and declares it good. Now, the Creator participates in the Sabbath as the rest of history is about to begin.

LEARN

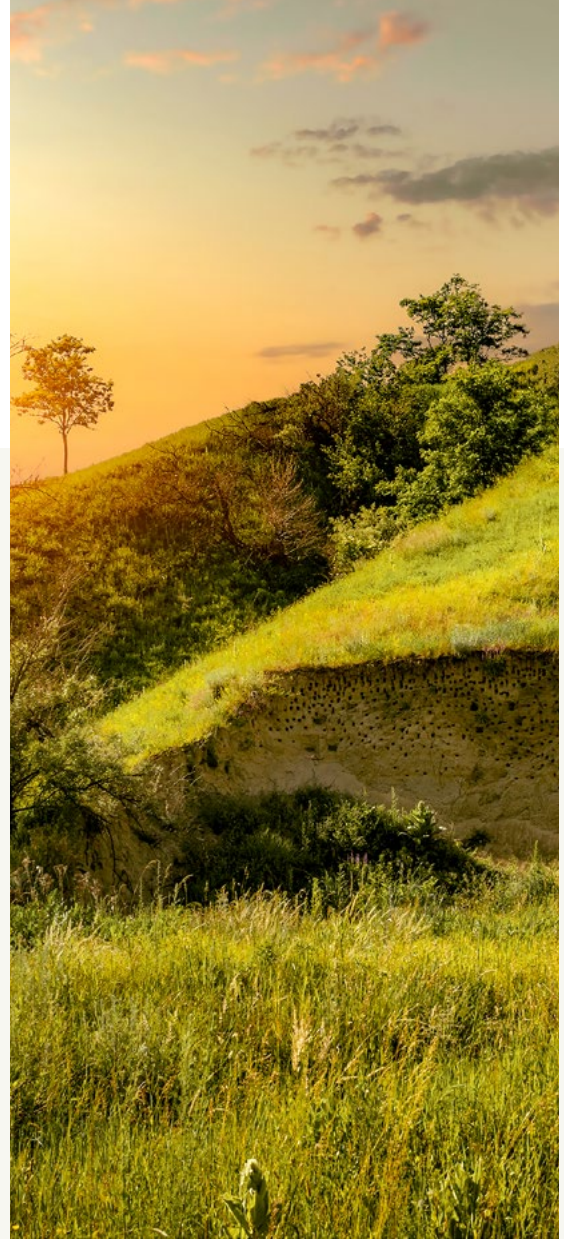
God does not rest on the seventh day because he needs it. He is not exhausted but does it as an example to mankind. Unlike our Creator, we require time to rest and recover. God gives us rest as a gift, and the sanctification of the Sabbath is the first display of this truth. Just as God is the Author of the Universe, He is the Author and the Giver of peace and rest in our lives. The Sabbath represents the rest that we can have in Christ. We can live from a place of rest every day because we are capable of a relationship with the Creator of the Universe.

APPLY

True restfulness is not found in taking a break or a vacation. True restfulness is a form of awareness, a posture we carry throughout life. It is living with a sense of ease that comes from a trust in the almighty Savior. We find ourselves truly restful when our ordinary life is enough. We do not have anyone to answer to or anything to prove to justify our need for rest. Rest in Christ. It is also wise to follow God’s example of taking a day of rest for you and your

family. What does rest look like in your life? Do you find it difficult to reserve a day of the week for rest? Further, do you find it difficult to reserve a time each day to rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ? How can you make space for rest in your life?

REFLECTION 



It Started in the Garden

Genesis 2:4-17

⁴This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; ⁶but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

⁷And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

⁸The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

⁹And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is

the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good. Bdelium and the onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

DISCOVER

Genesis 1 gives us a summarized, zoomed out perspective of creation. At this point in chapter 2, we do not see another instance of humanity’s creation, but get a more detailed look at how it takes place. We see that Adam is formed from dust and put in the garden to maintain it. From there we get a

more detailed description of the Garden's geography, which serves as the setting for the next several chapters in Genesis. It wraps up by foreshadowing the coming significance of the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

LEARN

Although Moses is the author of Genesis, He clearly was not there to witness Creation or the Garden of Eden. The Holy Spirit revealed these details to Moses as he wrote the precise parts of history that would accomplish God's purpose. Verse 4 is the first time "The Lord God" or "Yahweh" is used to describe God. Moses uses a more personal name for God to highlight the creation of those made in His image.

APPLY

Up to this point, we have not learned anything about creation outside of the Garden, but we do know that God visits Eden to walk alongside those in it. Clearly, Yahweh has a special interest in this garden, as He places the first humans there to care for it. As much as God loves everything He makes, we are different because we are made in God's image. As a result of this, we have dominion over creation and a relationship with the Creator. How does our design differ from the rest of creation? What does our unique design imply about God's love for us?

REFLECTION

Devo Day 3

Man Should Not Be Alone

Genesis 2:18-25

¹⁸And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” ¹⁹Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

²¹And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²²Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

²³And Adam said:

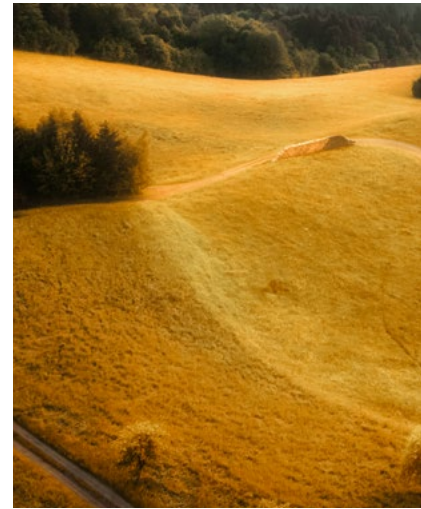
*“This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.”*

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

DISCOVER

God does not think it is good for man to be alone. Adam is given dominion over the animals and names them, but he does not have a companion. God recognizes this and makes Eve from Adam’s side to be a companion, helper, and partner for him. In the last couple of verses, we are introduced to the first human relationship. We are told that a man shall leave his parents and





join his wife as they become one flesh, thus creating a marriage and a family for themselves.

LEARN

In Genesis 1, we see the beginning of the world and intelligent life. Here in Chapter 2, we witness the beginning of earthly relationships, the first of them being marriage. The marriage relationship was created by God so that men and women could have a lifelong companionship and commit to uplift each other as they grow together. You may have noticed the repeated use of the word “helper.” Eve is created to be a “helper” to Adam as a complement to him and his role on earth. This terminology does not

mean that Eve is lesser in dignity or in the eyes of God, but rather her role is to assist and work alongside Adam as he leads the couple to follow God’s design for them. These roles are meant to be complementary to one another.

APPLY

Regardless of lifestyle or profession, we are all called to work and live alongside others. Although this varies greatly depending on the person, we all have different roles in each relationship. God gives us roles to serve others and expand His Kingdom. What roles do you fill? Do you find yourself using your roles in life to glorify yourself, others, or God?

REFLECTION

Devo Day 4

The Fall

Genesis 3:1-13

¹Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and

they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

⁹Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

¹¹And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

¹²Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

¹³And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

DISCOVER

The first half of chapter 3 includes the serpent's temptation of Adam and Eve, followed by their decision to individually eat from the forbidden tree. Satan manipulates Eve by taking God's command and twisting it to appear like a limitation God sets on them. Instead of acknowledging they have all but one tree at their disposal, the serpent points out that they may not eat from that specific tree. It is worth noting that this temptation has some truth in it. After they eat the fruit, their eyes are immediately open to their sin and rebellion. They feel ashamed to be naked in the presence of God. They see themselves as sinners rather than a reflection of their Creator.

LEARN

In the narrative of Genesis 3, the serpent's tempting of Eve and Adam and their rebellion against God starts a struggle between sin and holiness. This culminates in the arrival of Jesus, ultimately a descendant of Eve. Jesus' life will one day conquer

both sin and death, which is referred to as the crushing of the serpent's head. Sin has now entered the world, and with it, shame. The first recognition of this shame is when they hide from God as he searches for them in the garden. The second instance of shame comes after God asks if they ate the fruit. Adam, instead of admitting his guilt, blames Eve to avoid the consequence of disobedience and defiance of his Creator.

APPLY

Satan does what he can to undermine God's Word. God gives Adam and Eve clear instructions about the trees, yet the serpent manipulates God's words to make Him seem unloving and restrictive. From our point of view, it is easy to spot this manipulation. But when we experience it firsthand, our blindness to our own sin can get the best of us. When faced with the enemy's deception and manipulation, how can we maintain a foundation of truth? How can Satan's deceit influence how we view ourselves as image bearers?

REFLECTION



Devo Day 5

The Curse

Genesis 3:14-24

¹⁴So the Lord God said to the serpent:

*“Because you have done this,
You are cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.*

¹⁵And I will put enmity

*Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.”*

¹⁶To the woman He said:

*“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your
conception;*

In pain you shall bring forth children;

*Your desire shall be for your husband,
And he shall rule over you.”*

¹⁷Then to Adam He said, “Because you have
heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from
the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You
shall not eat of it’:

*“Cursed is the ground for your sake;
In toil you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.*

¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall bring
forth for you,

And you shall eat the herb of the field.

¹⁹In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
Till you return to the ground,

*For out of it you were taken;
For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return.”*

²⁰And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because
she was the mother of all living.

²¹Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

²²Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” — ²³therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

DISCOVER

The second half of Genesis 3 mainly highlights curses because Adam and Eve ate. The first is to punish the deceiving serpent by cursing him above all other animals. The serpent will forever

be involved in a battle with the eventual offspring of Eve. The curse of the serpent then transitions to the judgments and consequences of Adam and Eve’s actions. Eve keeps the blessing of being the mother of humanity but will now experience pain and sorrow in childbirth. Adam’s consequence is different because the ground is now cursed and resists the rule of man. His dominion and care of creation involves painstaking work until the day he dies. Following the distribution of these judgments, the couple is expelled from the garden.

LEARN

While these judgments seem straight-forward, there are layers of meaning and foreshadowing that apply to each of them. For instance, it is the serpent who deceives Eve and puts Biblical events in motion, but the descendant of Eve will defeat the serpent in the end. The whole Bible is designed to tell the



story of how Genesis 3:15 becomes the redemptive reality of Jesus rescuing humanity from the grasp of sin. Satan will eventually be crushed by Jesus, the Son of Man.

APPLY

We currently live in the times foreshadowed in these verses. Sin devours our world because of the harmful decisions of every human since Adam and

Eve. But our reality is that, unlike Adam and Eve, we have knowledge of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. We live in a time where we can experience the redeeming forgiveness of Jesus. Yet we also await His final act of conquered sin once and for all. What would it look like for you to live in anticipation of the promise made in Genesis 3:15? In what ways did Jesus conquer sin, and how will that come to completion?

REFLECTION

Discussion Week 2

Scripture & Notes

Genesis 2+3

¹Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ²And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

⁴This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; ⁶but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

⁷And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

LIFE IN GOD'S GARDEN

⁸The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. ¹¹The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹²And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. ¹³The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."
¹⁹Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and

to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

²¹And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²²Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

²³And Adam said:

“This is now bone of my bones

And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

THE TEMPTATION AND FALL OF MAN

3 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it

your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

⁹Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

¹¹And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

¹²Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

¹³And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴So the Lord God said to the serpent:

“Because you have done this,

You are cursed more than all cattle,

And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.”

¹⁶To the woman He said:
“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;
In pain you shall bring forth children;
Your desire shall be for your husband,
And he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the
voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I
commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’:

“Cursed is the ground for your sake;
In toil you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.

¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.

¹⁹In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;

For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return.”

²⁰And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

²¹Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

²²Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— ²³therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Discussion Week 2

Application questions

- 1.** We were designed to have a relationship not only with creation, but with the Creator. How does our design differ from the rest of creation? What does our unique design imply about God's love for us?

- 2.** God gives each of us roles to serve others and expand His Kingdom. What roles do you fill? Do you find yourself using your roles in life to glorify yourself, others, or God?

3. When faced with the enemy's deception and manipulation, how can we maintain a foundation of truth?

4. What would it look like for you to live in anticipation of the promise made in Genesis 3:15?

5. In what ways did Jesus conquer sin, and how will that come to completion?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- What does rest look like in your life? Do you find it difficult to reserve a day of the week for rest? Further, do you find it difficult to reserve time each day to rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ? How can you make space for rest in your life?
- How can Satan's deceit influence how we view ourselves as image bearers?

Genesis 4

Week 3
The Image
of Cain or
Christ

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 4:7^(NKJV)

"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

Overview

DISCOVER & LEARN

Background & Themes

Devos

HOPE IS CRUSHED

Genesis 4:1-2,
Romans 5:3-4,
1 Peter 1:3,
Hebrews 11:1

A MERCIFUL WARNING

Genesis 4:3-7

A JUST GOD

Genesis 4:8-16

THE CYCLE OF SIN

Genesis 4:17-26,
Psalm 22:22-31

THE BETTER ABEL

Genesis 4:1-26,
Hebrews 11:4; 12:24

Discussion

SCRIPTURE & NOTES

Genesis 4:1-26

APPLY

Application
Questions

Overview Week 3

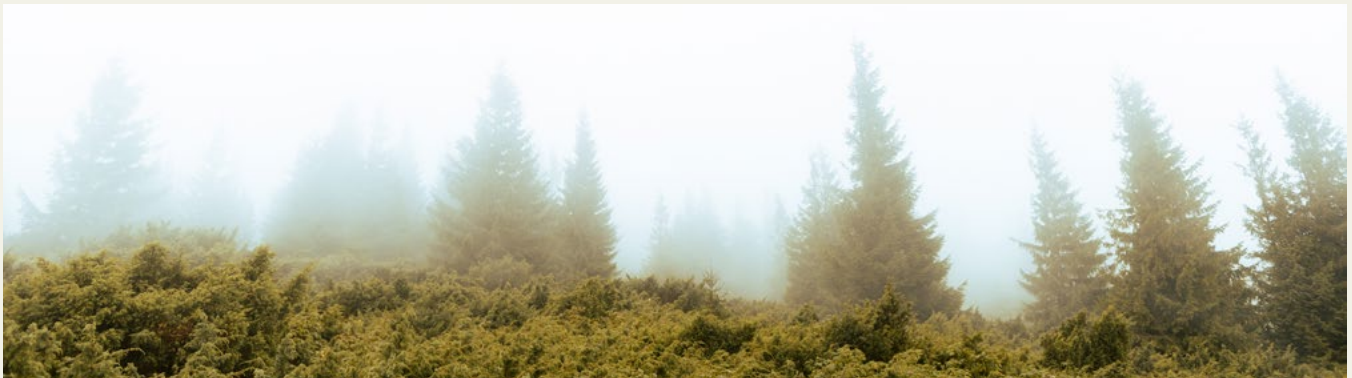
DISCOVER: WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE PASSAGE?

Setting & Audience

The setting is after Adam and Eve are sent out from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). It happens in an unspecified location east of Eden where Adam and Eve lived and began to raise their family. The immediate audience is the Israelites during Moses' time, but it also serves as a message to all readers of the Bible.

Key Words & Phrases

Key phrases include **“OFFERING,” “SIN,” “CROUCHING AT YOUR DOOR,” “BROTHER,”** and **“BLOOD.”** The repeated use of “offering” shows the differing receptions of Cain’s and Abel’s sacrifices. “Sin” and “crouching at your door” highlight the lurking danger of sin. The repetition of “brother” and “blood” shows the gravity of Cain’s actions against his sibling.





LEARN: WHAT IS THE PASSAGE TEACHING?

God & His Character

GOD THE FATHER

Justice and Omniscience: God the Father demonstrates His justice and omniscience by confronting Cain about his sin and warning him before he commits it (Genesis 4:6-7). He knows Cain's heart and actions, and He holds Cain accountable for murdering Abel, illustrating His righteous character.

GOD THE SON

Foreshadowing Redemption: The narrative of Abel's righteous offering and subsequent murder by Cain foreshadows Jesus Christ (the Son), who is also described as righteous and unjustly killed. Abel's acceptable sacrifice hints at the ultimate sacrifice Jesus will make, highlighting God's plan for redemption from the beginning (Hebrews 12:24).

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

Conviction and Guidance: The Spirit's role in convicting and guiding is seen in God's interaction with Cain. God warns Cain about sin's desire to control him and encourages him to rule over it (Genesis 4:7). This reflects the Spirit's work of convicting individuals of sin and guiding them towards righteousness (John 16:8).

Biggest Lesson

First, we see the importance of right intentions and attitudes when offering gifts or sacrifices to God. Cain's rejection shows that God values the heart and intentions behind actions, not just the actions themselves.

We also see how sin may have the power to rule over us, so we must actively choose to submit to God rather than sin. When we choose right living, we are transformed to be more like the image of Christ.

The Nature of Humanity

The verses reveal humanity's vulnerability to sin and temptations. Cain's actions show how easily humans can be led astray by their own emotions. Additionally, they demonstrate the consequences of sin, both in terms of immediate punishment and the long-term impact on one's life and relationships.



Devo Day 1

Hope is Crushed

Genesis 4:1-2

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord.” ²Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Romans 5:3-4

³And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

1 Peter 1:3

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Hebrews 11:1

¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

DISCOVER

In Genesis 4:1-2, we encounter the birth of Cain and Abel, the first sons of Adam and Eve. Eve conceives and gives birth to Cain and expresses profound gratitude to the Lord for this gift of new life. Later, she gives birth to Abel. Cain becomes a farmer, tilling the soil, while Abel becomes a shepherd, tending the flocks. This brief passage sets the stage for the dramatic events to follow between these brothers. However, if we rush past these verses, we might miss a critical lesson shown in Eve’s joyful response to Cain’s birth. The moment sin entered the world also marked the time of our desperate need for hope. The entirety of the Old Testament reflects humanity’s deep longing for this hope.

LEARN

Eve's joy at Cain's birth is deeply significant. Following the Fall in the Garden of Eden, God proclaims a curse on the serpent. He declares that the woman's offspring will crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15). Eve has great hope that Cain is this promised deliverer who will free them from the curse of sin and death. She sees Cain as the picture of redemption, a beacon of hope for the future. Yet, as the narrative unfolds, Cain tragically fails to fulfill this hope. Instead of crushing the serpent, he crushes the life of his brother Abel. This devastating turn must have been heartbreaking for Eve, shattering her hope that Cain would be the savior and compounding her pain as the ground cried out over Abel's blood.

APPLY

Much like Eve, we often struggle with the reality that God's promises might not be seen within our lifetimes. We face circumstances where our expectations falter, tragedies strike, and dreams collapse. Eve believes Cain is the promised savior, but God's

plan is different. We, too, might feel as though hope is lost in our moments of despair. Yet, Eve's story teaches us that even when our immediate hopes crumble, God's grand plan for redemption presses onward. Unlike Eve, we stand on the other side of history to experience the fulfillment of hope in Jesus Christ. He is the True Offspring who crushed the serpent's head and delivers us from the curse of sin and death. This fulfillment shifts our hope from the transient promises of this world to the eternal assurance found in Christ. Because of Jesus, we can hold onto hope, even when everything seems lost. Our disappointments in this life remind us of our heart's deep longing to be fully restored to the image in which we were created. By anchoring our hope in God's steadfast faithfulness through Jesus Christ, we can face life's setbacks with unshakeable confidence and look forward to the ultimate fulfillment of His promises. What ways you can anchor your hope more firmly in Jesus Christ amidst your current disappointments, rather than in the fleeting promises of this world?

REFLECTION

A Merciful Warning

Genesis 4:3-7

³And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. ⁴Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, ⁵but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

DISCOVER


In Genesis 4:3-7, Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam and Eve, both engage with God through their offerings. Despite pervasive sin, God remains merciful and involved with humanity. Abel’s sacrifice of a firstborn lamb pleases God, while Cain’s produce does not, highlighting a significant distinction. Abel’s offering reflects God’s provision of the first

sacrifice in Genesis 3 and foreshadows Christ’s ultimate atonement through the shedding of blood. God’s interaction with Cain, who grows angry over his rejected offering, demonstrates His mercy. By questioning Cain and warning him of sin’s danger, God emphasizes the need to master emotions and choose righteousness. This presents an early depiction of spiritual warfare.

LEARN

Abel’s sacrifice reveals the deeper issue with Cain’s offering, which is rooted in the condition of the heart. Abel’s genuine worship and adoration for God reflects a heart devoted to pleasing and honoring the Creator, whereas Cain’s self-centered approach shows a lack of repentance and true faith. God’s rejection of Cain’s offering is not about the material nature of the sacrifice but indicative of Cain’s heart, marked by pride and self-satisfaction. This reaction illustrates how sin takes a firm hold in Cain’s heart, and his inability to accept God’s correction with humility reveals his resistance to God’s guidance. God’s method to ask questions, despite





already knowing the answers, gives individuals like Cain the opportunity to acknowledge their actions and seek repentance. This approach reflects God's mercy and offers a choice to either submit to Him or to sin; there is no third option. Cain's story teaches us that sin always lurks, and what we allow into our hearts and minds determines our actions and our relationship with the Lord.

APPLY

Just as Cain's pride leads to his downfall, our pride can blind us from the truth and lead us astray from righteousness. God extends mercy to Cain and warns him of his sin, which serves as God's warning to us. Sin crouches at your door and its desire is for

you, but God gives you the opportunity to repent, right now. While sin may feel gratifying, it brings real, severe consequences, so we must actively avoid its enslavement. Recognize your vulnerabilities and guard your heart (Proverbs 4:23). Be aware that Satan seeks to exploit these weaknesses (1 Peter 5:8). When tempted, turn to Christ for strength, as He understands our weaknesses and invites us to seek His help (Hebrews 4:15-16). Embrace God's Word, transform your mind and heart daily (Romans 12:2). Seek accountability within the body of Christ for support (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10) and stand firm against the enemy's schemes (Ephesians 6:10-11). What practical steps can you take this week to guard your heart and seek accountability in your community?

REFLECTION

Devo Day 3

A Just God

Genesis 4:8-16

⁸Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

⁹Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?”

He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

¹⁰And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. ¹¹So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹²When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.”

¹³And Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a

fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.”

¹⁵And the Lord said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

¹⁶Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.

DISCOVER

In Genesis 4:8-16, despite God’s merciful warning, Cain fails to heed His advice, leading to tragic consequences. We see Cain’s reaction to his punishment after he kills Abel; he laments that his punishment is more than he can bear. While Cain responds with great sadness over his punishment, repentance is still absent from his heart. In response, God mercifully places a mark on Cain to protect him, ensuring that anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over. Cain then goes out from the Lord’s presence and settles in the land of Nod, east of Eden. This passage

illustrates God's justice in response to sin, yet also His mercy and protection.

LEARN

God's previous warning leaves Cain with no excuse of his wrong doings. Cain's punishment, a life of wandering and fear, is a direct result of the act of murdering his brother. This act illustrates first-hand that sin leads to suffering and separation from God. While God gives mercy by placing a protective mark on Cain, his actions still result in great consequences. Cain's sadness for his sin is not the same as repentance. In the same way, we often go to God, ask Him to save us from our sin, yet simultaneously have no desire to change what took root in our heart.

APPLY

Although it may be tempting to assume that what happens to Cain would never be our own experience, the reality is that none of us are exempt from

the consequences of our sin. If we follow in the likeness of Cain and refuse to repent of our sin, then it will hinder our ability to truly commit ourselves to worship God and to experience all that His love has to offer us. Thus, we are faced with a choice: do we follow in Cain's image, and allow sin to reign in our lives, or do we strive to embody the likeness of Christ? Cain's path will lead to continual failure if we succumb to worldly temptations, diverting our attention from God. However, when we truly recognize the holiness of our compassionate God, who persistently seeks to abide with His people despite the darkness of sin, shouldn't we willingly surrender all burdens at His feet? In what ways have you seen your sin hinder your relationship and worship to God?

REFLECTION

The Cycle of Sin

Genesis 4:17-26

¹⁷And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Ē'noch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Ē'noch. ¹⁸To Ē'noch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.

¹⁹Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. ²⁰And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. ²²And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.

²³Then Lamech said to his wives:

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;

Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech!

For I have killed a man for wounding me,

Even a young man for hurting me.

²⁴If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,

Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”

A New Son

²⁵And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.” ²⁶And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Ē'nosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.

Psalm 22:22-31

²²I will declare Your name to My brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

²³You who fear the Lord, praise Him!

All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him,

And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;

Nor has He hidden His face from Him;

But when He cried to Him, He heard.

²⁵*My praise shall be of You in the great assembly;*

I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.

²⁶*The poor shall eat and be satisfied;*

Those who seek Him will praise the Lord.

Let your heart live forever!

²⁷*All the ends of the world*

Shall remember and turn to the Lord,

And all the families of the nations

Shall worship before You.

²⁸*For the kingdom is the Lord's,*

And He rules over the nations.

²⁹*All the prosperous of the earth*

Shall eat and worship;

All those who go down to the dust

Shall bow before Him,

Even he who cannot keep himself alive.

³⁰*A posterity shall serve Him.*

It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation,

³¹*They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born,*

That He has done this.

DISCOVER

Reading the genealogies in Scripture might seem tedious, but they are a testament to God's faithfulness and the realization of His warnings. The lineage of Cain, detailed in these verses, gives us insight into the early stages of human society and culture. Even though Cain is condemned to wander, God still allows him to build a city named after his son, Enoch. Yet, Lamech's boast to his wives reveals how sin continues to grow and shows Satan's increasing assault on the family. His claim of vengeance is greater than Cain's and underscores a deepening cycle of sin which contrasts starkly with God's call for humanity. While Cain's lineage is marred by sin, the birth of Seth and his son Enosh marks a renewal of faith and worship, as people begin to call on the name of the Lord and look forward to the Messiah.

LEARN

Lamech's story highlights the dangers of generational sin. There is truly nothing new under the sun, and Satan often recycles his tactics which continually ensnare us. Instead of seeking repentance, Lamech, like Cain, embraces and boasts about his sin. He takes pride in his vengeance. He claims he retaliated seventy times seven, which contrasts sharply with Jesus' teaching in Matthew 18:21-22 to forgive seventy times seven. Jesus advocates for mercy over vengeance, love over hatred. Our inherent wickedness leaves nothing to boast about in ourselves; our only boast is in Christ. Following His

example, we strive to forgive even when revenge seems more satisfying. Despite the persistent sinfulness, God's protection and sustenance are evident through the line of Seth and leads to Noah, a righteous man in a corrupt world.

APPLY

Psalm 22 reminds us that we are not bound by the generational sins handed down to us; we can choose to live righteously and praise God for generations. God inhabits our praises if we acknowledge and resist Satan's temptations to repeat past mistakes.

Ephesians tells us that through Christ, we have new life, freeing us from the legacy of our past. In this new life, we follow Jesus' teaching to forgive abundantly and avoid boasting in our wrongdoings. Christ is our model, the only one in whom we can truly boast. Reflect on areas where generational sin may affect your life and surrender it to the Lord. Like Noah, you can change your family's trajectory through God's renewing power, but it must begin with a heart that is ready to walk in humility and obedience unto the Lord.

REFLECTION



The Better Abel

Genesis 4:1-26

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." ²Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. ⁴Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, ⁵but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

⁸Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

⁹Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"

He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

¹⁰And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

¹¹So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."

¹³And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me."

¹⁵And the Lord said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

¹⁶Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. ¹⁷And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the

name of the city after the name of his son—Ē'noch.
¹⁸To Ē'noch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael,
and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael
begot Lamech.

¹⁹Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the
name of one was Adah, and the name of the sec-
ond was Zillah. ²⁰And Adah bore Jabal. He was the
father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock.
²¹His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father
of all those who play the harp and flute. ²²And as
for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of
every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of
Tubal-Cain was Naamah.

²³Then Lamech said to his wives:

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;

Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech!

For I have killed a man for wounding me,

Even a young man for hurting me.

²⁴*If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,*

Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”

²⁵And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a
son and named him Seth, *“For God has appointed
another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain
killed.”* ²⁶And as for Seth, to him also a son was
born; and he named him Ē'nosh. Then men began to
call on the name of the Lord.

Hebrews 11:4, 12:24

⁴By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sac-
rifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness
that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and
through it he being dead still speaks.

²⁴to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and
to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things
than that of Abel.

DISCOVER

While much of this week focused on the sin and image of Cain, it is crucial to remember that God is still at work to restore His people back to the Garden. In the beginning of the week, we learned that when Eve gave birth to Cain, she likely believed he would be the one to save them from the curse of sin they were living under. However, we quickly realized that her hope had been misplaced. While we too often experience this same disappointment, Eve is given a glimpse of future hope through the birth of Seth, which is the line in which Jesus comes from. We also see how God even uses sin to bring about His purposes in teaching us what His saving work truly looks like. On this final day, we will take time to focus on the character of Abel. Although Abel's presence in Genesis 4 is brief, the legacy he leaves is echoed throughout Scripture. Abel provides us with an early picture of Christ, showing how God's redemption will come to fruition even amidst human sinfulness. Abel's life and sacrifice

foreshadow the coming of Christ, emphasizing the continuity of God’s plan and His unwavering commitment to humanity.

LEARN

However, we learn that God uses Cain’s actions to foreshadow what Christ will endure for us. Abel, as a shepherd, reflects Jesus, the Good Shepherd who willingly sacrifices His life for His sheep, as described in John 10:11. Abel’s experience of unjust hatred from his brother parallels Christ’s own experience of being hated without cause, as we see in John 15:23-25. Just as Abel is the target of his brother’s jealousy, Jesus faces great jealousy from the Pharisees. Unfortunately, for each of them, that jealousy results in a violent death at the hands of their adversaries. Also, we see Abel acts as a priest who offers a sacrifice pleasing to the Lord. This points to our ultimate fulfillment in Jesus, who becomes the Great High Priest who offers Himself as the perfect sacrifice, as described in Hebrews. These parallels show Abel’s role as a foreshadowing of Christ, which demonstrates the continuity of God’s redemptive

plan throughout Scripture, often revealed in unexpected ways.

APPLY

Despite the gravity of Cain’s sin, Cain’s story reveals to us who Christ is. In our sin, we, like Cain, harm our “brother”. Yet Christ came to be crushed for our sins, a picture beautifully displayed in Isaiah 53. His grace continuously covers us, regardless of how often we fail, how severely we sin, or how many times we fall—He is there. Repeatedly, Christ’s grace covers us. In the depths of our temptation and during the greatest moments of our struggle, we can remember that we do not serve an unfeeling high priest. Since Christ endured everything we endure, we can approach Him with confidence to receive mercy and find grace in our times of need. How can you start to see Christ as the better Abel and trust in His help during your times of need? He is the true offspring of the woman who defeated the serpent, who invites all sinners to approach Him with great boldness.

REFLECTION

Discussion Week 3

Scripture & Notes

Genesis 4

CAIN MURDERS ABEL

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord.” ²Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. ⁴Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, ⁵but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

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¹⁰And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. ¹¹So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹²When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.”

¹³And Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.”

¹⁵And the Lord said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

THE FAMILY OF CAIN

¹⁶Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. ¹⁷And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Ē’noch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Ē’noch. ¹⁸To Ē’noch was born Irad; and

Irak begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.

¹⁹Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. ²⁰And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. ²²And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.

²³Then Lamech said to his wives:

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Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech!

For I have killed a man for wounding me,

Even a young man for hurting me.

²⁴If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,

Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”

A NEW SON

²⁵And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.” ²⁶And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Ēnosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.

Discussion Week 3

Application questions

- 1.** Abel's offering was pleasing to God because it was given with a right heart. How do you approach giving and serving God? Do you offer your best with a sincere heart? Explain your answer.

- 2.** Cain's sin directly impacted His relationship with God. How do the consequences of your actions impact your relationship with God and others, and what steps can you take to make amends where necessary?

3. Is there evidence of generational sin or ongoing temptations that you struggle with in any area of your life? Consider how this may impact your current way of living. What are some practical ways you could surrender these obstacles to the Lord each day?

4. Despite Cain's sin, God continues to engage with him and provide protection. What does this tell you about God's desire for a relationship with you, even when you fall short?

5. How can you begin to see Christ as the better Abel? What are the characteristic traits of God that you can choose to focus on this week?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- In what ways have you seen your sin hinder your relationship and worship to God?
- How can you anchor your hope more firmly in Jesus Christ amidst your current disappointments, rather than in the fleeting promises of this world?
- What steps can you take this week to guard your heart and seek accountability in your community?

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Genesis 5-6:8

Week 4 Judgment Decreed

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 6:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Overview

DISCOVER & LEARN

Background & Themes

Devos

THE GENERATIONS OF MAN

Genesis 5:1-5

DEATH IN ADAM, LIFE IN CHRIST

Genesis 5:12-21

BORN WITHOUT SIN

Isaiah 7:14

Matthew 1:18-25

GENEALOGIES FROM ADAM

Genesis 5:6-32

OUR IMAGE CORRUPTED

Genesis 6:1-8

Discussion

SCRIPTURE & NOTES

Genesis 5-6:8

APPLY

Application Questions

Overview Week 4

DISCOVER: WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE PASSAGE?

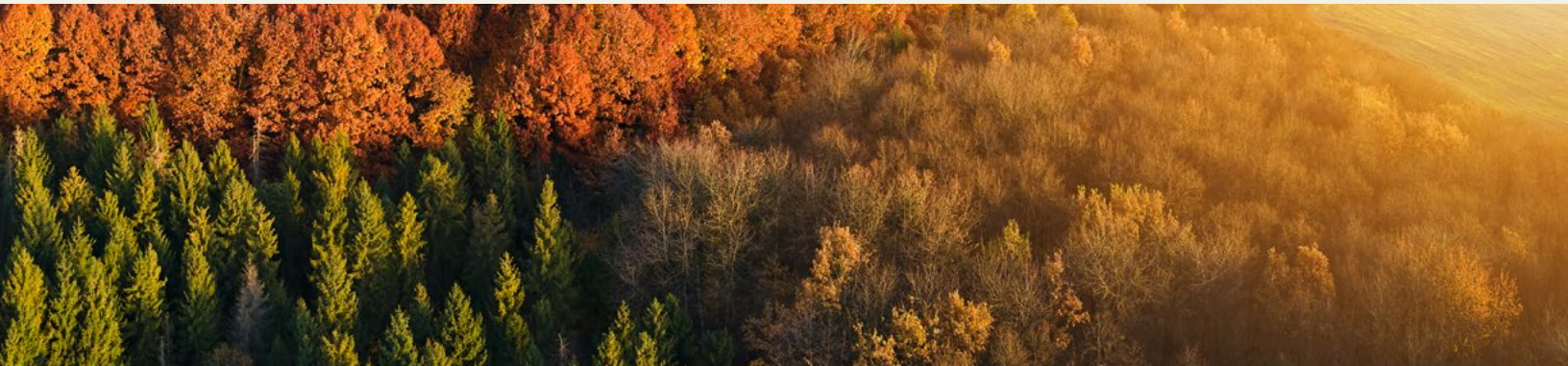
Setting & Audience

Genesis 5 is a historical record which documents the genealogy of Adam and Eve through Seth. This lineage of faithful men led to the unveiling of God's redemption plan for the world through Noah. Genesis 6:1-8 serves as a prelude to the flood, describing the wicked state of the earth and explains why God was going to send a flood upon it.

Noah was 500 years old when his sons were born, and he was 600 years old when the flood began. This puts him between 500-600 years old during the events of this week's reading.

Key Words & Phrases

“MEN,” “EARTH,” “WICKED,” and **“FAVOR”** stand out and illustrate the theme of these verses. The wickedness of mankind takes over the earth to the point that the Lord grieves and plans to wipe away mankind. The only people who avoid this fate are Noah and his family by finding favor in the eyes of God.



God & His Biggest Character Lesson

One characteristic of God the Father that we learn about here is His care for His creation, demonstrated through His display of grief. He does not just judge the wickedness of the people but feels deep sadness for the state of His creation. We do not serve a distant God who lacks care for us and our wellbeing. He is active, involved, and invested in His creation.

Genesis 6:1-8 teaches us the wickedness of human nature and our tendency towards sin when godlessness prevails. We must not forget our desperation for God in the face of sin. We are not meant to take on the sinful desires of our flesh alone.

The Nature of Humanity

The beginning of Genesis 6 gives us a picture of what humanity looks like when sin and wickedness overcome people. A sinful nature is so innate to us and consumes us to the point that

fulfilling our selfish, fleshly desires becomes our purpose. Our battle against our own flesh is a daily fight that requires the mercy and guidance of our Heavenly Father.

The Generations of Man

Genesis 5:1-5

¹This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. ²He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. ³And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. ⁴After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters. ⁵So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.

DISCOVER

Chapter 5 kicks off an entirely new section of Genesis with the genealogies of God’s people, spanning well over 1,000 years. In verses 1 and 2, Genesis 1 is echoed in that God created man in His own image and distinguished them as male and female.

This truth establishes the family structure and the trajectory of centuries of descendants that we read throughout the rest of the chapter. Seth, the son of Adam and Eve is the first of these descendants after Cain and Abel. He is considered in the likeness and image of his father. Because of this, he is the representative of Adam, meant to carry on the lineage of the family. Adam dies at the age of 930, when Seth is 800 years old. This holds great significance as Adam was never meant to die, but the introduction of sin into the world shows us he possibly died of old age.

LEARN

The terms “image” and “likeness” are common to Genesis. These words are repeated and emphasized as a defining characteristic of humanity. Adam is created in the perfect image and likeness of God, while Seth is born in Adam’s fallen image and likeness, just like every one of us. Adam is not born with a sin nature. Before he eats the forbidden fruit, he is

perfect as Jesus is perfect, but his disobedience in the garden introduces sin into his nature, which is passed down to every person born thereafter. The only person born without this sin nature is Jesus, due to His conception by the Holy Spirit (more on this on Day 3). As we go down the family tree, we continue to see that the perfect image of God remains corrupted by sin since Adam. Sin is taking its toll on humanity, and as a result, death becomes a familiar concept.

APPLY

Being an “image bearer” of God carries significant responsibility. C. S. Lewis said that every Christian should become a “little Christ,” a reflection of Jesus. As each of us may reflect the image of our

parents physically or otherwise, we are to reflect our Heavenly Father by the way we live. The label “Christian” is another name or title that carries significance, as it places you directly into the family of Christ. When you accept this term, you declare yourself a member of the body of Christ for eternity. As members of this family, let’s make a daily effort to represent and reflect Christ. When we raise families that follow Christ and share the good news with others, we grow the body of Christ. What are some similarities or “likenesses” you notice between yourself and other family members? How does this relate to the fact that you are made in the image and likeness of God? What are some qualities we have that suggest we are made in God’s image?

REFLECTION

Death in Adam, Life in Christ



Romans 5:12-21

¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—¹³(For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ¹⁶And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. ¹⁷For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

¹⁸Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

²⁰Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DISCOVER

In this section of Romans, Paul connects the significance of the life of Adam and the life of Jesus by examining their similarities and differences. As we know, Adam comes first and introduces sin into our inherent nature. His disobedience brings sin and death to every man and woman born since, except Jesus. Jesus is described as the second Adam, the perfected version who righted all of Adam's wrongs.



Jesus' sacrifice is more than enough to atone for Adam's disobedience. As a result, we are showered with an abundance of grace that covers our sin. Paul says that "those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one-man Jesus Christ." There is no better way to say it! In the last two verses of this passage, Paul explains that the purpose of the law that is given to Moses is intended to shine a light on the sins of God's people. It does just that and makes the trespasses of the people of Israel disturbingly apparent. Despite the overwhelming sins of humanity, God's grace reigns over sin and death.

LEARN

Jesus was and is the only solution to the curse brought upon us by Adam. Verse 14 draws a comparison between Jesus and Adam before Adam's fall into sin. Remember, like Jesus, Adam is perfect for the time before his initial disobedience to God. This disobedience, however, changes everything. The first distinction between the work of Adam and the work of Christ is the difference between guilt and

grace. Adam's life results in the guilt of humanity, while Jesus' life results in saving grace from that guilt. Although our sin nature is passed onto us from Adam, we are no longer sinners because of our sin nature. Instead, we have a new identity in Christ through the righteousness that flows from the perfect life and perfect sacrifice of Jesus.

APPLY

As we go through the consequences of Adam's life on humanity and the redeeming grace that comes from the life of Jesus, it can feel overwhelming to consider how greatly our eternal standing is affected by these two individuals. Adam's sin gave us our sin nature, which leads to death, but Jesus' resurrection gives us a way to conquer it. John 14:6 says that nobody comes to the Father except through Jesus. We are completely at His mercy. Thankfully, He offers an abundance of mercy each day (Lamentations 3:22-23). Do you find yourself trying to take on too much in life rather than relying on His mercy? How can you do better at this? How does God's grace impact your view of sin?

REFLECTION

Born without Sin

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

²²So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

²⁴Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

DISCOVER

Jesus' birth by the Virgin Mary is prophesied in the Old Testament and made known to Joseph in Matthew 1. Matthew 1:28 is a cross-reference to the foretelling of Jesus' coming in Isaiah 7:14. At the beginning of today's reading, Joseph quietly plans to divorce Mary because he believes she was unfaithful and conceived a child with another man. At this point, the angel intervenes to tell Joseph this is not the case, but that Mary conceived with the Holy Spirit. This child will be

the prophesied Savior the people of Israel are waiting for, and His name is Jesus.

LEARN

In day two's study, we discussed the genealogies from Adam to Abraham, and how everyone born after Adam was born with a sin nature until Jesus. Through today's verses, we learn Jesus is born of the Holy Spirit because He is God. He was born without inherent sin and subsequently lives an earthly life free of any sin despite his humanity. Understanding this truth is a necessary foundation for anyone's salvation. Jesus needed to be born sinless to be a worthy sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. From the beginning of Creation, it is evident that God had a plan to send His Son to live a blameless life and triumph over sin and death on our behalf.

APPLY

As we examine the differences between humanity's nature and the nature of Jesus, we need to note a couple key points. We first need to be aware of our sin nature. Unlike Jesus, we are born with sin as an inheritance. Even as Christians with the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, we are not excused from our sinful nature, rather, we are given the means to fight it. Understanding our nature helps us recognize that we are in battle every single day; a battle ultimately overcome by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We also need to be aware of the reality of the Virgin Birth. Understanding how Jesus serves as the Perfect Sacrifice sheds light on the detriment and reality of our sins that can only be cleansed by His blood. How aware are you of sin in your life? In what ways do you wrestle with your sin nature?

REFLECTION

Genealogies from Adam

Genesis 5:6-32

⁶Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. ⁷After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons and daughters. ⁸So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died.

⁹Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan. ¹⁰After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters. ¹¹So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died.

¹²Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. ¹³After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters. ¹⁴So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died.

¹⁵Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared. ¹⁶After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters. ¹⁷So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died.

¹⁸Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. ¹⁹After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. ²⁰So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died.

²¹Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. ²²After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. ²³So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. ²⁴And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

²⁵Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. ²⁶After he begot Lamech,

Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. ²⁷So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.

²⁸Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. ²⁹And he called his name Noah, saying, “This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed.” ³⁰After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters. ³¹So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died.

³²And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

DISCOVER

Today we complete the genealogies of chapter 5 that starts with Adam and ends with Noah’s three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. During this time, Methuselah lived to 969 years – the longest lifespan recorded in history. The shortest recorded life was that of Enoch, the only person who did not die in this chapter. All that is known about Enoch is that he lives 365 years, walks with God, and God takes him before he dies. Because the life spans were so long, keep in mind that many generations lived at the same time.

LEARN

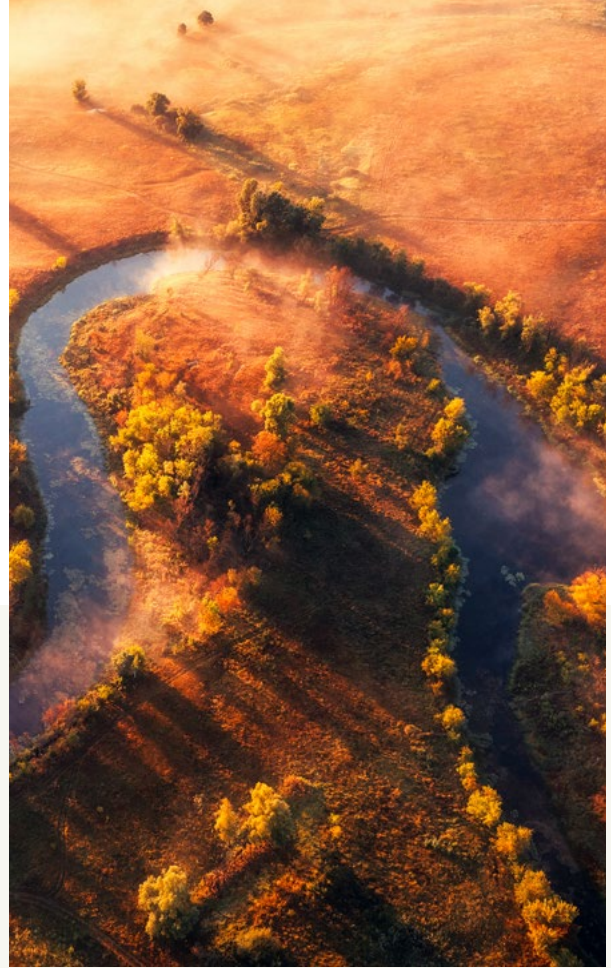
The focus of this week’s study is Satan’s attack on the image of God. This chapter displays a fifteen-hundred-year timeline of the devastation caused by sin’s effect on humanity. Except for Enoch, who is taken up while walking with the Lord, every person mentioned in this passage experiences death. Many of these men are devoted and Godly, yet death is inevitable. This was not part of God’s original plan, but rather a corruption of humanity aimed to push us further from God’s image. This chapter, however, leaves us with two important truths. First is the reminder that God does not give up on us even in our sin nature. For every death we read about, new life is created as God’s people continue to populate the earth. Second, we learn through Enoch that we can walk with and have a relationship with our Creator.

APPLY

Reading through 1,500 years in just 32 verses puts the brevity of life into a new perspective. It is true that we have just a short time on this earth, but this time can be so fruitful in many ways! Just in this chapter, we see the gift of new life and the ability to walk with our Creator. To walk with God and share the new life He gives us are the two best uses of our time here on earth. Many of us know this to a degree, but the big picture becomes blurred when life is moving at full speed. How can we better focus on the big picture when so many other things matter?

How does being made in the image of God change your perspective of the big picture? Despite Satan's attempts to diminish God's likeness in His people, God gives hope at the end of Genesis 5. Noah's birth is highlighted as a transition point before the flood narrative in Genesis 6-9. How does Noah's lineage (through Lamech) show God's preservation of the faithful amid increasing wickedness?

REFLECTION



Our Image Corrupted

Genesis 6:1-8

¹Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, ²that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

³And the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” ⁴There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

⁵Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have

made them.” ⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

DISCOVER

These verses detail the massive amount of corruption that took over the earth. Mankind started to multiply in great amounts, and sin seems to be multiplying with them. This comes to a head when the “sons of God” take the “daughters of man” to be their wives, which may have resulted in what we know as the “Nephilim.” To redeem His Creation, God plans to address this wickedness through a worldwide flood that blots out man from the face of the earth, yet He finds favor in Noah. Here we see not only a just God, but a God who looks for the redemption of the people He loves.

LEARN

The first striking detail in these eight verses is the mention of the “Nephilim” – believed to be giants who are famous leaders, descendants of Seth and Cain, or even offspring of fallen angels and humans. Regardless of exactly who they are, these

relationships are the culmination of generations of sin and wickedness that ultimately causes God to grieve and regret His creation of man. Through this, we learn that not only is God a just Judge, but also a caring, grieving Father who mourns the result of His creation. God's response to this corruption is to wipe out all of mankind except for Noah and his family.

APPLY

There is a common law in science known as entropy that says things left alone over time trend towards chaos. The same can be said of humans when left alone with their sin nature. We all have a natural inclination to sin. Sin entices us; it convinces us it is what we need and desensitizes us to the destruction that it causes. Romans 12:2 tells us

not to conform to the patterns of this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Our greatest defense against this natural tendency to sin is the Holy Spirit within us. Without the Holy Spirit working in our lives, we are destined to fall into the sinful patterns that we find tempting. We need a daily renewal of our minds where we intentionally fight our sin nature and reinforce the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. As we saw in today's reading, sin nature takes over humanity, and you may see some of this in today's world. What strategies do you have in your life to prevent your sin nature from taking over? How do habits play a role in the renewal of our minds so that we do not fall into the patterns of this world?

REFLECTION



Discussion Week 4

Scripture & Notes

Genesis 5-6:8

THE FAMILY OF ADAM

¹This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. ²He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. ³And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. ⁴After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters. ⁵So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.

⁶Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. ⁷After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons and daughters. ⁸So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died.

⁹Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan. ¹⁰After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters. ¹¹So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died.

¹²Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. ¹³After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters. ¹⁴So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died.

¹⁵Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared. ¹⁶After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters. ¹⁷So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died.

¹⁸Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. ¹⁹After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. ²⁰So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died.

²¹Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. ²²After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. ²³So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. ²⁴And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

²⁵Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. ²⁶After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. ²⁷So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.

²⁸Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. ²⁹And he called his name Noah, saying, “This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed.” ³⁰After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters. ³¹So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died.

³²And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

THE WICKEDNESS AND JUDGMENT OF MAN

6 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, ²that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

³And the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” ⁴There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

⁵Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man

Discussion Week 4

Application questions

- 1.** What are some similarities or “likenesses” you notice between yourself and other family members? Does this impact how you view yourself as made in the image and likeness of God? How so?

- 2.** Do you find you try to take on too much in life rather than rely on His mercy? What are some areas in your life where you struggle to rely on His mercy?

3. How aware are you of your sin nature? Do you think there is sin in your life you are unaware of?

4. How can we focus our attention on the big picture when so many other (little) things matter? How does being made in the image of God change your perspective of the big picture?

5. What strategies do you have in your life to prevent sin nature from taking over? How do habits play a role in the renewal of our minds so that we do not fall into the patterns of this world? How are we able to have such a sin nature while also being made in the image of God?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- In what ways do you wrestle with yourself about your sin nature? Do you have an accountability partner to keep you on the path towards righteousness?
- In what ways have you seen the Holy Spirit help you triumph over sin in your life?

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Genesis 6:9-9

Week 5 Reflecting Righteousness

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 8:21 (NKJV)

²¹And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

Overview

DISCOVER & LEARN

Background & Themes

Devos

REFLECTING RIGHTEOUSNESS

Genesis 6:9-13

Hebrews 11:7

1 Peter 3:20

JESUS AND THE ARK OF NOAH

Genesis 6:14-22

Psalms 46:1-11

THE GREAT FLOOD

Genesis 7:1-24

Numbers 14:33

Matthew 4:1-11

GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH

Genesis 8-9:17

NOAH, A MAN OF THE SOIL

Genesis 9:18-29

Discussion

SCRIPTURE & NOTES

Genesis 6:9-9

APPLY

Application
Questions

Overview Week 5

DISCOVER: WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE PASSAGE?

Setting & Audience

The setting for Genesis 6:9 through Genesis 9 is the period leading up to and immediately following the Great Flood. At beginning of chapter 6, we see the increasing wickedness of humanity and God's decision to bring judgment upon the earth through a flood.

Key Words & Phrases

In these passages, key phrases such as, **“NOAH WAS A RIGHTEOUS MAN,” “FOUND FAVOR IN THE EYES OF THE LORD,” “COVENANT,” “NEVER AGAIN,”** and **“EVERY LIVING CREATURE”** are repeated. The most important of these may be “covenant” and “never again,” which emphasizes God's promise to never again destroy the earth with a flood.



LEARN: WHAT IS THE PASSAGE TEACHING?

God & His Character

These verses reveal several aspects of God's character. First, they demonstrate God's justice in dealing with sin. The decision to bring the Flood is a manifestation of God's righteous judgment against the widespread wickedness on the earth. However, alongside His justice, these verses also emphasize

God's mercy and grace. Despite the pervasive sinfulness of humanity, God chooses to spare Noah and his family, who find favor in God's eyes because of their righteousness. This showcases God's willingness to extend grace to those who remain faithful to Him. Additionally, the establishment of a covenant with Noah shows God's commitment to His promises. God promises to never again destroy the earth with a flood, to demonstrate His unwavering faithfulness to restore His people to Himself. Overall, these verses paint a picture of a God who is just, merciful, and faithful. These characteristics continue to define His interactions with humanity throughout the biblical narrative.

The Nature of Humanity

Genesis 6:9 through Genesis 9 reveals the duality of humanity. On one hand, these verses illustrate the inherent sinfulness and depravity of humanity. The preceding chapter describes the rampant wickedness and corruption that had consumed the earth, revealing humanity's capacity for evil and disobedience. However, amidst this darkness, the story of

Noah demonstrates his righteousness and obedience to God. Noah stands as a beacon of faithfulness in a sinful world. This illustrates that even in the face of overwhelming wickedness, individuals can choose to follow God's commands and live righteous lives.

Biggest Lesson

The primary lesson to learn from Genesis 6:9 through Genesis 9 is the importance of righteousness and obedience to God. Noah's story showcases the significance of living a righteous life, even when surrounded by wickedness. Despite the prevailing corruption and evil of his time, Noah remained

faithful to God, which led to his salvation and the preservation of life on earth. By his faithfulness, we see God's heart is to preserve His image through Noah. This teaches us the enduring truth that obedience to God's commands is more important than to surrender to the way of the world.



Reflecting Righteousness

Genesis 6:9-13

⁹*This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

¹¹*The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.*

¹³*And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*

Hebrews 11:7

⁷*By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

1 Peter 3:20

²⁰*who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.*

DISCOVER

In Genesis 6:9-13, Noah is described as a righteous and blameless man among the people of his time, who walked faithfully with God. Noah's faith set him apart. The language describes Noah like Enoch. Just as Enoch walks with God and his life is preserved due to his faithfulness, so too is. Those who live in the world reflect the image of the world, but Noah reflects righteousness. The difference between Noah and everyone else is that he seeks intimacy with God. This narrative shows that salvation comes not by behavior but by belief. Life for many through the righteousness of one is a key concept for understanding the narrative flow of the whole Bible, therefore, we see Christ written all throughout this

text. The story of Noah is the first time we see this concept in the Bible.

LEARN

Noah's story provides profound lessons on faith and obedience. God's decision to flood the earth can be seen as both an act of judgment and mercy. It may be tempting to question God's love when we see Him choose to destroy the earth. However, God is not unloving when He destroys the world due vast corruption. The Earth's corruption and violence echo the bloodshed that cries out to God since Genesis 4. What would happen if there was a genocide, and no one did anything in response to the tragedy? Someone must deal with it; someone must seek justice. So, God deals with the tragedy of the world. He demolishes an already ruined world. Therefore, we can see clearly that God's flood is both filled with mercy and judgment, which proves that God can be wrathful and fully loving without contradicting Himself. In God's love and wisdom, He knows that He needs to purify the land with water and wipe away the bloodshed that fills the earth. We see the imagery of Christ's blood wiping away our sins so that we may be purified.

APPLY

As God's character is revealed, it beckons a response in how we live. Noah challenges us to reflect righteousness in a world of corruption. We are called to walk with God through obedience and faithfulness, even when the world begs us to conform. Noah's faithfulness leads to the preservation of God's image, and our faithfulness can unite God's people with Him forever. Faithfulness requires saying "yes" to tasks only God can accomplish in His timing. Despite the world's celebration of pride and self-reliance, God's power is revealed through our reliance on Him. God's plans may take years to unfold; it took Noah many years to build the ark! So, stay patient and trust His perfect timing and mercy. 1 Peter 3:20 reminds us that God's delays are due to His immense mercy. Just as Noah stood out in his generation, we too can reflect God's righteousness. Be a beacon of faith and obedience, show others the way to God. How can we encourage and support one another in our journey of faith and obedience? Why is community important to strengthen our decision to follow God faithfully?

REFLECTION

Devo Day 2

Jesus and the Ark of Noah



Genesis 6:14-22

¹⁴Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. ¹⁵And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and

of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.

²¹And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”

²²Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Psalm 46:1-11

¹God is our refuge and strength,

A very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear,

Even though the earth be removed,

And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

³Though its waters roar and be troubled,

Though the mountains shake with its swelling.

Selah **DISCOVER**

*⁴There is a river whose streams shall make glad
the city of God,*

The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

*⁵God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.*

*⁶The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;
He uttered His voice, the earth melted.*

*⁷The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.*

Selah

*⁸Come, behold the works of the Lord,
Who has made desolations in the earth.*

*⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
He burns the chariot in the fire.*

*¹⁰Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!*

*¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.*

Selah

In Genesis 6:14-22, God reveals His plan to destroy the earth with a flood due to humanity's corruption, but He instructs Noah to build an ark to save his family and the animals. However, as we evaluate this chapter's language, we see strikingly similar details to the beginning of the creation narrative. Even though there is destruction on the earth, God has a plan to restore brokenness. God provides specific details for the ark's construction, including its dimensions, materials, and features. He establishes a covenant with Noah to save him, his family, and pairs of every living creature. Noah faithfully follows all of God's instructions, which demonstrates his obedience and trust in God's plan.

LEARN

The author, Moses, carefully chooses which details to share and which to withhold regarding the construction of the ark. It is vital to understand what is shared about the ark's construction. Even the measurements communicate a profound idea to us. Many have tried to replicate the ark, but suppose the measurements are not given for replication but to reveal God's heart to be with His people. If we pay close attention, we can see how the ark's design is symbolic of God's deliverance. The ark is built so Noah can be with God among a broken world. Therefore, the ark is not simply a boat for Noah to survive; it is a vessel of deliverance under God's guidance. God preserves His image in a safe, divine

refuge. From the moment humanity is cast out of the Garden, God creates a path for unity with His people. The ark points to a picture of God's salvation plan, where God and man can be in harmony through Christ.

APPLY

Just as Noah obeys God by entering the ark to save his family, Jesus obeys His Father by going to the Cross to save humanity. The ark, made of wood, saves Noah and his family from physical death. In contrast, the wooden cross saves us from spiritual death. This clearly teaches us that

just as Noah and his family finds sanctuary in the ark amidst the floodwaters, we find our ultimate refuge in Christ. He is our Ark of Salvation. He provides deliverance from the judgment of sin and the brokenness of the world. Because Christ is our salvation, we no longer need a man-made structure for deliverance. So, we, like Noah, have an opportunity to go to Christ and find safety for our souls. What other passages in Scripture challenge you to actively seek refuge in Christ amidst the challenges you face today? How can these passages help you change your outlook on your current circumstances?

REFLECTION

The Great Flood

Genesis 7:1-24

¹Then the Lord said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.

²You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; ³also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made.” ⁵And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him. ⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

⁷So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. ⁸Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, ⁹two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰And it came to pass after seven days that

the waters of the flood were on the earth. ¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. ¹²And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³On the very same day Noah and Noah’s sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark— ¹⁴they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. ¹⁵And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. ¹⁶So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

¹⁷Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. ¹⁹And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high

hills under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. ²¹And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. ²²All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. ²³So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. ²⁴And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Numbers 14:33

³³And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness.

Matthew 4:1-11

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

⁴But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’

and,

‘In their hands they shall bear you up,

Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ ”

⁸Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”

¹¹Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

DISCOVER

Genesis 7:1-24 recounts the story of Noah and the Great Flood. God instructs Noah to enter the ark because He is about to send a flood to destroy all life on earth due to humanity’s wickedness. Noah obeyed God’s commands, taking his family and the animals into the ark. The flood waters rise after seven days. Rain falls for forty days and forty nights and even covers the highest mountains. Every living thing on the earth passes away over 150 days while

Noah, his family, and the animals remain safe in the ark. In Genesis 6, we see how sin corrupts God's creation. Yet in Genesis 7, we see a picture of the way of salvation. God rescues Noah and his family from the penalty of judgment. As God protected Noah's family because of his righteousness, Christ, righteous one. The Bible carries this theme all the way to its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

LEARN

There are many takeaways from this passage, but one intriguing aspect is the significance of 40 days and nights. It depicts God testing His people. The number 40 appears in the Bible more than 150 times and often refers to a period of time, such as a trial or struggle. But after a trial there is always hope of new birth and new life. Therefore, we can see how God remembers the ark in the flooded world. Through destruction, we see hope of new life. Even Christ experiences 40 days of trials when He is tempted in the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights in Matthew 4. Christ also spends 40 days teaching and ministering to His disciples after His resurrection before ascending into heaven in Acts 1:3. Christ sees the

fruit of His tested faith because of His reliance on the Spirit and obedience to God's Word. In the same way, Noah obeys completely by doing everything the Lord commands Him. As a result, He is protected from the judgment of God. Obedience even amid evil should be the supreme goal and desire of God's people.

APPLY

Obedience to God is never easy. Even when things go perfectly as planned, we still find ourselves learning how to walk in step with God's commands. In Eden, when everything is perfect, we find that obedience to God is impossible to bear. Therefore, if we cannot reflect righteousness in the most perfect circumstances, how do we do it in the face of evil today? Noah's example shows us that it can only be done by humility. We must let go of our pride and rely only on the Holy Spirit. Obedience must begin with the denial of our flesh and dependence on God's Word. What does obedience look like in a culture filled with self-gratification? Are there areas in your life that you need to realign with the image of Christ?

REFLECTION

God's Covenant with Noah

Genesis 8-9:17

¹Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. ²The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. ³And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. ⁴Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

⁶So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. ⁷Then he sent out a raven, which kept going

to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. ⁸He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. ⁹But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. ¹⁰And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. ¹¹Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. ¹²So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

¹³And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked,

and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

¹⁵Then God spoke to Noah, saying, ¹⁶“Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” ¹⁸So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. ¹⁹Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

²²“While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat,
Winter and summer,
And day and night
Shall not cease.”

CHAPTER 9

¹So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. ²And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. ³Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. ⁴But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of man.

⁶“Whoever sheds man’s blood,
By man his blood shall be shed;
For in the image of God
He made man.

⁷And as for you, be fruitful and multiply;
Bring forth abundantly in the earth
And multiply in it.”

⁸Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: ⁹“And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. ¹¹Thus I establish My covenant

with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹²And God said: “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

¹³I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.

¹⁴It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; ¹⁵and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

¹⁶The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

DISCOVER

Genesis 8-9:17 recounts that when the floodwaters recede, Noah, his family, and the animals leave the ark. He builds an altar and offers sacrifices to God. Pleased with Noah's offerings, God promises to never curse the ground again or to destroy all living creatures by a flood. God then blesses Noah and his sons, commands them to be fruitful and multiply, and draws us back to the instructions given in the Garden. He establishes dietary laws and allows the consumption of meat but forbids the consumption

of blood and gives directions on punishment for murderers. God's heart is to preserve, protect, and provide for those who are in His image, which is why He placed these instructions in the covenant. To mark His words, God sets a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His everlasting covenant to signify He will never again flood the entire earth.

LEARN

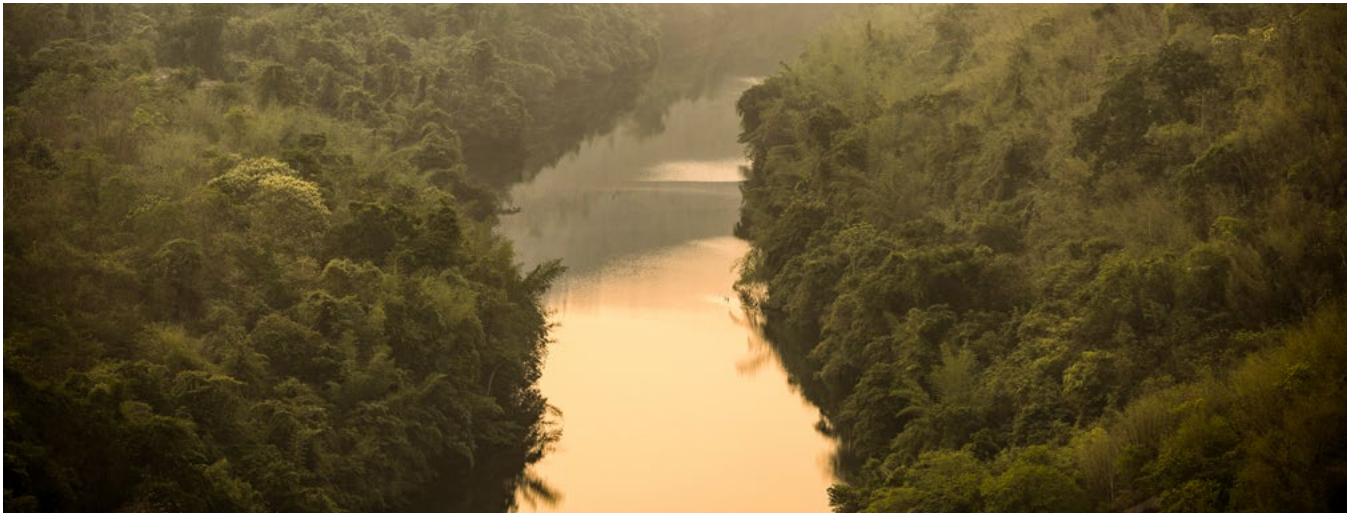
The covenant with Noah is a profound demonstration of God's mercy and faithfulness. Despite humanity's sinfulness, God promises to never destroy all life by a flood again. This reveals His commitment to preserve and redeem His creation. The rainbow serves as a tangible reminder of this promise. This covenant foreshadows the ultimate covenant established through Jesus Christ. Just as God saves Noah and his family. He offers salvation to all humanity through Christ. Jesus' death, and resurrection ushered in a new covenant by providing eternal life and reconciliation with God. Charles Spurgeon adds beautifully, “It cheered my heart, when thinking this matter over, to remember that although I depend upon covenant faithfulness, I am not alone in that dependence, for every living thing upon the face of the earth lives by virtue of the immutable covenant of God. Covenant engagements preserve the world from flood; were it not for that covenant, the tops of the mountains might be covered tomorrow.” To be in covenant with God allows us to see clearly His grace, mercy, and desire for a relationship with humanity.

APPLY

Reflect on God's covenant with Noah and its fulfillment in Christ. It inspires us to trust in God's promises and faithfulness. Just as the rainbow reminds us of God's mercy, the Cross symbolizes His sacrificial love and the new covenant we have through Jesus. This covenant assures us that those

whom God calls to Himself, He keeps, and allows us to rest in the certainty of our salvation. If we truly believe in the promise of Christ's saving work on the Cross, it should transform every aspect of our lives. What does the Bible say about God's promises? Do you completely trust and rely on these promises? What would your life look like if you did?

REFLECTION



Noah, A Man of the Soil

Genesis 9:18-29

¹⁸Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. ¹⁹These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

²⁰And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. ²²And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. ²³But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

²⁴So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. ²⁵Then he said:

“Cursed be Canaan;

A servant of servants

He shall be to his brethren.”

²⁶And he said:

“Blessed be the Lord,

The God of Shem,

And may Canaan be his servant.

²⁷May God enlarge Japheth,

And may he dwell in the tents of Shem;

And may Canaan be his servant.”

²⁸And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. ²⁹So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

DISCOVER

Genesis 9:18-29 provides the concluding details of Noah's life. The passage begins by recalling Noah's sons, whose roles become significant in the story. Early on, Moses highlights Canaan, the only grandson mentioned in these verses. These men are now responsible for repopulating the earth after the Flood. Noah returns to dry land, plants a vineyard,

but gets drunk on his wine and lies naked in his tent. Ham, one of Noah's sons, discovers his father naked. The nature of Ham's actions is unclear, but they are disrespectful—possibly ridiculing or even of a sexual nature, reflecting the sins of the Canaanites. Instead of covering his father out of respect, Ham tells his brothers what happened, and mocks Noah's nakedness and drunkenness. Shem and Japheth, Noah's other sons, show respect by covering their father without looking at him. When Noah wakes up and learns what happened, he curses Ham's son, Canaan. Noah praises God and seeks favor for Shem and Japheth. He states twice that Canaan will be a servant to Shem. Noah lived to the age of 950 years.

LEARN

Though God blesses and uses Noah in mighty ways, this passage demonstrates the brokenness of man. Upon his return to the ground, Noah and his son both revert to sin. Noah chooses drunkenness, and Ham chooses to dishonor his father. During Noah's brokenness, his son chooses to glorify his sin and encourages his family to also sin. Shem and Japheth, however, responded in a way that honors Noah and God. Their act demonstrates the same love God shows Adam and Eve when He covers

their shame in the Garden. When Noah awakens, he curses Canaan. More than this, Noah blesses his other two sons and shows them favor while he neglects to do the same for Ham. This passage is a sobering reminder of the brokenness of man, even those blessed greatly by God.

APPLY

Noah and Ham are men greatly blessed by God, yet they succumb to sin. Similarly, as children of God, we are never beyond the reach of sin. We all experience moments of shame, especially in our relationship with God. However, we must delve deeper into His character to be covered by His righteousness when our human efforts inevitably fail. Just as God covers Adam and Eve's shame in the Garden Noah's other sons cover his shame in this passage. We must strive to emulate God's righteous character so we can respond like Shem and Japheth. Due to their obedience to God's commands and their love for their father, they are greatly blessed. In moments when you or others around you fall into sin, how can you respond in a way that reflects God's righteousness and love, much like Shem and Japheth did?

REFLECTION

Discussion Week 5

Scripture & Notes

Genesis 6:9-9

NOAH PLEASES GOD

⁹This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

THE ARK PREPARED

¹³And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. ¹⁴Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. ¹⁵And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height

thirty cubits. ¹⁶You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. ²¹And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”

²²Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

THE GREAT FLOOD

7 Then the Lord said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. ²You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; ³also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I

have made.”⁵And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him. ⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

⁷So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. ⁸Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, ⁹two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. ¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. ¹²And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³On the very same day Noah and Noah’s sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark— ¹⁴they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. ¹⁵And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. ¹⁶So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

¹⁷Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. ¹⁹And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the

earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. ²¹And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. ²²All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. ²³So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. ²⁴And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

NOAH'S DELIVERANCE

8 Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided. ²The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. ³And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. ⁴Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

⁶So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. ⁷Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. ⁸He also sent out from

himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. ⁹But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. ¹⁰And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. ¹¹Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. ¹²So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

¹³And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry. ¹⁴And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

¹⁵Then God spoke to Noah, saying, ¹⁶“Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. ¹⁷Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” ¹⁸So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives with him. ¹⁹Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH CREATION

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

²²“While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat,
Winter and summer,
And day and night
Shall not cease.”

GOD'S PROMISE TO NOAH

9 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. ²And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. ³Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. ⁴But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of man.

⁶“Whoever sheds man’s blood,

By man his blood shall be shed;
For in the image of God
He made man.

⁷And as for you, be fruitful and multiply;
Bring forth abundantly in the earth
And multiply in it.”

⁸Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: ⁹“And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. ¹¹Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹²And God said: “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; ¹⁵and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

NOAH AND HIS SONS

¹⁸Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. ¹⁹These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

²⁰And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. ²²And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. ²³But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

²⁴So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. ²⁵Then he said:

“Cursed be Canaan;
A servant of servants
He shall be to his brethren.”

²⁶And he said:

“Blessed be the Lord,
The God of Shem,
And may Canaan be his servant.

²⁷May God enlarge Japheth,
And may he dwell in the tents of Shem;
And may Canaan be his servant.”

²⁸And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. ²⁹So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

Discussion Week 5

Application questions

- 1.** How can we encourage and support one another in our journey of faith and obedience? Why is community important in strengthening our decision to follow God faithfully?

- 2.** What are some passages in scripture that challenge you to actively seek refuge in Christ amidst the challenges you face today, just as Noah sought refuge in the ark? How can those passages help you change the outlook of your current circumstances?

3. What does obedience look like in a culture filled with self-gratification? Are there areas in your life that you need to realign with the image of Christ?

4. What does the Bible have to say about God's promises? Do you completely trust and rely on these promises? What would your life look like if you did?

5. In moments when you or others around you fall into sin, how can you respond in a way that reflects God's righteousness and love, much like Shem and Japheth did?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- Noah was a righteous man. His walk with God proves in how he keeps God's commands. In light of his example, what ways do you need to step up to live righteously through faith and obedience this week? Write down some ideas and share with your group for accountability.
- Share examples of times when someone's prayers or encouragement gave you the strength to persevere in obeying God's will.

Genesis 11:1-9

Week 6 The Tower of Babel

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 11:8-9 (NKJV)

⁸So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Overview

DISCOVER & LEARN

Background & Themes

Devos

THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER
OF PRIDE

Genesis 11:1-4

THE PRIDE OF AARON

Exodus 32

GOD DISPERSES THE PROUD

Genesis 11:5-9

THE REVERSAL OF GENESIS 11

Acts 2:1-13

IMAGE OF GODLY UNITY IN
THE BODY OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Discussion

SCRIPTURE & NOTES

Genesis 11:1-9

APPLY

Application Questions

Overview Week 6

DISCOVER: WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE PASSAGE?

Setting & Audience

Chapter 11, like the rest of Genesis, is part of the historical account of events and genealogies recorded by Moses. The events of the Tower of Babel likely took place anywhere from 100-700 years after the flood.

The location of this story was a plain in the land of Shinar. Shinar was in Babylon, which is known as Iraq in the present day.

Key Words & Phrases

“US,” “DISPERSED,” “EARTH,” and **“BUILD”** are some of the more common words repeated in this passage. “Us” and “dispersed” seem to be the most significant of these words because the people of Babylon unified to create this tower and were dispersed across the earth as their languages were confused. One of the more significant themes of this story is the dispersion of the earth’s population, highlighting the importance of both unification and dispersal among people.



Biggest Lesson

The biggest lesson from the tower of Babel is the destruction of the people's pride. They unite and accomplish excellent projects as a group, but their motivation is misplaced by their own glorification. As a result, God humbles their pride and disperses them across the earth.

God & His Character

The biggest thing we learn about God the Father from this passage is the amount of hatred He feels towards pride. Pride is one of the greatest and most destructive sins, and it can take on many forms in one's life. God's response to our pride is often a very humbling experience that reminds us to give Him the glory.

The Nature of Humanity

The nature of humanity is on full display in Genesis 11 as the people of the world are on a mission to make a name for themselves by building a tower that reaches the Heavens. We all experience

moments like this where we shift our focus from God and rely too much on ourselves. This is one of the desires of our sin nature that we fight daily.

The Destructive Power of Pride

Genesis 11:1-4

¹Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ²And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. ³Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

DISCOVER

Verses 1-4 of Genesis 11 are all about the motivations of God’s people to build what we refer to as the tower of Babel. At this point, the world is repopulating after the flood, and massive groups of people are beginning to migrate from East to West. During their

travels, they settle in the plain of Shinar, located in Babylon, or modern-day Iraq. Rather than multiplying on the Earth, they deliberately disobey God by populating one area. Here they start to build a mighty tower, made of brick, stone, and mortar, that will reach the heavens. They are determined to make a name for themselves - rebels against God’s command.

LEARN

The primary issue in this passage is not that the people decide to make a tower. The problem lies within their motive. The people do not choose to build the tower out of necessity or a desire for a communal gathering place, but rather to make a name for themselves. They are not going through all this work to bring glory to God, but to themselves. Their motives are not placed in praising God, finding community with one another or humility in themselves, but they are in pride, status, and self-preservation.

They are driven by fear and the insecurity of insignificance. This tower was built to preserve their legacy through personal achievement and recognition.

APPLY

We also suffer from a fear of being insignificant at times. Each person inherently desires to be a part of something bigger than themselves. The people have this desire in the plains of Shinar, but they go

about finding their significance in the wrong way. They look internally and to what they can create, rather than looking to God, the Creator. We should find our purpose and significance not in the things we accomplish on this earth, but in the power and presence of God in our lives. Have you ever experienced a fear of being insignificant? What do you look to in those times? Do you find comfort knowing your significance is placed in Christ and what He's done?

REFLECTION



The Pride of Aaron

Exodus 32

¹Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

²And Aaron said to them, “Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.”

³So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron.

⁴And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf.

Then they said, “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”

⁵So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord.” ⁶Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and

brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

⁷And the Lord said to Moses, “Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. ⁸They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! ¹⁰Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.”

¹¹Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said: “Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, ‘He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and

relent from this harm to Your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

¹⁵And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written.

¹⁶Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.

¹⁷And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “There is a noise of war in the camp.”

¹⁸But he said:

“It is not the noise of the shout of victory,

Nor the noise of the cry of defeat,

But the sound of singing I hear.”

¹⁹So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses’ anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it. ²¹And Moses said to Aaron, “What did

this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?”

²²So Aaron said, “Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. ²³For they said to me, ‘Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ ²⁴And I said to them, ‘Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out.”

²⁵Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), ²⁶then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, “Whoever is on the Lord’s side—come to me!” And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. ²⁷And he said to them, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.’ ” ²⁸So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day. ²⁹Then Moses said, “Consecrate yourselves today to the Lord, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother.”

³⁰Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin.

So now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” ³¹*Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold!* ³²*Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.”*

³³*And the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.* ³⁴*Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin.”*

³⁵*So the Lord plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.*

DISCOVER

Exodus 32 takes place just after Moses ascends Mount Sinai to be with God and return with the 10 commandments. As it turns out, a lot happens while Moses is gone for those 40 days. In Moses’ absence, the Israelites persuade Aaron to create a false God to go before them. Aaron submits to their request and creates a golden calf that the people sinfully worship in many ways. In response, God warns Moses that His wrath is fierce and that He will consume the people because of the egregious sin they commit. Moses pleads with God on their behalf, and God agrees

to deal with them later. Moses returns to camp with the tablets and sees what God’s people did. When he sees the golden calf, he shatters the tablets before them. Moses goes to the people and asks if they were on the Lord’s side. Those who are not are put to death, while the rest continue with Moses.

LEARN

Today we read another one of the many instances in the Bible where a group of people unites in their own sinful desires. In Exodus 32, God’s people rebel after Moses left for just 40 days. This takes us back to the earlier weeks of our study where we discussed man’s tendency towards sin due to the fall. In this case, God’s people were witnesses to the miracles of God such as the parting of the Red Sea, the plagues on Egypt, and many others, but they turn against God and convince Aaron to cast an idol of gold as an object of worship. Here we see Aaron’s pride as a leader. Now that Moses is not present, the people look to Aaron to help them fulfill their desires. When he does, he is celebrated for it. Even if, in some twisted way of thinking, Aaron convinced himself that the calf was a vessel for worshipping God, he enjoys the power and recognition he receives from the people. He allows his pride to override his discernment in the face of social pressure.

APPLY

As important as it is to have godly community, it is just as important to have godly Leaders. Godly Leaders keep us on the right trajectory even when faced with overwhelming pressure to go in a different direction. Aaron succumbs to this pressure by refusing to stand against the evil requests of the people. Each of us could be considered a leader in some

aspect of our lives. Even if you do not lead large groups of people, you likely carry influence in some way with your small group, your family, or even a friend. What opportunities have you been given to lead throughout your life? Have you struggled with pride when put in a position of leadership or power? Do you have a leader in your life who is humble yet firm in standing for God's truth?

REFLECTION



Devo Day 3

God Disperses the Proud

Genesis 11:5-9

⁵But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. ⁷Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” ⁸So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

DISCOVER

In verse 5, the Lord descends to see the city of Shinar and the tower that the people built. They make significant progress in their work and appear

to gain more momentum. In response, the Lord confuses their languages, making them unable to communicate with one another. As a result, the once unified workforce abandons their project in confusion and disperses across the face of the earth. The tower becomes known as “Babel” because it is where God confuses the language of all the people of the earth. Then the diverse people groups become scattered all over the world.

LEARN

These verses exemplify the concept of “pride coming before the fall” as is written in Proverbs 16:18. The people of Shinar work together to do something that exalts themselves, with no reverence or consideration towards God. If anything, this is a display of their self-sufficiency and an act of defiance. This gets the attention of God as He does not just put their pride to rest, but scatters them across the globe, highlighting their need for His providence. Their fear

of being scattered in verse four now becomes a reality, and they can no longer rely on their own desire for prestige, power, and self-sufficiency.

APPLY

Sometimes we begin to think of ourselves as self-sufficient. When things are going well, it is easy to give ourselves credit. We do not need to rely on God because we handle things just fine on our own. Everyone experiences moments of pride when these thoughts get the best of us, but what is important is

that we recognize our prideful tendencies. God takes action against the people of Shinar because they are set in their prideful ways. When we catch ourselves embracing our pride, we should refocus on God as our source of strength and direction of praise. Have you had moments in life where you tried to rely too heavily on yourself? How can awareness of these moments help you to refocus on the Lord and recognize that He deserves all the glory? What are some ways you could cultivate humility in your daily life?

REFLECTION

The Reversal of Genesis 11

Acts 2:1-13

¹When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?” ⁸And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹Parthians

and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” ¹²So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?”

¹³Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

DISCOVER

Acts 2 is the story of the day of Pentecost, where Jesus’ disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is a Jewish festival that draws people to Jerusalem from all over the Roman Empire. A mighty rushing wind fills the room, and they gain the ability to speak in other tongues through the power of the Spirit. Multitudes from different nations gather to hear them speak. They are shocked and amazed to

hear and understand in their own languages. Notice that this is the very opposite of what happened in our reading yesterday from Genesis 11.

LEARN

Acts 2 carries immense significance in the grand scope of the Holy Scriptures. It marks a major turning point for the Christian faith because the Spirit is now within those who believe, and the body of Christ, His church, begins to take form. In our study today, our goal is to highlight connections between Genesis 11 and Acts 2, as the events at Pentecost reversed the dispersion described in Genesis 11. In Genesis, languages were confused, forcing people to move across the world and form different people groups. In Acts 2, the Spirit speaks through the disciples so that everyone present can understand, no matter what the language. This unifies them under the motivation to fellowship found in Jesus. It also allows for the spread of Christ's message to a diverse audience. The source of unity found in Acts 2 is completely opposite of the unity that God's people

seek in Genesis 11. At Pentecost, the people want to grow in their fellowship with Christ and to make His name known, not to make a name for themselves.

APPLY

The Christian walk is undoubtedly a personal relationship between an individual and Jesus Christ. However, we are not created to be without godly community on this earth. Who we surround ourselves with has a massive impact on the direction we take in life. We can spend our time with those who distract and divert our relationship with Jesus or be with a community who walks alongside us and directs us towards the person we want to be in Christ. If you read the rest of Acts 2, you will see the importance and impact that true Christian fellowship can have: unity in Christ that overpowers the desires of the world. What does community look like in your life? What people or persons have a positive impact on your walk with Christ? Have you ever found yourself in a community that distracted you more than it directed you in your faith?

REFLECTION

Image of Godly Unity in the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

¹²For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴For in fact the body is not one member but many.

¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? ¹⁸But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. ¹⁹And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

²⁰But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. ²¹And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, ²⁴but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, ²⁵that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.



DISCOVER

This week we learned different aspects of unity and community built around both prideful and godly motivations. Paul emphasizes the importance of unity within the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12 which compares the different roles of each Christian in the metaphorical body to the literal parts of the human body. Each member has a distinct role that cannot reach its fullest potential without the help of the others. This is a Biblical type of unity that elevates the whole body, while it prioritizes the name of Jesus. Just as a human body needs all its parts to function to its fullest potential, the body of Christ must rely on members with different gifts to maximize its impact for the Kingdom. We all have skills, gifts, and characteristics that contribute to the building up of the body of Christ in various ways.

LEARN

What does godly community truly look like? To put it simply, it is striving to be more like Jesus. This is not what we see in Genesis 11 when the tower of Babel is built, as their self-centered motivations lead to their downfall and dispersion. Acts 2 and 1 Corinthians 12 exemplify what Christ-centered community should look like. It is a community that works and grows to be more like our Heavenly Father. All throughout Scripture we are commanded and encouraged to be godly, and all throughout the

New Testament, we are called to be more like Christ. No matter where we come from or what our experiences are, we all have a role to further the Kingdom of God through the mission to be like Jesus and to encourage others to do the same.

APPLY

This week, we thoroughly covered the distinction between what it means to be a part of a prideful community and a godly community. One of the most emphasized facets of the Christian faith in the Bible is the importance of surrounding oneself with godly community. Much of the New Testament consists of letters written to churches for instruction and encouragement in their faith. One of the most crucial aspects of finding a good community is the opportunity to have accountability. As Paul wrote letters such as 1 Corinthians to encourage and correct the church. We should also exhort and hold accountable our brothers and sisters in Christ. Surrounding ourselves with like-minded Christians helps us all contribute and stay faithful to the body of Christ. What is the best piece of encouragement you have received from a fellow believer? How could you do better to encourage a friend or family member in their walk with Jesus? How do we hold our fellow believers accountable while maintaining and conveying a spirit of love?

REFLECTION 



Discussion Week 6

Scripture & Notes

Genesis 11:1-9

THE TOWER OF BABEL

¹Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ²And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. ³Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

⁵But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. ⁷Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may

Discussion Week 6

Application questions

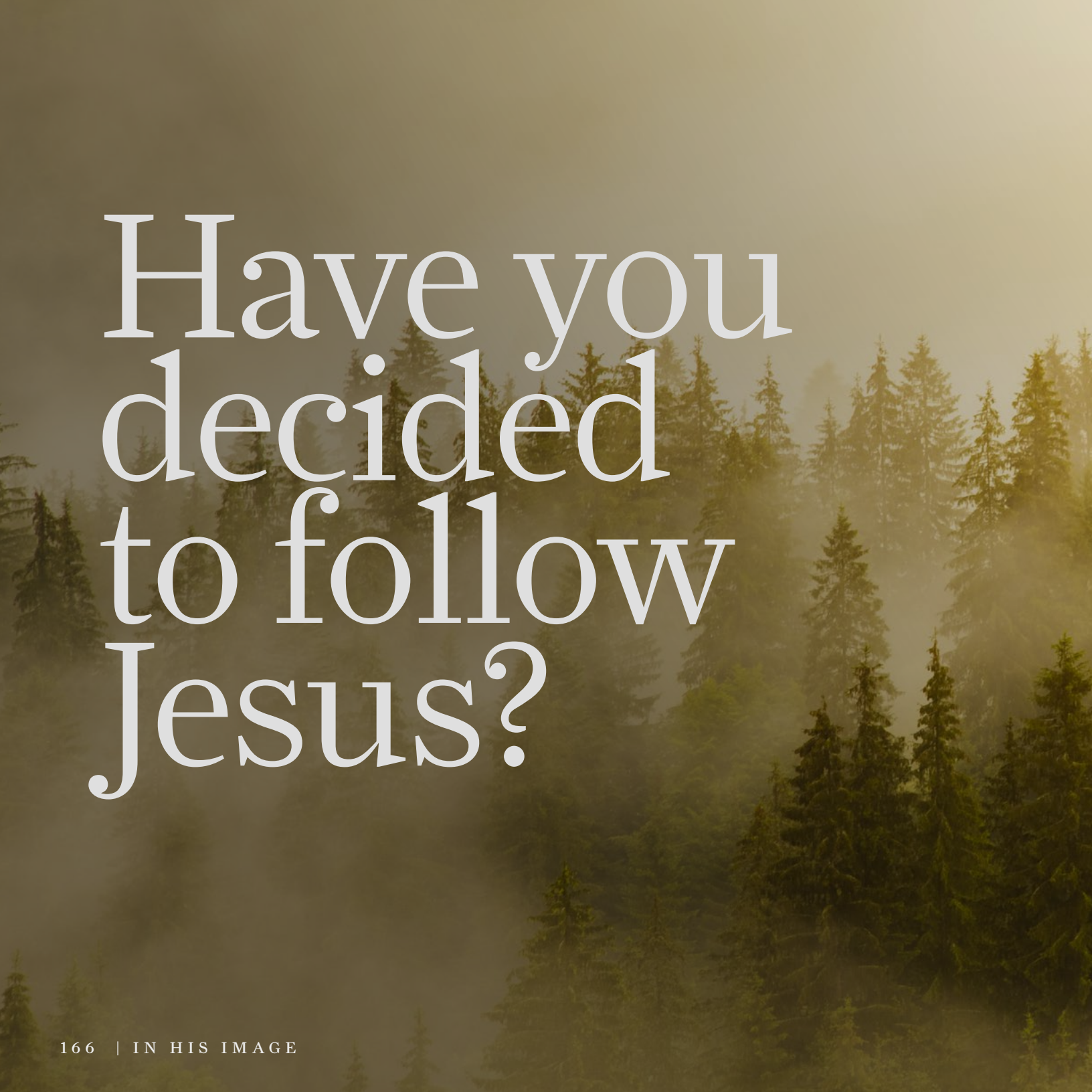
1. We should find our purpose and significance not in the things we accomplish on this earth, but in the power and presence of God in our lives. Have you ever experienced a fear of being insignificant? What do you look to in those times? Do you find comfort in knowing your significance is placed in Christ and what He has done?

- 4.** Acts 2 highlights the importance and impact that true Christian fellowship can have: unity in Christ that overpowers the desires of the world. What does community look like in your life? What people or persons have a positive impact on your walk with Christ? Have you ever found yourself in a community that distracted you more than it directed you in your faith?


- 5.** As Paul wrote letters such as 1 Corinthians to encourage and correct the church, we should also exhort and hold accountable our brothers and sisters in Christ. Surrounding ourselves with like-minded Christians helps us all contribute and stay faithful to the body of Christ. What's the best piece of encouragement you have received from a fellow believer? How could you do better at encouraging a friend or family member in their walk with Jesus? How do we hold our fellow believers accountable while maintaining and conveying a spirit of love?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- Acts 2 portrays the beauty of a diverse group of people who are unified into one body (the Church), in contrast to man's failed attempt to unite through selfish efforts in Genesis 11. Discuss how the Church today can embrace the differences and diversity that we bring to the body, while also maintaining unity in Christ.
- How can Christians today value and celebrate cultural diversity while communicating the gospel effectively across various cultures?



Have you
decided
to follow
Jesus?

A dense forest of tall evergreen trees, likely spruce or fir, stands under a hazy, golden light. The trees are dark green and densely packed. In the background, a utility pole with power lines is visible. The overall atmosphere is misty and serene.

Don't wait... find out how to
take the first step →

Becoming a Christian

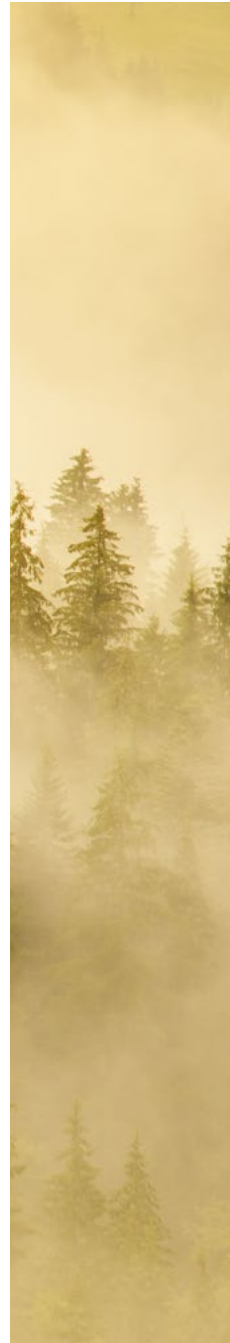
Romans 10:17 says, *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

If you have not already surrendered your heart to the Lord and asked Him to be your Savior, our hope is that the Holy Spirit stirred within you as you completed this study. Maybe you have been in church all your life and have never truly done this, or maybe this is the first time you have ever studied God’s Word and would like to accept Him now. If you have never encountered Jesus and trusted Him as your Savior, continue to read to discover how to do this.

SALVATION THROUGH JESUS

The first step on the road to Salvation through Jesus Christ is to acknowledge Romans 3:23 which says, *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* This means that all of humanity requires forgiveness from God for their sins. We are by nature born sinful and in need of a Savior.

God made a way for us to be forgiven and receive salvation through giving His Son, Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice for all. Jesus fulfilled the demands of God by His obedient life, died on the cross in full substitution and payment for the sins of all, was buried, and on the third day He arose physically and bodily from the dead. He ascended into heaven where He





now intercedes for all believers. Romans 5:8 says, *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Salvation is a gift and received by faith in Jesus alone. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*

Romans 10:9 says, *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Faith is a choice made within your heart that is evidenced by the way you live. Although works are not required to be saved, there will be evidence of your faith as you begin to live according to Scripture.

OUR RESPONSE

If you would like to take this next step to put your trust in Jesus and accept Him as your Lord and Savior, ask Him to be Lord of your life by praying a prayer similar to this:

Heavenly Father, I know that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. I believe that Jesus, your Son, was the sacrifice for all sin. Please forgive me for all of my own sins. I accept your offer of eternal life. Please fill my heart with your Holy Spirit. Thank you for giving me new life in you. I choose to follow you now and forever.

If you have never accepted this gift of salvation, please share your decision with your group leader or someone from the leadership team. When you encounter Jesus and ask Him to be Lord of your life, you are forever changed. We would love to guide you in your next steps to follow Him and live according to His will.

Study Resources

In His Image Video Series

Follow along with weekly videos. This resource is perfect for individuals studying without a group, life groups studying at home, or for group members who miss a week of teaching.



In His Image reading plan on the YouVersion Bible App!





**THOMAS ROAD**
BAPTIST CHURCH