

A study on Genesis

In the Beginning



Table of Contents

Unit 1 In The Beginning	5
Chapter 1	6
Chapter 2	9
Chapter 3	11
Chapter 4	12
Chapter 5	14
Chapter 6	16
Unit 2 The First Couple	20
Chapter 1	21
Chapter 2	23
Chapter 3	27
Chapter 4	29
Chapter 5	32
Chapter 6	34
Unit 3 Murder!	37
Chapter 1	38
Chapter 2	40
Chapter 3	43
Chapter 4	45
Chapter 5	47
Chapter 6	50
Unit 4 Hope Floats	54
Chapter 1	55

Chapter 258

Chapter 360

Chapter 463

Chapter 566

Chapter 668

In the Beginning...

You may recall as a child that many of the stories we were familiar with began with the phrase, “Once Upon a Time”...

This phrase is centuries old, harkening back to 1225, and maybe older, with some variations but the meaning remained the same. It simply indicated a set point in time.

At a set point in time, God said, “let there be” and it was so – it was creation’s “once upon a time”. Although we have no way of knowing what God was doing before this, what we do know is that once upon a time the earth was void and God chose to create a living system with all manner of life and beauty. For us it was the beginning of life as we know it.

In this study, “In the Beginning”, we will explore the first nine chapters of Genesis from creation through the flood of Noah. For many people these chapters bring questions and confusion, so it is our hope to help bring understanding – more than that, see the amazing love, grace and mercy of God.

Unit 1

In The Beginning

Chapter 1

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 1:1-5](#)

Think: What were you taught in school, at home, or church about how the world was created?

What do you believe now?

There are several schools of thought on the subject, the big bang, literal 6-day creation, old earth, young earth, evolution, etc. Even in the Christian church not everyone agrees. The BIG question is... does it matter? Well, yes and no. The debate about the age of the earth may not necessarily be a salvation issue, but whether or not we believe the accuracy and inerrancy of the Bible as literal and true, IS a salvation issue. This is the first question we must answer, do you believe the Bible is the inspired word of God and is inerrant, true, and never changes? Read [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#), what do these verses say about this?

What does it equip you to do?

This “work” is more than *doing* things but includes the wisdom and discernment needed to know truth from error.

In today’s verses, what are the first three words?

The word *beginning*, here can mean either the beginning of the act of creation as we know it, or the beginning of the original creation of matter. This is where the conflict of the big bang theory and a creator exist – at its core the big bang theory simply suggests that the galaxies are expanding and contracting – which is true based on observable evidence. What it cannot answer is the point of origin – what or who started it?

What is the fourth word in verse 1?

Here we come face-to-face with the fact that God exists outside of time. He was *before* creation and the cause of it. Here, *God* is the Hebrew word, *Elohim*, which has an unusual quality – it is a plural word used as a singular noun. The meaning is “rulers, judges, divine ones, angels” which indicates other beings and may even be the first doctrine of the Trinity. If we look at [John 1:1-3](#), we see that Jesus was with God and was God during creation! Verse 2 also indicates the presence of another, who is it?

It is taught, this is speaking of the Holy Spirit – the third person of the triune God, co-eternal, and present during creation as well.

In verses 3-5, how is the earth described?

What was God’s first act in creation?

Here, light is a matter of illumination that came from the spoken word of God. If we go back to [John 1:4-5](#), what is Jesus called?

How amazing that John tells us Jesus IS the “Word” and the “Light” of life. This light separated the darkness... how much like our own lives! Before we come to know Christ as Lord, we are in darkness and children of darkness. After surrendering to Him, we are conveyed into the kingdom of light and are now children of light ([Ephesians 5:8](#) and [Colossians 1:12-13](#))! What did God call the light in Genesis 1:4?

What did He name the light and dark?

What does this signify?

It is here we are faced with another question – how can there be a day and night when the sun, moon, and stars had not yet been created? We are limited in our thinking, but if we look at the scripture we’ve already studied today, we find that an all-powerful God created light that exists without the sun but came from The Son! (For more, check out: www.gotquestions.org/light-first-sun-fourth.html)

Engage: It is not necessary to be a scholar to understand these verses. If we take the Bible literally, we see God existed before the earth, He created it, Jesus and the Holy Spirit were present and involved, and we see a period of time assigned - day and night. How does this change, challenge, or affirm your understanding of how the world came into existence?

How does our belief that the Bible is God’s word and is accurate impact this?

If a person was to believe that the creation account and the timing is not literal, how will their understanding of the rest of the Bible and faith in God be influenced?

Memorize: For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:19-20

Dig Deeper: There is more information than there is time and space for here, so if you would like to dig deeper, check out the links below. You can also find more resource links on our website at www.crossroads-ridgecrest.org – click on “Resources”, “Brochures and Guides”, then “Evidence Resources”.

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/genesis-1/>, www.desiringgod.org/articles/our-old-earth,
www.answersingenesis.org/geology/carbon-14/radiocarbon-dating/,

www.answersingenesis.org/creation-vs-evolution/evidence-for-young-earth-creation/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23591904924&gbraid=0AAAAADqqMBuU2VVnN5c6RRFhy7zmWfpQb&gclid=Cj0KCQjw54nRBhDCARIsAMcY_SA8TafZA3tuS8ij9x8QeXr2FTxegd6cumLPAVv-6dItaTFFM6ZVzOQaAI5QEALw_wcB

<https://answersingenesis.org/creation-vs-evolution/>

Chapter 2

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 1:6-8](#)

Think: Yesterday we read that before God began His creative work, the earth was covered with water. As God enters His second day of creation, what does He do?

It is taught that this separation was the water from the earth and the water vapors in the sky. It is believed that the atmosphere at this time served as a type of global greenhouse effect with multiple benefits ranging from globally temperate climates to lush vegetation. Even when God separated the waters, it didn't change these effects – until sin entered the world.

In verse 8, what did God call this expanse?

The word for *heaven* in this verse is *shamayim*, which also means sky or visible heavens. When you hear the word heaven, what do you think of?

For most, we understand this to mean the place where God lives, and we will go when we die. We will learn over the next few days there are distinct separations here. How does verse 8 end?

If you read the link from desiringgod.org, you would have noticed they present a lengthy argument for the timeframe they believe God created the earth. Although their arguments may be plausible, there are some things to consider... first, God is not a God of confusion but order ([1 Corinthians 14:33](#)), and nothing He gave us in His word is meant to confuse us. Second, everything God does is either literal, symbolic, or a foreshadowing of things to come and He never contradicts Himself. The question here is if the timing of a literal 24-hour day was not what God meant, how did the length of our days and calendar happen? A quick Google search reveals the Egyptians are believed to be the primary creators of the 24-hour day... really??? Is it not possible they simply followed what God already created? Why do you think it is difficult for some to believe God created the world in six 24-hour days?

If He is God, is anything too difficult for Him? (<https://answersingenesis.org/days-of-creation/24-hours-plain-as-day/>)

Engage: Living in the desert, it is hard to imagine this kind of atmosphere! How wonderful would Ridgecrest be if we were at a constant 75 degrees and never had to water our gardens! When reading the creation account, it is important to keep in mind that God was preparing the perfect place for His ultimate creation to live – man and woman – nothing was random. Because we tend to be linear, it may read as God did one thing, then decided to do another thing and so on, but if He had humans in mind first, that means He was preparing a place for us to live in relationship with Him. Turn to [John 14:2-3](#), what does Jesus say about preparing a place?

When Jesus was crucified, resurrected, and returned to His Father, He was “preparing” a place for His followers to live with Him in eternity. We were always meant to live in relationship with God!

Memorize: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; Psalm 19:7

Chapter 3

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 1:9-13](#)

Think: In the third day of creation what does God do (vs. 9-10)?

What does He say of His creation?

In verses 11-12, what did God bring forth?

These verses confirm God's intent to create beings that will need food. It also may make you wonder what it may have looked like to have trees and other plants coming out of the ground spontaneously! Do you think they grew to full maturity in that one day? Why/why not?

These verses tell us that these plants grew by God *speaking* them into existence – He didn't plant seeds that needed to grow, but created them *with* seed to perpetuate future growth. Again, this will stretch our understanding. We are limited in our understanding because of our own experiences. Because it takes weeks, months, and sometimes years from seed to full maturity to grow vegetables and fruit, we might naturally think it was the same in the creation account. Not only that, but we know plants need a proper amount of sunlight to grow and have photosynthesis, BUT!!! The sun hasn't been created yet... is it possible God's light is life giving – even to plants?

Engage: [Revelation 21:22-25](#) is part of the description of the new Jerusalem. How is it described?

If God IS light, we have no need of sun, moon, and stars! If you read all of Revelation 21 and 22:1-5, you will see the description of a perfect city where God dwells among His people in relationship once again. Our planet, in spite of its problems, is still beautiful and wonderful and a gift from God that we should be grateful for. All of nature will be returned to its perfect state after Christ returns! How does that give you hope?

In the meantime, when you see a beautiful sunset, a Sierra wave, a rose, or the next time you bite into a sweet piece of fruit, take a minute to thank God for the gift of His creation.

Memorize: through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. Revelation 22:2

Chapter 4

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 1:14-19](#)

Think: On the fourth day of creation, what did God put in the sky?

What was their purpose?

What is the greater light?

What is the lesser light?

In verse 19, what is our timeframe?

If God is light and He illuminated and separated the darkness, why do you think He created the Sun, moon, and stars?

There doesn't seem to be much on the subject... some offer that the sun, moon, and stars are vessels for God's light. The challenge there is that we have observable evidence that stars die and [Mark 13:24-25](#) and [Revelation 8:12](#) tell us that during the last days, one of the signs will be that the sun, moon, and stars will be greatly affected, even that they will only give a third of their light.

Is it possible that after Adam and Eve sinned, the broken relationship meant God's light was no longer with them as it had been? God's light, although a source of illumination, is so much more than that. It signifies His presence and His consuming power and glory. Consider this, God's light is not gone but only available to those who live in His light. Read [John 1:4-9](#) and [John 3:19](#), according to these verses, who is the Light?

How did people respond to the Light?

Jesus came to show people God's light and the way back to it. Have you ever noticed when a person has truly chosen to follow Christ that they seem "lighter"? Their face and eyes seem brighter? There's a reason - the light of Christ is IN them and it shows! However, one of the outcomes of this is that light exposes darkness and for those who love the darkness, they must move away from it – this why we often lose friends when we become Christian.

Back to the constellations...today's reading tells us they are for signs and seasons. With the rotation of the earth and its orbit around the sun, it was always the way for people to determine times of planting and harvesting, keeping track of time. Even today the Jewish people base their calendar on the lunar cycle which determines the feasts and festivals commanded by God and is the reason

why Easter is always on a different day – it follows the Passover which coincides with the new (full) moon. (www.britannica.com/topic/Jewish-religious-year)

Engage: Living in the high desert, it is incredible to see the number of stars in the sky on a moonless night. However, even in Ridgecrest, the light of the city obscures just how many there are. Growing up in the LA area with all its light pollution, it seemed as though there were only three or four! In a way, this is an example how God exists even if we don't "see" Him. Like the stars, just because we can't see Him doesn't mean He's not there. Turn to [Psalm 19:1-6](#) – how do the heavens proclaim His existence?

Do you see God's glory in the constellations? Do you look to the skies for signs of the ages? Have you ever imagined what would happen to life on this planet if there was no sun or moon? Next time you're out at night, look to the stars and thank God for them.

Memorize: He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.
Psalm 147:4

Chapter 5

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 1:20-25](#)

Think: In today's reading, what did God create on the fifth day?

What did God create in verses 24-25?

What did He command them to do?

When He finished creating them, what did He say about His creation?

Here we read of God’s creation of swarming things, fish, birds, reptiles, and animals – and here is where we can see that evolution can’t stand up to its claims. Fossil records do not show transitional organisms of any kind, and although adaptation of a species can occur, we never see one species turning into another. In fact, the words describing God’s creation helps us understand that things continue to be what they were created as from the beginning. The word “bird” means bird or flying creature, the word “livestock” means cattle or beast. If we look at classifications: bovine, feline, canine, arthropods, mammals, etc., we know that even with the variations within the species, they are the same now as they have been for thousands of years. Nothing new has appeared, either suddenly or overtime. Additionally, there is something beautiful that is missed when we rely on evolution – God’s blessing! God blesses His creation, meaning He enriches or endows them to be successfully fruitful. How has that gone so far? The animal kingdom has no problem multiplying without intervention and that is by design! Multiplication isn’t the only job of animals, many have specific purposes designed for the support of the environment... from dung that acts as a rich fertilizer to carrion scavengers and insects specifically designed to breakdown and remove decaying material.

God also delights in His creation. In the book of Job, known to be the oldest book of the Bible, we see this. Turn to [Job 40:15-34](#), here God is reminding Job who is in charge! Job was a man faithful to the Lord when one day, Satan challenged Job’s faithfulness. God allowed Satan to strike Job with physical maladies after losing his entire family and possessions as a test. Although Job remained faithful, he did go through a period of complaining and questioning God, which brings us to this passage. Reading these verses, how does God describe this animal?

Who does God say made it?

It is taught that God is describing what we know as a hippopotamus, looking back at the verses, does that make sense? For some additional reading of God’s interaction with Job and description of how He created and cares for His creation, check out chapters 38-40.

Engage: Do you have a pet? When you look at your pet, do you see the loving hand of a creator God who blesses His creation or do you see random chance? When you watch our local “wildlife” do you see a Creator who loves variety? When we look at creation, in all its forms, we have the opportunity to worship the Lord, thanking Him for the beauty and variety.

For a fun and informational 3 minute video about random chance and mutations, check out this link from Bruce Malone, author of the evidence devotional books, “Inspired Evidence”, “Without Excuse”, and “Have You Considered?” – all available in the church library or you can ask at the Connections counter. <https://searchforthetruth.net/portfolio/the-flash-drive-experiment/>. Other resources on how animals and insects are designed for ecological purposes: www.icr.org/article/god-fitted-habitats-for-biodiversity, www.tomorrowworld.org/commentary/natural-helpers-by-design

Memorize: As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. [Psalm 42:1](#)

Chapter 6

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 1:26-31](#)

Think: Here we come to the sixth and final day of God’s act of creation. In today’s scripture, who was created?

Who was he created in the image of?

This is a very special creation! Man is the only one that God created in His likeness, or image. But what does it mean to be created in the image of God? The word *image*, means reflection or resemblance – clearly we are not exactly like God, but we bear many characteristics of Him. To be created in the image of God is not a physical description, but one of morality, spirituality, and personality. No other part of God’s creation has a moral compass that guides decisions, no other creation can worship, and no other creation has character traits like God – the ability to love and have emotions like anger, joy, or sadness. Most importantly, no other creation was designed for intimate relationship with the Creator! How does it impact you to know God designed you for a relationship with Him?

How does it change your understanding of who you are to know you bear His image?

Although some species do seem to have more personality than others, they simply are not created in God’s image.

We also see in verse 26, that God used the word “us”. What does this indicate?

The New American Standard Bible and New King James Version both capitalize the word Us, indicating deity, thus pointing to the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). However, the Hebrew phrase, “let us make” doesn’t explain the word “us”. Scholars and commentators offer a couple of explanations: first, it is what we’ve already mentioned – the Trinity, while another suggestion is that God was consulting with the angels. Although God also created the angels, we are not at all like them – a reading of [Psalm 8](#) shows there is a difference. What does verse 5 say about this?

Interestingly, the word for angels here is *Elohim*, and we learned in Day 1 this week that Elohim is plural in nature. Being a little lower than the angels doesn’t mean God prefers them, it simply

signifies the difference in purpose and form. For a much deeper dive into the language of Genesis 1:26, go to: www.tetzetorah.com/excursus-on-genesis-1-26.

In verses 28-30, what did God give His creation?

In verse 31, when God looked at all He created, how good was it?

God was pleased with His creation! Not only was it good, it was *very* good! This small word means *exceeding, abundance, might, force, or greatly*, but what we must remember is this was original creation untouched by sin. When the Bible says it was very good, it means it was perfect.

Lastly, in [Genesis 2:1-3](#), when God was finished with His creation, what did He do?

We know this day as the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. This is a subject worthy of study on its own, but that is not our focus today. If you would like more on the Sabbath, you can go to www.gotquestions.org/Sabbath-day-rest.html. Consider this...on our calendar, Sunday is considered the 7th day of the week (some consider it the first) and it is the day we worship in church. Ironically, even atheists are recognizing a God they don't believe in by virtue of recognizing a seven-day week with Sunday being the last day! For Christians, God established this day for us to honor Him and rest from our labors. This was so important that He established it when He brought them out of slavery in Egypt and placed it in the Ten Commandments (See [Exodus 16:23-26](#) and [20:8-11](#)). There is some debate about the day of the week that is the "real" Sabbath, but New Testament scripture shows it is the motive of our heart, not the day, that God sees in our faithfulness (See [Mark 2:27](#) and [Colossians 2:16-17](#)). How well do you do this?

When you have a day off, how can you honor God in it?

Engage: There is no other religion in the world that has a god like our God. He is called Elohim, Yahweh/Jehovah meaning LORD, El Shaddai meaning God Almighty – and these are just a few (for more, go to: www.gotquestions.org/names-of-God.html). He is our provider, our strength, our comforter, our master, and our Father. He is relational and when we seek to follow Him faithfully, we can call Him Abba, which is often translated as "daddy" due to the intimate nature of

the word. No other religion has a god who created anything, let alone humans to love and walk with! How does this challenge or encourage you?

God created you so you can know Him and He is pleased with His creation! Write what God has shown you this week about Himself and creation. What did you learn that was new?

Do you have more questions? Take time to check out additional resources for answers but always remember it goes back to what we believe about the inerrancy of the Bible.

<https://searchforthetruth.net/portfolio/the-de-evolution-of-mankind-2/>

Memorize: For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. Psalm 139:13-14

Unit 2

The First Couple

Chapter 1

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: Genesis 2:4-14

Think: When we hear the term, First Couple, our minds might first turn to the President of the United States and the First Lady. However, this week we are learning more about the *First* first couple, Adam and Eve in the second chapter of Genesis. Some have argued that chapters 1 and 2 contradict one another, but looking at it, they clearly do not. Chapter 1 focuses on the details of the beginning of the creation of our planet, the heavens, cosmos, vegetation and animals – ending with a brief note of the creation of man. Chapter 2 gives a brief summary of chapter 1 and goes into detail about mankind. In fact, chapter 2 gives us wonderful detail about the Garden itself! Review [Genesis 1:27-29](#) and write the differences between this account of the creation of man compared to verse 7 in today's reading.

In verse 7 we discover that man was made from the dust of the ground making this a clear distinction that although man was made in the image of God, it is not a physical image but a spiritual one. Additionally, this may also be the reason so many believe that all creation, including man, evolved from chemical components of earth, a primordial goo, millions of years ago. The truth is that we DO have minerals and elements in our bodies necessary for life, minerals such as magnesium, sodium, iron, etc. are minerals that keep us alive and are found in the earth – does this mean we evolved from dirt? No! but it makes sense when we read that God formed man out of the dust of the earth. For a great article on this subject, check out the link in “Dig Deeper”.

Verse 9 gives us a couple more details about the garden, what are they?

Here we are told of two specific trees in the midst of the garden, the tree of life and of good and evil. We will learn more about the tree of good and evil later, but what do we know about this tree of life? Actually, not much. What we can learn comes from a few verses... read [Genesis 3:22](#) and [24](#) and [Revelation 22:2](#), what do these verses show us?

This is really all we know about this specific tree – it was good for food, and since God never forbid Adam from eating it, we might assume he may have eaten from it before the fall. We also know it had properties that could make one immortal as seen in Genesis 3:24 – it was guarded by an angel with a flaming sword to keep people away from it. The question many have is, does Eden still exist? We know that many biblical places do exist today but under different names, but locating the garden is more difficult than we might think – for a few reasons. Theologians offer that it was likely destroyed in Noah’s flood and although we have clues, the rivers, it appears they are not the same ones we know today – but again, the flood could have changed that too. Even if it did exist and we knew where it was, what do you think humanity would do with it? Do you think it is possible that humans were originally meant to live forever? It is incredible to think that had sin not entered the world, humanity would live forever in perfect harmony with God and each other! One final note on the Tree of Life – we see it again in Revelation 22 as described in the New Jerusalem. What is its purpose?

There are some similarities in this description as Eden, but we know that what God created on earth was a shadow of the heavenly reality.

Engage: Have you ever had the desire to live forever? Oddly, in the movies, living forever is a curse! In the Avengers Captain America, this was one of Steve Rogers greatest pains, outliving the love of his life, Peggy Carter. When God put an angel to guard the Tree of Life, He was graciously protecting us from living forever in a fallen state and enduring immense pain and suffering for an eternity. Whether we realize it or not, we are already spiritually eternal – either as a Christian whose eternity will be spent in heaven or as a non-Christian whose eternity will be spent in hell. How does this impact you?

Have you made the decision to submit to Jesus and spend eternity with Him? If you haven't or aren't sure, we would love to talk with you and answer any questions you may have. Please call or email for an appointment, (760)384-3333 or ccc@ccc-rc.org

Memorize: So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. Genesis 2:3

Chapter 2

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 2:15-25](#)

Think: We start life as infants and grow physically, intellectually, morally, and spiritually so it would be hard to imagine entering life as a full-grown adult with all the knowledge we'll ever need – even if some of us would like to skip the scrapes and bruises of growing up!

In today's reading as well as yesterday's, we read that Adam wasn't born but created as a fully grown man with a developed intellect - what are the clues from today's verses that point to this?

We also see one of the first commands God gave His creation in verses 16 & 17, what is it?

So many people give up on Christianity right here... WHY would God put that kind of temptation in front of Adam? Maybe the better question is why would someone consider disobeying God over one thing when He has given them an abundance elsewhere? People often look at this age-old

dilemma from the wrong angle – some see God as unfair, holding back something good rather than focusing on the overwhelming abundance He’s already given. We see this in children... a child can have 20 wonderful toys but will focus on the one they don’t have, forgetting the abundance they have already been given! Does that mean the parents are unfair because they don’t let their child have that one toy? What if that one toy could cause harm to the child, should they let him/her have it anyway? It’s funny how we see the logic this way yet hold God to a different standard. This may be hard to understand, but the fact that God had a tree of good and evil in the garden, even though it was off limits, shows that God holds nothing back from His creation and He allows us to choose our path – He never forces obedience.

Verse 18 now reveals another reality of man, what is it?

Why do you think it isn’t good for man (or woman) to be alone?

Turn to [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#), what is the benefit of having others in our life?

When God created man, he was different from all other creation so his needs would also be different. We know that God created all animals to multiply, but humans are much more than reproducing creatures! When God brought the animals to Adam in verses 19-20, there were two purposes, what were they?

God created man to be productive (work) and for relationship. Adam not only noticed no other creature was like him physically but also not like him relationally... he needed to recognize his own need for a perfectly matched mate. God created this perfect mate for Adam in a different way than His other creations – what is the difference?

How God created woman demonstrates the depth of intimacy and oneness that should be in marriage. It is unique from all other relationships and is the example of the relationship of Christ

and His church. Jesus didn't *invent* the church, it was created from Him! Enduring Word commentary says it this way, "*the bride of Christ comes from the wound made in the side of the second Adam, Jesus Christ*", (See [John 19:34](#), [John 20:27](#) and [1 Corinthians 15:45](#)). The thought that the church (the bride) was created from the side of Jesus the way God originally created woman from the side of Adam is such a powerful picture! How does that statement impact you?

From here, and through the remaining verses, we see God's creation of the marriage relationship. In verse 24, how is this described?

Engage: Expositor, Donald Grey Barnhouse, states "*There is a beautiful Jewish tradition saying God made woman, not out of man's foot to be under him, nor out of his head to be over him, but "She was taken from under his arm that he might protect her and from next to his heart that he might love her."* Truly this is the perfect description of how a husband and wife are meant to be. But we live in a world where the marriage relationship has been distorted into something God never intended. God's purpose for creating woman was not to give Adam someone to boss around or mistreat. He didn't create another man to be a business partner or co-lead. He didn't create woman to nag or undermine his authority. There is a loving design and at this point in creation, it was untarnished by sin so all the struggles we are familiar with in marriage are not present. Imagine for a moment, and briefly write, what would a perfect, sinless marriage look like?

Considering our differences, both physically and emotionally, write how husbands and wives can complement one another.

Our struggle in marriages isn't because God made a mistake, it is due to sin. Sin causes pride which causes selfishness which causes arguments which causes... we could go on! The battle we face is a spiritual one, not gender based - turn to [Ephesians 6:12](#), how is this battle described?

If you are married, what do you currently struggle with?

Now look at that struggle through the lens of that verse – does it change your perspective? In what way?

How does knowing this help you see that you are not fighting your spouse but Satan, who is using your spouse to tempt you to fail?

Whether you are doing well or having some problems, how does today's lesson impact your understanding of God's plan for marriage?

If you are struggling in your marriage, Crossroads offer FREE marriage counseling. You can make an appointment by calling (760)384-3333 Wed-Fri, 10am-4pm or email us at ccc@ccc-rc.org.

Memorize: Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2:24

Chapter 3

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 3:1-6](#)

Think: In today's reading, how is the serpent described?

What does he do?

What was Eve's response?

These verses raise several questions... how and why is it the serpent is crafty?

How and why is it talking?

Why is Eve not surprised by a talking serpent?

There is much we don't know about God's creation before sin entered the world. We can only surmise that animals in the perfection of the Garden were unlike those of today, including having some ability to communicate with humans. This may not be as far-fetched as it appears... turn to Isaiah [11:6-9](#), in this description of nature during what we know as the millennial kingdom (the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth) that takes place after His return, nature is restored to a perfect state. However, we are still left with questions regarding this picture in Genesis, was Satan the serpent – did Satan simply speak through the serpent? These are all good questions but not

necessarily the focus. We might also ask, why did he talk to Eve rather than Adam? What do you think?

Sadly, there are schools of thought that are very derogatory toward women in this, claiming women are weak minded and that's why Satan approached Eve. What we need to remember is there was a perfect innocence in the garden – no sin, no deception, a perfect environment, perfect relationships... Eve had no reason at this time to believe she was being lied to. There is one nagging issue in verse 3 - what rule did she add that God did NOT tell Adam?

Why do you think she said this?

Is it possible that in his effort to make certain Eve didn't make the mistake of eating the fruit that *he* added this rule? This is not a blame game but just the encouragement to not make assumptions about what happened. The real focus is Satan's reply, what did he tell her in verses 4 and 5?

This is how Satan operates – in partial truths and distortions. He understood that this death was a spiritual death and the death of relationship with the Creator. Yes, it also meant physical death but not immediate death. Satan also knew that Eve was naïve and was counting on her not understanding what he was saying. Another noteworthy observation in Satan's response comes when he tells her that her eyes will be opened and she will know good and evil, like God. Do you think she knew what evil was at this point? It is doubtful she experienced anything evil up to this point and she clearly didn't recognize it standing in front of her. This also shows that evil has been a reality since the beginning and not a construct of man as some may think.

Finally in verse 6, what did Eve decide to do?

What did Adam do?

Why do you think they so easily fell into Satan's trap?

Engage: We must never underestimate Satan’s tactics and knowledge. He knows us better than we know ourselves; he makes it his goal to know our weaknesses and areas of temptation. It is his goal to destroy God’s creation and the first thing he went after was relationships – mankind’s relationship with God and each other, especially the marriage and family. It is our relationship with God that keeps us grounded, and it is only through consistent time with Him in His word that we can know Him and what He wants for our lives. It is also the only way we learn Satan’s strategies and how to fight off temptation. What are the areas of your life you struggle with temptation?

Do you know the Bible well enough to detect a partial truth or distortion of scripture? Has there ever been a time in your life that you believed a lie from Satan? Begin the practice of asking God to reveal to you if there is anything in your life – your beliefs, your relationships, your view of yourself, etc. – that has been influenced by Satan’s lies.

Memorize: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

Chapter 4

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 3:7-13](#)

Think: As children, when our parents warned us not to do something, the temptation to do it begins. It is at that moment we have a choice... obey or disobey. Honestly, this doesn’t change as we grow up, only the temptations and potential dangers change. It is hard to say why when we are

told we can't do something or have something we want it even more, and before we say it is sin that pulls us that direction, let's remember Eve fell into this *before* sin occurred. What does this tell you about how we were created?

Many people resist following God because they reject the knowledge that people *choose* sin, rebellion, and evil. They want to make excuses, blame, and justify their actions, yet these same people also believe in free will. The only option would have been for God to remove free will – how do you think that would change society?

How different would your life be if you had no free will?

For Adam and Eve, they exercised their free will and chose to disobey God, and it resulted in immediate consequences. According to today's passage, what was the first thing that happened?

What was the second thing that happened?

What was the third?

Do you recognize a pattern here?

When Adam and Eve sinned, the first thing that happened was guilt and shame, and they “covered” themselves. Then when God was looking for them, they hid from Him and then came the blame shifting – justification. This is the pattern even now! When we sin, there's the coverup – the lie or story we tell ourselves and others - then hiding – we pull away from God and sometimes people. It is here that some may even stop coming to church because they feel exposed and ashamed. Finally, there is the blame shifting – we make excuses for our sin and try to justify our actions.

When God was “looking” for Adam and Eve, it wasn’t because He didn’t know where they were or what they had done, but He approached them in a way that resulted in their confession of sin... He asked them what happened. When you read this account, what do you imagine is the tone in God’s voice and how He spoke to them?

We can be certain God was angry, but His anger is perfect and Holy so it would have been directed at the sin and the damage it causes. However, we must never forget that God is also our heavenly Father who loves His creation and He was likely heartbroken that they chose this path – just as He is now when we choose the wrong path. When we choose to sin, God will approach us the same way, as a loving and heartbroken Father who knows the damage this will cause His child. He will encourage a confession by asking us, “what did you do?” The need for confession is meant to show us the need to take personal responsibility rather than make excuses – in fact we must be careful that even when we confess our sins to the Lord, we are not doing what Adam and Eve did and blame others for our choices.

Engage: Take a moment to reflect on your attitude regarding sin in your life. Is there a similar pattern of covering up, hiding, or blame shifting? At what point do you confess your sins – right away? Part of the challenge is that we don’t always see or feel the consequences of our sin right away. Adam and Eve were told that if they ate the fruit they would die, what happened next was not what they were expecting. Do you think if consequences were immediate people would be less likely to sin? Why/why not?

The consequences of Adam and Eve’s sin were immediate – their separation from the Lord. They could no longer walk with Him the way they had because God is holy and they were now stained with unholiness – they were now enemies of God (See [Romans 5:10](#)). BUT GOD... (to be continued tomorrow!)

Memorize: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Chapter 5

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 3:14-15](#)

Think: The consequences of sin are always immediate, they just aren't always recognized or what we expected. We already covered the fact that we aren't sure what form the serpent had before the fall, but we do know what he became afterward. In verse 14, what was the consequence of his deception?

What can you deduce about its prior form from this?

The link to Answers in Genesis on Day 1 spoke to the fact that based on this passage, it was possible that the serpent walked upright or had legs. The implication is also that all creation may have looked a little different before the fall since we are told in [Romans 8:21-22](#) how all creation suffers because of sin. Additionally, the creature Satan used to deceive Eve could have been a beautiful and majestic creature that she would so willingly trust him. Turn to [2 Corinthians 11:14](#), how is Satan described here?

Satan will use whatever form is necessary to tempt us into sin... a friend we trust, a spouse, the lie that it is something good for us. What we need to remember is He will tempt us with his beauty and charm, then deliver the poisonous bite and slither away while we suffer!

Physical transformation wasn't the only consequence – what was the second part in verse 15?

There is so much more here than we realize! In the New King James Version of this verse uses the word “seed” and capitalizes it so it reads “Seed”. This is where we see the first statement of God’s plan for the Messiah. The capitalization of Seed indicates deity, meaning God is referring to Jesus! This verse teaches that there will be enmity between Satan and humanity but that through a woman, God’s plan to save humanity from this fall would be born into history at just the right time. We know this was fulfilled through Christ’s birth (See [Luke 2:1-20](#)) and death (See [Luke 23:26-47](#)). The final blow to Satan came in the resurrection as Jesus conquered death and offers all people forgiveness, freedom, the power over sin and death, and eternal life with Him (See [Romans 8:1-2](#)). However, until Jesus returns, Satan’s goal is to destroy God’s creation and pull as many people away from following Him as possible.

Engage: Satan is described several ways... so far, we see he has been described as a serpent and an angel of light. Read the following verses and write the other descriptions: [Revelation 12:9](#), [1 Peter 5:8](#), and [John 8:44](#).

What picture does this paint of Satan’s character and methods of luring people away from God?

We must remember that Satan doesn’t make himself or his tactics obvious – he hides in the bible teaching/teacher that sounds correct but is slightly twisted almost imperceptibly. It is the sin we didn’t see coming because we weren’t paying attention. It is false beliefs the world teaches us such as: God is ok with homosexual practices, transgenderism, abortion, and sex outside of the marriage relationship, etc. and were are judgmental bigots if we think otherwise. The concept of knowing your enemy is an ancient one and has multiple applications. In the book, “The Art of War”, by ancient Chinese strategist Sun Tzu, it says *“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the outcome of a hundred battles.”* This is a twofold teaching that is consistent with the Bible. Read [James 1:14-15](#), according to these verses, who else do we need to be mindful of?

The apostle Paul was well aware of the spiritual battle we fight, turn to [Ephesians 6:11-17](#), based on these verses, how can you protect yourself and family from Satan’s tactics?

How can you arm yourself and family with God's tactics of offensive strategy?

An excellent article for further study → <https://gospelworthdyingfor.com/know-your-enemy-the-art-of-spiritual-warfare/>

Memorize: Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
James 4:7

Chapter 6

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 3:16-24](#)

Think: The consequences of disobedience to God now turn to man and woman. The woman first because she was deceived first, then the man for following her into disobedience. What is the result of Eve's sin in verse 16?

What is the result of Adam's sin in verses 17-19?

You may have noticed that although Adam and Eve would suffer the consequences of their sin, they were not cursed... Satan was cursed as well as the ground - in this we see a glimmer of hope for humanity. One of the greatest impacts of original sin is the imbalance that occurred between men

and women. Ever since the fall, the struggle for power and resistance of mutual submission has been one of the main areas of strife. Although it is true that one aspect of this imbalance is the desire for women to “rule” their husbands, we must not forget the discrimination against women that lasted for centuries. It was only in 1920 that women were allowed to vote (www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/19th-amendment). A lesser-known fact is that it wasn’t until 1974 through the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, that all American women were given the right to open a bank account without the requirement of a signature from her husband or male family member. Although some states allowed it, it went nationwide in 1974. These are just some examples of how sin impacted the relationship between men and women. Additionally, women have tipped the power scale over the years through women’s liberation and similar movements, undermining the authority of husbands and fathers for decades. This balance can be restored when, individually, we live as Christ teaches, yet it will always be a battle (See [Galatians 5:17](#)).

The consequence for Adam is that work will be difficult, and the ground will not produce easily for him. Gone is the blessing of the abundance of food that grew without toil, and we continue, to this day, to battle weeds and thorns, pests, and increasing prices at the grocery store while bringing home less! What are some other areas of imbalance between men and women do you see in the world?

Do you recognize it is due to sin?

Finally, in verse 21, we see the foreshadowing of our hope in Christ. What did God do for Adam and Eve in this verse?

Recall when Adam and Eve recognized their nakedness, what did they cover themselves with?

What we see here is the understanding that we cannot atone for our own sin – we cannot cover ourselves, only God can do that. It is also here we see that the atonement (or payment) for sin was sacrifice, the blood of an innocent creature. It was a few thousand years later that the ultimate sacrifice of the perfect, spotless lamb of God spilling His blood would be the final sacrifice to cover the sins of all humanity. How does this impact you?

Engage: When you were a child, did your parents ever put you in a “time out” for disobeying? Maybe as a parent you used that form of discipline on your own child. What is the goal of time out?

For some parents it is used as a time to reset, or it could be used to give the child time to “think” about what they’ve done in hopes of realizing their sin. The truth is it is an act of separation between parent and child. This is what God had to do in the final verses of today’s reading... where did God send Adam and Eve?

Not to make light of this, but this was a VERY serious time out for Adam and Eve. Not only were they not going to reap the benefits of the fruit of the garden, they weren’t allowed in the garden at all! Just as the animal God used to make the skins for them was a foreshadowing of Jesus’ sacrifice, we might see here the literal physical separation of God and humanity caused by sin. We don’t know what happened in the garden after this, but we do know that when Adam and Eve were in the garden, they enjoyed personal encounters with God in a real physical sense. That was now broken. As we will see, God continues to interact with His creation, but in a different way. Back to time out... we don’t leave our children in a time out forever and neither did God. Just as parents will reprimand and instruct their child and offer forgiveness and reconciliation, God did and does the same for us! Can you describe a time in your life where a sin left you feeling separated from God? How did He discipline you? How did reconciliation take place?

Memorize: The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

Unit 3

Murder!

Chapter 1

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 4:1-2](#)

Think: In today's society, the subject of sex, in every form, practice, or variety is everywhere – except churches. Why do you think that is?

The subject of sex seems off limits in the church, but it is the church where the proper view and understanding of God's intent for it should be taught – especially in today's world. Our children are being indoctrinated by schools, TV, social media, and their friends and what they are learning is so far off from God's design. Or kids are simply told not to have sex before marriage but without being told why.

In today's verses, it is important to see why God found it necessary to document this. What does verse 1 say of Adam?

What is Eve called?

This is only the second time the word "wife" is used in the Bible so far. In the Hebrew language, the word wife can simply mean woman, but we have to be careful here. Many have argued that because of the original language there is no real basis for marriage as we know it, or that because 'wife' means 'woman' that a man can be with any woman for any reason and it will be okay. Some also see sex as a basic animal instinct and that is what Adam and Eve did. However, we must take a different view... take the word "knew", "Adam knew his wife". This is more than carnal knowledge

or the act of procreating, it is intimate – very intimate. Take a look back in [Genesis 2:24](#), what does this verse say?

Here is where we find the first definition of marriage and the intimacy of it. Here we see that God’s design is for one man and one woman to unite for life! Our translation uses the words “hold fast” to describe this, but the King James uses the word “cleave” which in Hebrew means stick to, cling to, stay close – so much so that they become one flesh. The one flesh nature of relationship extends not only to sexual intimacy but in all other aspects of the marriage relationship, so when Adam “knew” Eve, this was not animal instinct. It was a deeply intimate act fueled by love and blessed by God! How does this impact your view of sexual intimacy and God’s plan for it?

We also see the result in verses 1 and 2, who are they?

What were their occupations?

Engage: Sadly, many people have had multiple experiences regarding marriage and/or sexual intimacy. When we stray from God’s design to remain celibate until marriage, we miss the blessing of His gift. However, this should not discourage those who have been married and divorced or remarried after the death of a spouse – or those who engaged in sexual activity before marriage. Within the framework of a biblical marriage, and inside a true relationship with God, there is forgiveness and blessing. Although Eve’s consequence to her sin was pain in childbirth, we can see through this scripture that God’s plan for Adam and Eve to multiply remained intact. Cain and Abel are the first children born into the world! How do you think Adam and Eve knew what to do to care for them? Kids are a gift from the Lord! Turn to [Psalm 127:3-5](#), what does this Psalm of David say about children?

Not only are they a gift, but parents are to be good stewards of them – turn to [Deuteronomy 6:5-9](#), what do these verses instruct parents to teach their children?

We have no way of knowing exactly what Adam and Eve taught their children since there was no Bible yet, but they did have the ultimate Teacher – God! Do you view your marriage, intimacy, and your children as gifts from the Lord? If not, why not?

If you wrestle with incorrect teaching and/or examples in your life, how can you seek God’s plans and ways for a biblical marriage, sex, and parenting?

Memorize: Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.
Psalm 127:3

Chapter 2

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 4:3-7](#)

Think: In these verses, we see that although Adam and Eve were outside the garden of Eden, they still enjoyed relationship with God. How do we know this?

It appears that Cain and Abel were either taught and/or continued some form of interaction with God since they brought an offering to Him. At this point, nothing in scripture has indicated this was a requirement – hence an offering – it was voluntary. This is a key point for Christians today. In the church there are many roles and responsibilities to maintain the function of the church – people who love the Lord often give, or “offer” their time to God by helping keep the church clean, running sound, lights and graphics, caring for and teaching children, and so on. This is voluntary and is done not out of obligation but the desire to please God. This is also separate from what we know as tithing, which is a monetary gift to support God’s work through the church.

In our offering though, what is important is our attitude toward it. If you volunteer at church, do you do it joyfully and with the heart to please the Lord? If not, why not?

Yes, there are those days we might be tired or grumble, but those are hopefully few. In today’s reading, what did Cain and Abel offer God?

How did God respond to their offering?

Why do you think God didn’t accept Cain’s offering?

We are again face-to-face with the “why” not the “what” ... the only difference between the offerings of these two men was attitude and heart. You notice that Abel’s offering was the firstborn of the flock – this shows his desire to give God the first and best of what he had. On the other hand, the language indicates that Cain’s offering was NOT the best of what he had. This is why God wasn’t pleased and this can be true of our offerings as well. Turn to [1 Chronicles 21:24](#) and [Mark 12:41-44](#). What do you notice about the heart and attitude of these offerings?

God is not concerned with what we are giving as much as He is the heart behind it.

What we also discover in this is Cain's attitude in his offering spills over to his handling of the situation. How is he described in verse 5?

What did God ask and encourage him to do in verses 6-7?

Not only did Cain get angry, he demonstrated it physically! We may not know if he said anything, but his facial expression was clearly announcing how he felt about the situation. God encouraged Cain as He does us when we are in similar circumstances – He'll ask us why we are angry (or jealous, or disappointed, or depressed, etc.) then He'll remind us what we need to do to be accepted and get out of our funk! We are to do well! Do what is right and necessary according to His word, and over time, our countenance – or facial expressions/attitude – will be lifted. Have you ever noticed that when you do the right thing, regardless of how you are feeling, that you experience a sense of satisfaction and peace?

Engage: A key truth is found in verse 7 - the introduction of the word "sin". In this use, it is the Hebrew word *hatta'at*, meaning to "miss the mark". This word can also mean an "occasion", and in this verse the word is given an animalistic quality... "crouching at the door" waiting for an occasion to pounce! The idea is that we will all face occasions to sin, it is waiting to spring into action, but God clearly tells us to master it, meaning we rule it. What does this indicate about our ability to overcome the temptation to sin?

If this is true, why do we have such a hard time resisting temptation? Why do you?

How many of the temptations you face are a real matter of lack of knowledge versus knowingly choosing to get too close to the fire? How does it encourage you to know that no matter how strong the desire or pull to sin can be, you have the power to resist?

How can you remind yourself of this and practice it?

For a brief study on the word sin, go to: www.pursuegod.org/the-meaning-of-sin-in-hebrew/

Memorize: If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for[c] you, and you must rule over it.” Genesis 4:7

Chapter 3

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 4:8-16](#)

Think: There are many parents who did their best to raise their children in the ways of the Lord, only for them to choose a different path. For some it's not just different but evil. Evil is as much a choice as following the Lord. We find in the book of Ezekiel the painful truth and hope of this type of circumstance. Turn to [Ezekiel 18:5-13](#), briefly describe the lesson of the father and son.

Now turn to [Ezekiel 18:21-23](#), what hope do these verses give?

This is great news for parents! Even in the Old Testament, God's desire for His children is to repent from sin and live.

Sadly, for Cain, he did not choose this option. In today's passage, verse 8, what did Cain choose to do?

What was his punishment in verses 11-12?

This was premeditated murder! It is incredible how quickly and deeply Adam and Eve's original sin impacted others. It is noteworthy that God used the word "cursed" here too in the punishment. It seems that the result of the ground being cursed for both Adam and Cain points to their deliberate choice to disobey and rebel against God – it showed intent... Adam to eat the forbidden fruit and Cain to ignore God's warning. How did Cain respond to this judgement?

It is amazing that we see no hint of remorse or repentance, only the concern for himself! Why do you think God marked Cain and pronounced a sevenfold judgement on anyone who killed him?

It may seem odd that God would protect Cain from others when he showed no regard for the life of his brother, but let's look at this another way. If this was the first murder in a rather young world that likely doesn't have a large population, how quickly will everyone know what happened? You've heard of the concept of being "the example"? Well, this is it! The story of what happened would surely be passed through the generations and should anyone try to avenge Abel's death, including his dad, their punishment would be far worse. The understanding of sevenfold vengeance demonstrates God's complete judgement – the number seven being the complete number of God. In addition to this, the mark (which no one knows what it was) was also meant to protect others from sin by killing Cain – it was a warning sign and reminder to Cain and others.

Engage: Do you have scars? Do you remember how you got each one? Physical scars in our flesh are reminders of many things: surgery, accidents, childhood, and so on. We also have emotional scars – memories we would love to get rid of but live on in the corners of our minds. However, scars can be very useful as reminders of what not to do, pain of the past that has been forgiven and softened by God's grace and mercy. Do any of your scars remind you of that? We don't know what the mark was that God placed on Cain, but whatever it was it was permanent – a lasting reminder of what he did. Verse 16 is a sad reality for many people when they have sinned – what did Cain do in verse 16?

It is very common for people to “leave the presence of the Lord” when they have sinned and feel guilty. Do you think if Cain had shown true repentance, admitted his guilt, and asked God to forgive him, He would have done it? When we sin, we can repent and ask for forgiveness and rather than leave God’s presence, we should cleave to Him in gratitude and faithfulness.

Memorize: But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

Chapter 4

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 4:17-26](#)

Think: Biblical history often shows the divided path of a generation. We see this with the sons of Abraham, Isaac, and Ishmael - Isaacs sons, Jacob and Esau, (See www.gotquestions.org/Ishmael-in-the-Bible.html and www.gotquestions.org/Jacob-and-Esau.html), but this division occurred first between Cain and Abel. This isn’t a matter of God playing favorites but the recorded history of those who, although flawed, are faithful to God and those who choose to reject Him. Today we learn of the unfaithful path of Cain after he departed the presence of the Lord. In verse 17, what does Cain do?

Before we can go any further, we must address the obvious question – who was this woman? Let’s begin with the fact that we don’t know how many daughters Adam and Eve had that are not recorded in Genesis. So early in human history, during a time when the gene pool was still pure, it was necessary for brothers and sisters to have children to populate the earth. This was only allowed

for a time and by the time of Moses God prohibited marriage and sexual relations among family (See [Leviticus 18:6-17](#)). It may be hard for us to comprehend God allowing this, but one thing we must never forget is there will always be times we will not understand God's ways, and many times we aren't meant to.

Six descendants after Adam, we hit another obvious problem – in verse 19, what did Lamech do?

Lamech is the first bigamist in the Bible, clearly going against God's plan of marriage being one man and one woman. The pattern we are seeing is the rapid way in which the effect of sin infiltrates and increases in depravity. We also see how leaving the presence of the Lord leaves people open to accept and embrace all forms of sin.

In verses 23-24, what did Lamech tell his wives?

Why do you think he increased the amount of vengeance for himself?

This gives us a picture of Lamech's mindset – he was his own man, he was the authority not God, yet he was arrogant enough to lay claim to God's judgement and even increase it for his personal use! This continues to happen in our own time as people who want to live by their own rules, deny God's plan for their life, but call on Him when they need help or want something.

Finally, this chapter closes with hope and a promise. Who was born?

What hope do you see in verse 26?

Engage: Many people wrestle with the idea that God invented and approved of incest and polygamy – He did not. Before sin contaminated everything, God's ways were perfect. As sin continued to permeate society, God responded with boundaries and rules for the safety of His people, yet people to this day continue to see His ways restrictive. Have you ever felt God's commands and ways are restrictive? Why/why not?

We often feel this way before we become Christian and then come to understand His purposes for them when we choose to give our lives to Him. The incredible thing is that as parents we can understand His heart and motive. If you are parenting, do you have boundaries and rules for your children? Why?

If you are not parenting can you see the loving hand of a Father who wants what is best for His children? Hopefully you can also recognize God's patience with His creation up to this point in our reading.

Memorize: My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. Proverbs 3:11-12

Chapter 5

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 5:1-32](#)

Think: Often when reading the Bible, we skip over the genealogies and names of people we can't pronounce. However, there are a few worth taking a moment to notice – one is today's and the other is found in [Luke 3:23-38](#), which happens to be the genealogy of Jesus starting from His earthly father Joseph. We should conclude that God includes genealogies for a reason since there is nothing in the Bible that isn't ordained by His command. So why do you think they are there?

As you read through Genesis 5, what do you notice?

You likely noticed the extreme number of years people lived. Did you recognize any names? One person of note, who doesn't have much more than this recorded of him, is Enoch (vs. 21-24). What is important about him?

What does this indicate about his relationship with God?

There are also pseudepigraphal (fake) books supposedly written by Enoch, but these are false gospels that do not line up with God's word. However, there is a mention in [Jude 1:14-15](#) regarding a prophecy about false teachers that people want to point to saying it is proof the book of Enoch was written by him... ironic isn't it? If you're interested in more about this, watch this video, which does a great job explaining the book of Enoch and the trouble with it: "Should Christians Trust the book of Enoch"? www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_89okU6eLc.

Another point in Genesis 5 is the length of years people lived. Most bible scholars agree that the pre-flood generations lived longer because the environment was different, allowing longevity. Can you imagine living several hundred years? We will see a change in this when we read the account of the flood. It is also agreed that longevity provided the ability to multiply and populate the earth. Since we have this "chart" so-to-speak, many people have added the years to the conclusion that based on this alone, the earth starting from Adam to the time of Jesus is approximately 4,000-5,000 years old. Even though it is approximate, it does fall in line with the Jewish calendar. Adding another 2,000 years after Jesus' crucifixion until now lands us around 6,000-7,000 years old. According to the Jewish calendar, the year is 5,786 and will roll over to 5,787 on Sept. 12, 2026.

Our final point from today's chapter is found in verses 28-32. Who was born and what is prophesied of him?

Turn to verses 36-38 in Luke 3, who is listed?

This genealogy connects Jesus to all these people – He was a descendant of Noah through Joseph. This is the beautiful scarlet thread that weaves Christ throughout the Bible from the very beginning. How does this impact your understanding?

Engage: Another fun trivia fact hits close to home. Did you know the oldest living (non-clonal) tree in the world, estimated at 4,850 yrs., is only a few hours drive from us? A beautiful Bristlecone Pine a few miles into the mountains east of Big Pine is home to Methuselah, the oldest living tree. Why do you think they named it that (hint: vs. 27)?

There is a great hiking trail there, but Methuselah isn't marked to prevent vandalism.

Several years ago, the Human Genome Project took place for the purpose of DNA mapping to lead to medical advances and technology. The conclusion? All human DNA is 99.9% identical! From a biblical worldview, this means all humanity descends from a single set of parents – science calls them mitochondrial Eve and Y-Chromosomal Adam – but this is where science leaves the Bible. They may agree that they are the “most recent” couple from which all living humans receive the mtDNA and Y-chromosome, but science rejects the idea that Adam and Eve were the only humans in the beginning. What this boils down to is that apart from a biblical worldview of God's creation and plan that one couple started all humanity, we are forced to search for other answers, even though the scientific evidence points to the truth of God! Do you believe we are all descendants of Adam and Eve? Why/why not?

Why do you think it is hard for some to believe we are all descendants of the first Mother and Father?

If this isn't true, how would it change Jesus' genealogy?

How would it change the reliability of the Bible?

How can/does this information help strengthen your faith?

Memorize: For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Romans 5:17

Chapter 6

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 6:1-8](#)

Think: When we left yesterday's study, we read that Noah was 500 years old. Before we start today, let's get our minds into the biblical timeline... from the time of Adam to Noah (according to the ages in the genealogy of chapter 5) was 1,056 years and from Noah's birth to the flood was another 600, equaling 1,656 years from Adam to the flood. Why is this important?

It simply establishes the short amount of time it took for humanity to become completely depraved. 1,656 years may seem like a long time, and it is, but think for a moment – how different is our world and society today than it was just 1,000 years ago? For our purposes today, the focus isn't really on

the timeline itself as much as it is a picture of human sinfulness and God's unfailing patience and mercy.

First, we must tackle the obvious... in verses 1-4, who took wives for themselves and why?

Who was on the earth in those days?

There is some debate if the "sons of God" are the same as the Nephilim. The fact is very little is known about this unusual portion of scripture but a look at the Hebrew language will help. The phrase *sons of God* is only used in this way three other times, here in Genesis 6:2 and also [Job 1:6](#), [Job 2:1](#) and [38:7](#). The Hebrew word is *b'nei ha-elohim*, which translates as sons of God, however, this doesn't mean a literal son but refers to angels. The common teaching is that the angels in Genesis 6 were fallen angels or demons (See [Jude 1:6](#)) who may have been able to take human form. If this is true, and they married human women and had sons, their unnatural offspring could have polluted the genetic pool with Satanic corruption. The Nephilim are simply the offspring of that union. In Hebrew Nephilim is *napil*, which simply means *giants*, but it includes the idea of a bully or tyrant. What are the Nephilim described in verse 4?

Most translations use the word "heroes" for "might men", but the problem with that is it implies they were good. Based on what you read today, was there anything good about them? Again, the Hebrew language helps – the word is *gibor*, which means *mighty, strong, valiant*, and character, not ours. In our limited human perspective, it seems cruel to wipe out humanity just because they were evil, but it would have been unloving and unkind to allow that kind of evil to continue – for themselves and future generations. Think of it this way, if someone is a serial killer who preys on children, do we think it's unfair or mean if they go to prison and get the death penalty? Of course not! The challenge is, what is our motive? Is it to punish the person and get vengeance or to save other children and hopefully give the murderer time to find Jesus while waiting to walk the green mile? How does this challenge you?

Praise God this week's study ends on a bright note! In verse 8, what hope is given?

All is not lost!

champion, was a general term used. However, in today's reading, how should it be applied?

If these mighty men were the children of demons, there is a good chance that not only were they unusually big and strong, but evil.

Alternatively, some scholars believe these sons of God were the result of Adam and Eve's son Seth marrying daughters of Cain. Since Seth was faithful to God but Cain had left God, it would have resulted in unequally yoked marriages (See [2 Corinthians 6:14](#)) producing a growing population of extremely sinful people. This also leaves a lot of questions. Either way, whichever view you choose, please remember this is not a salvation issue and should never be the hill we choose to die on in a conversation. For more on this, check out this article from Answers in Genesis: <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-characters/battle-over-the-nephilim/>

So, what IS the point in all of this? The real heart of the matter is found in verses 4 and 5... what was the condition of humanity?

How did God feel about it?

What did He decide to do?

Many people get stuck here concluding that God is a monster. Do you struggle with this? Why/why not?

First, we must remind ourselves that God is perfect, holy, and just. He is the creator of all things and sovereign above all, which means He will make decisions based on *His* nature

Engage: Often our view of humanity and justice has been shaped more by the world than the Bible. Do you see people as basically good? Why or why not?

Do you think God is harsh in His judgement of sin? Why/why not?

Our challenges in this have less to do with God and more to do with where we see ourselves and our own sin. Turn to Psalm [139:23-24](#), what does king David ask God to do?

Have you asked God to do this? It can be scary to ask God to show us our sin... because He will! However, if you are serious about faithfully following Jesus, we must never be comfortable in thinking we are doing ok. We are a work in progress, as [Philippians 1:6](#) tells us, He will complete the good work He started in us, but that often requires us letting Him remove anything that will hinder that process. Are you willing? If you haven't already, pray David's prayer and let God show you all He has for you.

Memorize: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Psalm 51:3-4

Unit 4

Hope Floats

Chapter 1

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 6:9-22](#)

Think: In [2 Chronicles 16:9](#), we are told that God searches the whole earth to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward Him.

When we left off last week, the condition of mankind was at an all-time low, but God found one man who gave Him hope – who was it?

Imagine God searching the world looking for just one person He could say was faithful – just ONE! And He found one. It is hard to say how faithful Noah's wife and kids were – it is possible by what is said in [Genesis 9:20-27](#) about Noah's son Ham, that not all of them were. In verse 9 in today's passage, what three words are used to describe Noah?

Based on this, how do you think his life differed from those around him?

Our minds may go a couple of places... either he was sinless and perfect, or mankind was so evil, it wasn't too hard to look good. At this point we need to remember, there is no law – no Ten Commandments to tell Noah how to live, so how was he able to be blameless and righteous before God? Turn to [Romans 2:14-15](#), what do these verses teach?

If we go back to the creation of man in Genesis 1:27, we remember God created us in His image. Since that isn't a physical image, it is a spiritual and emotional one, including an internal moral compass that guides us. Noah's life was one that avoided the pagan practices and sinfulness that was around him. The phrase "Noah walked with God" carries the same meaning that is found in Genesis 5:22 where it says Enoch walked with God. Based on the language it implies a cordial relationship or lived side by side. What this doesn't mean is that Noah was perfect or sinless, it means he chose to stick to God's side remaining faithful to Him.

The Bible includes many stories of people like Noah, who in spite of the circumstances around them, were able to avoid falling into the sinful practices of others... Lot in Sodom, Daniel in Babylon, Joseph in prison in Egypt, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, all the prophets, and of course the disciples. They all had one thing in common – love for the Lord and they "walked with Him", clung to Him and stayed close in the shelter of His wings (See [Psalm 36:7](#)). This is our lesson. We live in a world where there is only evil intentions in the heart of man and our only means of survival is to live blamelessly before the Lord and "walk with Him" as Noah did. How can you do that?

How can or do you avoid the sinful practices around you?

In the remainder of the passage today, what was God's plan for the earth and Noah?

It is hard to say why God chose this method, but God's plans don't always make sense to us. However, God's big plans call for a BIG boat! The dimensions given are equal to a ship that is approximately 510ft. long, 50ft. tall and 50-75ft. wide with a storage capacity of 450 semi-truck trailers or 1.5 million cubic feet. (See <https://arkencounter.com/noahs-ark/size/>). Although this is significantly smaller, if you have ever been on a cruise ship, you have a fair idea of how big the ark was. The history of Noah's flood is more than an incredible Sunday

School lesson for children, it is a foreshadowing of greater things for the future nation of Israel and us! First, we see that God saved for Himself a faithful remnant – a seed, so-to-speak, that would take root and remain alive throughout history ([Isaiah 10:21-22](#)). Second, we see the first symbol of water baptism (See [1 Peter 3:20-21](#)). Water baptism doesn't save us, but it is the picture of God saving us and washing us clean of sin through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ.

Engage: If you are a faithful follower of Christ, you are part of the faithful remnant of our day. Do you find it difficult to walk with God on a daily basis? Why/why not?

One of the greatest dangers we all face is becoming desensitized to the sin around us where it becomes a "normal" part of life. Do you find you see certain sins as normal where a few decades ago they would never have been tolerated? If so, how can you prevent that from happening?

If you are parenting, how can you protect your children from this?

In verse 12 of today's reading, the word "corrupt" is used to describe the world of Noah's day – that word means ruined, destroyed, decay, rotten – and gives the idea that it can't be restored with what's there. Think of it this way, have you ever had a piece of fruit spoil in your refrigerator where it was mushy and oozing liquid? Can you fix that? Of course not! Although God is all powerful and can do anything, He chose to start over knowing that the people in Noah's day were so hardened and evil, they likely would never change. Do you feel like many people are this way now? How easy is it to give up hope? How can you maintain hope for people?

Memorize: *How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 36:7*

Chapter 2

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 7:1-10](#)

Think: Genesis 5:32 says Noah was 500 years old about the time God chose him to build the ark. In verse 12 today, how old was he when the floodwaters came?

It took approximately 100 years for him to build the ark and gather everything needed for this moment! What do you think people thought while he was doing this?

If you’ve ever watched the movie “Evan Almighty” the main character, Evan, was called by God to build an ark in today’s world. As the movie goes along, his physical appearance changes (into an old man with a beard) he loses his family (temporarily) because they, and the town, think he’s crazy. Do you think it is possible this happened to Noah as well? We have a clue as to what Noah did in [2 Peter 2:5](#). What does Peter call him?

Noah was a herald, preacher, or messenger for God. Whether by verbal communication or faithful living, during the 100 years he was building the ark, the people around him saw and heard what God's plan was.

What was God's plan to repopulate the animal kingdom?

How many of each did He bring to Noah?

How many days did Noah and his family wait in the ark?

Do you think they wrestled with doubt while they were waiting? How many days did God say it would rain?

As you read through these verses, you notice the repetition of certain numbers, why do you think God does this?

The study of biblical numerology is popular with some people and it is clear that God uses certain numbers consistently in the Bible – 7, 3, 40, 12. Rather than trying to unlock some mystical secret, let's just see them for what they are and represent... they are breadcrumbs, a trail to a lesson that points us to God's truth. (For a little more on this, go to: www.gotquestions.org/Biblical-numerology.html) For our purposes today, the number seven represent God's perfection and forty seems to represent a period of trial as seen in the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness and the 40 days Jesus was tempted. This was certainly going to be a trial for Noah and his family, as well as the people who chose to reject God.

Engage: When God wants to do something through His people, He will ***always*** give them what they need to accomplish the task – always. Our issue is the plans, instructions, directions, destination, and tools don't always come in the time and order we want. But God knows us best and does things according to our readiness. Noah's task was HUGE and chances are we won't be asked to build a boat and repopulate the earth, but He IS asking

you to do something – maybe even a big thing. How does Noah’s willingness to do something this big encourage you to listen and obey God?

Is there something God wants you to do? It may be talking to a coworker about Salvation in Christ, it may be a difficult decision to end a relationship to be faithful to God, or it could be starting a ministry or even volunteering for the first time. Whatever it is, are you willing to say yes? If you need help sorting through this, we are here to talk. You can call the office for an appointment Wed-Fri, 10a-4p (760)384-3333 or email us at ccc@ccc-rc.org.

Memorize: *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

Chapter 3

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 7:11-24](#)

Think: At the time of this writing, the people of Texas Hill Country are experiencing massive flooding that killed two people. It was reported that a year’s worth of rain came down in a couple of days. Oddly, around the same time last year they were hit by catastrophic flooding where many people lost their lives. As horrible as this is, it doesn’t come close to what happened in today’s reading.

In verse 11, what did the heavens and the fountains of the deep do?

Briefly describe the flood event.

There are many theories on the flood of Noah's day, many of which contain the flood to a localized region rather than a global event. However, there are a couple of things wrong with that. If it was localized, the people could have simply moved to avoid it. If it was localized Noah and his family, as well as all the animals, wouldn't have had to repopulate the earth. What is interesting is the number of cultures that also have a flood story, that although there are differences also have consistencies that make it clear they had to be taken from the Genesis account. (See www.thetorah.com/article/the-mesopotamian-origin-of-the-biblical-flood-story).

The impact of this was more than catastrophic! This was not a gentle rain, or slowly rising flood waters. Imagine torrential downpours combined with sudden violent waves of water happening at the same time! Do you think the people realized their error in ignoring Noah's warnings? There will be another time in earth history that will bring global events. Turn to [Matthew 24:36-44](#), how does Jesus describe the condition of the world at His return?

Do you think people will be surprised? Will it be because they didn't know? [Revelation 16](#) also reveals catastrophic global events that are meant to reveal the mighty hand of God the same way He did in the Exodus (chapters 7-12) account. Depending on which view you take, many see this passage from Matthew to point to a pretribulation rapture of the church. However, in reading the entire chapter, one can argue that Jesus describes Christians living through the tribulation before He returns. That is not another hill to die on! What is the important lesson (vs 44)?

Are you ready everyday to be THE day or will you be taken by surprise? Do you know people who need to hear this?

Engage: We may have a hard time reconciling a loving God wiping out all humanity. However, there are key facts in this lesson, then and now that should give us hope... it took 100 years for Noah to build the ark, during which he was telling people about God's plan. So how long did the people have to repent?

Do you think it is possible that on the day of the flood people repented and are now in heaven? How long has it been now that people have been told God's plan of salvation and the return of Christ? 2,000 years so far! For each day that goes by that He doesn't return, do you think people are becoming doubtful? Turn to [2 Peter 3:3-10](#), according to these verses, what is the attitude of many people?

Why is God waiting?

How does this give you hope?

For more on evidence of a global flood, go to: <https://searchforthetruth.net/portfolio/the-rock-layer-puzzle/>,

Memorize: *Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.*
Matthew 24:42

Chapter 4

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 8:1-19](#)

Think: Have you ever felt like God has forgotten about you? There are times in our lives where God seems silent or inactive, but God NEVER forgets. He wouldn't be all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present if He literally forgot things. In verse 1 of today's reading, it says God "remembered" Noah – this isn't literal as though He forgot about him, but rather God turned His attention toward him again... it was time. In verses 2-5, what is the time frame and where did the ark come to rest?

This is amazing! We know exactly where Mt. Ararat is today! However, because the area mentioned in the Bible is an area known as Urartu, the area we know as Mt. Ararat may not be its final resting place. However, just because we haven't found the ark of the Covenant made by Moses, doesn't mean it doesn't exist! Although many have searched over the years to find evidence of the ark, it remains unseen. (See <https://arkencounter.com/noahs-ark/found/>)

In spite of our "lack" of evidence now, there are **many** testimonies recorded through history, below are just a few quotes from <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/genesis-6/>

"In 275 B.C., Berosus, a Babylonian historian, wrote: "But of this ship that grounded in Armenia some part still remains in the mountains...and some get pitch from the ship by scraping it off."

“Around A.D. 75, Josephus said the locals collected relics from the ark and showed them off to this very day. He also said all the ancient historians he knew of wrote about the ark.”

“In A.D. 180, Theophilus of Antioch wrote: “the remains [of the ark] are to this day to be seen...in the mountains.”

Noah and his family were in the ark for approximately one year – what do you imagine that was like?

Many have questioned the validity of the ark story because it seems impossible to have that many animals in one place without being overwhelmed by feces and other issues. Some speculate that God supernaturally prevented the animals from breeding and maybe even put them in a state of hibernation. This is not the focus of our study today, but it is fun to think about! (<https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/caring-for-the-animals-on-the-ark/>)

It is important for us to recognize that Noah and his family had no idea how long this whole situation would take. In fact, think about the fact that the ark had no motor, no sails, no navigational equipment – they simply had to rely on God to control their direction and safety. When you are faced with a particularly stressful situation, do you ever feel like you are floating around directionless? How hard or easy is it to rely on God for direction and outcomes? Some people just seem to have an enormous amount of faith in these circumstances and Noah seems to be one of them. It’s likely he still wrestled with doubt or fear, but he pushed through, but he was **able** to push through because he knew God’s character. It is this that gives Christians the ability to remain faithful -because knowing God’s character and nature breeds trust.

What was Noah’s process of finding out how much water had receded?

It is interesting that the first bird he sent was a raven and that it didn’t come back. What do you think that means?

What bird did Noah send next?

What did she come back with?

It is likely the raven didn't return because they are scavengers and may have found animal carcasses to feed on. The dove brought back evidence of life! This may be a stretch, but we can see a picture here of life and death, sin and salvation. In the Bible ravens are often mentioned with death and the dove life and the Holy Spirit. In [Luke 2:22-24](#), when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple, to present Him to the Lord, after He was born, they offered doves – as is instructed in [Leviticus 12](#). For those who were poor and couldn't afford to bring a lamb to the temple for a burnt offering, it was written to bring two turtledoves or two pigeons. When Mary and Joseph brought the doves, it shows that Jesus came from more than humble means, however if we look deeper, we can also see that the infant she was carrying was in fact the spotless Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world! Additionally, when Jesus was baptized, [Matthew 3:16](#), as He came out of the water, what descended on Him?

What did it look like?

Again, not to read too much into this, but think about it – the dove brought an olive leaf to Noah, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove, who brings life and peace to those who choose Him. The Bible is filled with pictures and symbols that we can learn from, the point is not to get hung up on possible meanings but cherish the beauty and depth of God's word. For an interesting read and more information on this, go to: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Candlemas.html>, <https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Spirit-dove.html>

Engage: In verses 13-18, notice the timeframe from when Noah looked out of the window and saw dry ground to the time God told him to leave the ark. How much time went by?

Do you have a hard time waiting on God? Do you ever feel like God is taking too long to answer a prayer? Have you considered He’s waiting on you? It may have been very hard for Noah and his family to wait another two months before leaving the ark, but we can be sure God was actively working on something at this point. The beauty of this is the demonstration of Noah’s faithfulness and obedience. If you were in his position, would you have rushed out of the ark? Why/why not?

When we are “waiting” on God, it is not because He is being slow, but because He can see the future, outcomes, pitfalls, and other things on our path that we can’t and He is preparing the path, and us, for His glory, and best outcome. So, the next time you feel like God is taking too long, rather than taking matters into your own hands or becoming impatient, ask Him if there’s something you need to know, learn or do.

Memorize: *The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. Proverbs 16:9*

Chapter 5

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 8:20-22](#)

Think: We live in a world filled with stuff! We have so much stuff we rent storage units to hold our stuff. Some people have so much in their homes they can't move – we call them hoarders. Why do we do this?

For some it is about status, but for others it may be the fear of not having enough. When Noah left the ark, what was the first thing he did?

When God gave Noah instructions about the animals, He said to take two of each, but of the clean animals He said seven pairs of each. One might think it would be important to spare as many animals as possible since they needed to repopulate the animal kingdom, but Noah found this a moment to worship God with a heart of gratitude. When God has brought you through a particularly tough time, do you worship Him? How do you show gratitude?

When Noah offered the burnt offerings, it was a sacrifice that had to place trust in God to provide for the future. That should be our motive as well! When we worship, serve, or give financially, it is meant to be a sacrifice – something that costs us – whether time, money, or plans trusting that God will provide. Turn to [Romans 12:1](#), according to this verse, we are to present our bodies as a living _____, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual _____.

When God smelled the aroma of Noah's sacrifice, how did God respond?

It is incredible to think that even though God knew mankind's sinfulness would continue, He made a covenant with Noah that He would never destroy the earth that way again. How does that impact you?

Take some time to thank God for His undeserved mercy. For more information on clean and unclean animals, go to: www.gotquestions.org/animals-clean-unclean.html

Engage: When Noah offered the burnt offerings, it says God smelled a “soothing aroma”. It is taught this statement was a human way of helping us understand that Noah’s sacrifice was pleasing to the Lord, but let’s face it – meat cooked over a fire smells amazing! The point for us is that when we sacrifice our lives to God in devotion, faithfulness, volunteering, worship, giving, making the hard choices to obey, resisting temptation, going against the grain of society, WE are a soothing aroma to the Lord! How does this impact you?

Would you say your life is a sacrifice that is pleasing to the Lord? Why/why not?

Take some time to evaluate if there is anything you are holding back from God out of fear of not having enough. Ask Him to help you let go of anything that doesn’t please Him.

Memorize: *And when you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, you shall sacrifice it so that you may be accepted. Leviticus 22:29*

Chapter 6

Pray: Prayer is communication with God where we can express our needs and thankfulness. It is a time to be still and listen for His voice as He teaches, guides and comforts you through His word. Take a moment to write a short prayer here~

Read: [Genesis 9:1-17](#)

Think: In today's passage, we begin with a fresh start. Noah and his family are out of the ark and in a new world. In this new world is also a new climate, ecology, and hierarchy. In verses 1-7, what differences do you notice regarding food, systems, and rules God gave Noah versus Adam?

It is thought that the reason mankind can now eat animals is because the plant life still needed time to mature and produce, but in this new system was a very important rule that we saw a few weeks ago... no one shall eat the blood of an animal. What does God say about the blood in verse 4?

Blood is life and it is precious to God. It is by blood we are saved, through Christ, it was by blood the Hebrews were saved in Egypt and the first Passover was instituted ([Exodus 12:1-13](#)), and in the Old Testament it was by blood the priests were sanctified and atonement was given for the people ([Exodus 29:19-21](#) and [30:10](#)).

The relationship between man and animal also changed. Before the flood, animals and humans lived peacefully together but now animals will fear people. It almost seems reasonable that God would do this considering they are now food, giving them a surviving chance. What we also see here the establishment of "just" killing. Whether man or beast, taking the life of another unjustly comes with consequences. Many have asked why God justifies murder, but that is a misuse and misunderstanding of the word. All killing is not murder - to kill, animal or human, in self-defense, by accident or a just war is very different than murder. Murder, as we saw with Cain, is deliberate and rooted in sinful motives. Truthfully, all killing is a result of original sin, so what God did was put boundaries around it to prevent people from sinning further.

With a fresh start comes a new promise... in the remainder of the reading, what did God promise Noah?

Who and what did it extend to?

What was the sign of the covenant?

Scientifically speaking, a rainbow is the refraction of light on water droplets. To this day, it is almost magical to see a clear and brightly colored rainbow and for Christians a powerful reminder of God's majesty and promise! However, rainbows can also be made when we are using a hose to wash the car if we spray the water just right, which leads us to the current problem of our day.

There's another manmade rainbow that has become very popular, often overshadowing the meaning of the original – what is it?

The gay pride flag has been the herald for a growing community of people since 1978. For a brief history of how it started, check out this article: www.biography.com/activists/a65057204/gilbert-baker-rainbow-pride-flag, www.britannica.com/event/Stonewall-riots. Much of the issue these days is the colors themselves and what they represent, but this is another subject that is not worth spending too much time on or arguing with others. The fact is GOD created the rainbow; He is the owner and it means what HE wants it to mean. The rainbow is just one of many things God did, said, or created that Satan has distorted for his use. So, should Christians refuse to wear rainbows or post them anywhere out of fear of people thinking they support the LGBTQ+ community? Should they at least do a little homework to make sure they aren't accidentally wearing one that is intended for gay pride? Part of the challenge is the colors and the number of stripes, which have changed over time, so for Christians, we should just focus on the ones God originally intended. In the meantime, loving others as Jesus loves, regardless of sex, race, belief, or sexual orientation is our goal. We don't have to agree or support sinful practices, but we do need to remember where and who we were when Jesus saved us! For more on the colors and meaning of the rainbow, go to: <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/rainbow-meaning-on-colors-and-memes/>

Engage: How does it impact you to know that even though God already knew mankind would continue to sin, He still offered mercy?

If He already knew that Jesus would be the vessel of salvation through death, why didn't God just leave things as they were instead of sending the flood?

After the flood and man began to multiply, it didn't take long for things to return to the sinful state as before. However, to keep His promise, rather than wipe out humanity, He sent messengers to warn, instruct, and plead for people to return to Him. The Bible records them as judges, kings, and prophets – messengers throughout history proclaiming repentance and salvation to come through the Messiah, but most rejected the message and God. Romans 9-11 is a fantastic summary of Israel's history and rebellion and God's plan to offer salvation to the Gentiles from the Old Testament all the way to Jesus and the crucifixion. It is worth taking the time to read it to gain a better understanding of God's grace and mercy.

God will destroy the earth again, but not with a flood. Read [2 Timothy 3:1-5](#) and [2 Peter 3:3-10](#), these verses describe the condition of humanity in the last days. Do you think we are there now? Humanity has always been sinful, but the perversion, depravity, and blatant disregard for life seems to have reached a fevered pitch... but it's not over. What do you need to do?

The Bible tells us we are to discern the times ([Luke 12:54-56](#), and [21:25-36](#)), be ready ([Luke 12:40](#)) and tell others about Jesus ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)) – are you doing these things? It doesn't have to be a big production but if you are married or have children, how can you help them connect today's world to what the scriptures tell you?

Invite your neighbors and coworkers to church. Give your time and other available resources to serve the church and community. Being alert and watching for Him is not a matter of sitting still and waiting for the end, it is being an active living testimony. How does this challenge or encourage you?

As we close this study, list what you learned that was new.

Do you have questions or struggle with doubt? That's ok! God is not afraid of questions, and He invites you to ask for His help. We also invite you to let us help with any questions you may have. You can make an appointment by calling (760)384-3333 Weds – Fri, 10am-4pm or send us an email at ccc@ccc-rc.org.

Memorize: You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Luke 12:40

