



Genesis



Genesis Devotional Booklet

This devotional booklet is designed to walk alongside you throughout our Genesis series.

It's not just something to read—it's meant to go with you as you grow, reflect, and take your next steps.

Use this booklet in whatever way works best for you. Print the whole thing, just the notes pages, or use your journal or phone to capture what stands out during the message. You can also follow along and take notes each weekend in the Teaching Notes on the Cypress app.

Bring it into your group conversations to talk it through and go deeper together. Then come back to it during the week as you spend time with God.

Inside, you'll find

1. A Genesis reading plan
2. Weekly reflections
3. Practical tools for the journey

Our prayer is that you see Genesis in a fresh way and grow closer to Jesus each day.

We're really glad you're part of this. We believe God will use it to grow your faith and help you take meaningful next steps with Him.

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Scan the QR or click on the link for more from the Bible Project.



<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-genesis/#about>

Bible Reading Plan

Week 1 – Creation and the Fall

- Day 1: Genesis 1:1–2:3
- Day 2: Genesis 2:4–25
- Day 3: Genesis 3:1–24
- Day 4: Genesis 4:1–26
- Day 5: Genesis 5:1–32
- Day 6: Genesis 6:1–22
- Day 7: Genesis 7:1–24

Week 2 – Noah and Babel

- Day 1: Genesis 8:1–22
- Day 2: Genesis 9:1–17
- Day 3: Genesis 9:18–29
- Day 4: Genesis 10:1–32
- Day 5: Genesis 11:1–9
- Day 6: Genesis 11:10–32
- Day 7: Genesis 12:1–20

Week 3 – Father’s Day Weekend

Week 4 – Abraham and Lot

- Day 1: Genesis 13:1–18
- Day 2: Genesis 14:1–24
- Day 3: Genesis 15:1–21
- Day 4: Genesis 16:1–16
- Day 5: Genesis 17:1–27
- Day 6: Genesis 18:1–15
- Day 7: Genesis 18:16–33

Week 5 – Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham and Isaac

- Day 1: Genesis 19:1–38
- Day 2: Genesis 20:1–18
- Day 3: Genesis 21:1–21
- Day 4: Genesis 21:22–34
- Day 5: Genesis 22:1–19
- Day 6: Genesis 22:20–24
- Day 7: Genesis 23:1–20

Week 6 – Isaac and Jacob

- Day 1: Genesis 24:1–67
- Day 2: Genesis 25:1–18
- Day 3: Genesis 25:19–34
- Day 4: Genesis 26:1–35
- Day 5: Genesis 27:1–46
- Day 6: Genesis 28:1–22
- Day 7: Genesis 29:1–35

Week 7 – Jacob’s Family

- Day 1: Genesis 30:1–43
- Day 2: Genesis 31:1–55
- Day 3: Genesis 32:1–32
- Day 4: Genesis 33:1–20
- Day 5: Genesis 34:1–31
- Day 6: Genesis 35:1–29
- Day 7: Genesis 36:1–43

Week 8 – Joseph

- Day 1: Genesis 37:1–36
- Day 2: Genesis 38:1–30
- Day 3: Genesis 39:1–23
- Day 4: Genesis 40:1–23

Introduction to the Book of Genesis

Genesis is the book of beginnings.

It tells us where the world came from, where humanity began, and how God set His rescue plan in motion from the very start. In these pages, we see the foundations of creation, marriage, family, worship, work, sin, redemption, and God's covenant promises.

More than a book of origins, Genesis introduces us to a God who creates with purpose, pursues people with grace, and keeps every promise He makes.

This is where the story begins—God's story, and in many ways, ours too.

Circumstances of Writing

Author:

While Genesis does not name its author directly, both the Old and New Testaments consistently point to Moses as the writer of the first five books of the Bible, known as the Torah. Though minor editorial updates may have been added over time, Moses is widely recognized as the author.

Background:

The Torah, meaning “law” or “instruction,” is also called the Pentateuch, meaning “five books.” In Jewish tradition, these writings were preserved together and read as one unified story.

Genesis traces five major family lines—Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—and ends with Jacob's family in Egypt, setting the stage for Exodus and what comes next in God's unfolding story.

Message and Purpose

Creation

Genesis opens with one of the most powerful statements in all of Scripture:

“In the beginning, God created...” (Genesis 1:1)

Before anything existed, God was. He spoke the world into being with intention, order, and goodness. Creation wasn't random. It was designed to point us back to Him.

Human Life

People are uniquely created in the image of God, made for relationship with Him and entrusted with purpose in His world.

Though sin brought brokenness into the story, God's heart has always been to bless, restore, and redeem what was lost.

Sin

Genesis doesn't ignore the reality of brokenness. It shows us how sin entered the world and fractured what God made good. But even in humanity's failure, God's mercy is already at work.

Covenant

One of the major themes in Genesis is covenant—God's faithful promises to His people.

From Adam and Eve to Noah to Abraham, we see a God who keeps pursuing people and keeps His word. Those promises ultimately point us to Jesus, through whom all nations are blessed.

Even when people fail, God remains faithful.

Contribution to the Bible

Genesis lays the foundation for the whole story of Scripture. It helps us understand:

- Where we came from
- Why the world is broken
- How God began His plan to redeem it

The book introduces God as the true hero of history and shows His purposes unfolding across generations.

Genesis isn't just the beginning of the Bible.

It's the beginning of the story that leads to Jesus.



Week 01

Made for More
Genesis 1-2

Are There Two Creation Stories?

Some wonder whether Genesis 1 and 2 tell two different creation stories.

They don't.

Genesis 1 gives us the big picture.
Genesis 2 zooms in for the close-up.

One shows **God creating the universe**.

The other shows **His personal care in creating people**.

They don't contradict each other—they complement each other.

Together they remind us that creation is intentional, humanity is valuable, and God is both powerful and personal.

Far from weakening trust in Scripture, these chapters deepen it.

More on Two Creation Accounts:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/two-Creation-accounts.html>

Week 1: Group Discussion Guide

Key Scriptures

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
Genesis 1:1

"Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life..."
Genesis 2:7

Start Talking

- What's something in creation that leaves you in awe of God?

Start Thinking

- Why do you think the Bible begins with creation? What does that show us about who God is?

Start Sharing

- Genesis 1–2 gives us both the big picture and the close-up. How does that strengthen your trust in Scripture?
- Where do you see God's intentional design in your life?
- What changes when you believe you were created on purpose and for a purpose?

Additional Questions

Surface

- What are you hoping God shows you through Genesis this summer?

Dig In

- What stood out most to you in Genesis 1–2?

Dig Deeper

- How does being made in God's image shape how you view yourself and others?

Personal

- Where do you struggle to live like someone created with purpose?

Challenge

- Spend time in creation this week and ask God to remind you of His greatness and His care.
-

The Image of God Changes Everything

From the beginning, Genesis tells us something extraordinary:

You are made in the image of God.

That means your life carries dignity, purpose, and value—not because of what you achieve, but because of whose you are.

That changes how we see ourselves.

It changes how we see others.

And it changes how we live.

We Reflect God:

In Our Character

Because God is loving, creative, wise, and just, we reflect those qualities too.

We love because He first loved us.

We create because He is Creator.

We lead, build, and serve because we bear His image.

In Our Relationships

God exists in perfect relationship—Father, Son, and Spirit.

We reflect Him when we live in community, pursue healthy relationships, and love others well.

Isolation was never God's design.

In Our Responsibility

God entrusted humanity with caring for His creation.

We were created not only with dignity, but with purpose.

Your life matters.

Your calling matters.

Why This Changes Everything

Our culture often tells us your worth is tied to performance.

Genesis tells a better story.

Your value was settled by God long before you proved anything.

You are not valuable because of what you do.

You are valuable because you bear His image.

Even sin cannot erase that.

It may distort it.

But it cannot destroy it.

And that changes how we see others too.

Every person you meet carries God-given dignity.

There are no ordinary people.

The Good News of Jesus

Sin damaged what God created, but Jesus came to restore what was broken.

He is the perfect image of God.

And through His death and resurrection, He makes us new.

You are not only created in God's image—

In Christ, you are being renewed into His image.

That is the story of transformation.

Christ Connection From Genesis

The Light That Changes Everything

When God said, “**Let there be light,**” darkness gave way.

That same God still brings light today.

The light of Christ shines into hearts, changes lives, and pushes back darkness.

The hope of the gospel is this:

The God who spoke light into creation can speak light into you.

And the light He gives is meant to shine.

At work.

At home.

In your friendships.

In the places that feel darkest.

You may feel your light is small.

But even a small light pierces darkness.

And when it's the light of Christ, it carries hope for the world.

This Week's Invitation

Receive His light.

Walk in His light.

Reflect His light.

And let Genesis remind you:

The God who created light is still bringing light to people today.

Including you.

An aerial photograph of a dry, brown landscape, possibly a desert or a field of dry grass. The ground is a mix of light brown and tan, with numerous dark, irregular spots scattered across it, which could be rocks, shadows, or small plants. The overall texture is rough and uneven.

Week 02

Where It All Went Wrong

Genesis 3

Week 2: Group Discussion Guide

Key Scriptures

“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye... she took some and ate it.”

Genesis 3:6

“For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”

Romans 5:19

Start Talking

- What's a “rule” you remember breaking as a kid—and what happened?

Start Thinking

- Why do you think the Bible points back to Genesis 3 as the starting point of human brokenness?

Start Sharing

- What stands out to you in how Adam and Eve responded after they sinned? Where do you see yourself in that story?
- Sin brought shame, fear, separation, and pain into the world. Where do you see those realities show up today?
- Romans 5 calls Jesus the “second Adam.” How does that give you hope?

Additional Questions

Surface

- What from Genesis 3 are you curious to understand more deeply?

Dig In

- Why is it important to see sin as more than bad behavior—as something deeper we all wrestle with?

Dig Deeper

- Genesis 3:15 points to a coming Savior. How does that strengthen your confidence in God's rescue plan?

Personal

- Where do you most feel the pull of shame, hiding, or striving? How can you bring that to Jesus this week?

Challenge

- What's one step you can take this week to walk in Christ's freedom instead of living under shame?

When Sin Entered the Story

Something in us knows the world is not the way it's supposed to be.

We see pain, conflict, injustice, and loss—and something inside us says, *this isn't right*.

Genesis 3 tells us why.

God created a good world.

But humanity chose distrust over dependence.

Adam and Eve stepped outside God's design, and sin entered the story.

And everything changed.

The Reach of Sin

Sin didn't just affect one moment in history.
It affected everything.
Our relationship with God was fractured.
Relationships with others became strained.
Creation itself was touched by brokenness.
And death entered the world.
What began in the garden still echoes today.
We feel it around us.
And we feel it within us.
The Bible tells us sin isn't just something we do.
It's something we need rescue from.
We don't simply need better behavior.
We need a Savior.

The Better Adam

But Genesis 3 is not the end of the story.
It's where the rescue story begins.
Where Adam brought sin, Jesus brings salvation.
Where Adam brought condemnation, Jesus brings
grace. Where Adam brought death, Jesus brings life.
Romans 5 tells us Jesus is the "second Adam."
He succeeded where Adam failed.
He obeyed where humanity rebelled.
He stepped into our brokenness to make us new.
This is the gospel.

We could not climb our way back to God.

So Jesus came to us.

He lived the life we couldn't live.

Died the death we deserved.

And rose again to give us new life.

Grace in the New Testament Is Greater

The book of Romans says,

“Where sin increased, grace increased all the more.” (Romans 5:20)

That means your sin is not greater than God's grace.

Your failure is not stronger than His mercy.

Your past is not beyond His redemption.

Through Jesus, we are not only forgiven—

we are transformed.

Why This Matters

This changes how we live.

It humbles us.

We all need grace.

It gives us hope.

No one is too far gone.

It fuels our mission.

If grace is greater than sin, then every person can find freedom in Christ.

That includes you.

Christ's Connection from Genesis

The First Good News

Genesis 3 is where brokenness enters the story.

But it's also where hope appears.

Right in the middle of humanity's failure, God makes a promise. A Savior is coming.

Genesis 3:15 is often called the **first gospel**.

Before the Bible ever gets very far, God is already pointing to Jesus.

The serpent would strike.

But one day the Savior would crush evil once and for all.

That promise finds its fulfillment in Christ.

Jesus stepped into our broken story.

He carried our sin.

He conquered death.

And through Him, what was broken can be restored.

That means even in a fallen world, we live with hope. Because the victory has already been won.

This Week's Invitation

Stop hiding.

Stop carrying shame.

Bring your brokenness to Jesus.

The same God who pursued Adam and Eve in the garden still pursues people today.

And His first word after the fall was not abandonment—

It was promise.

Good news was there from the beginning.

And His name is Jesus.

Week 03

Father's Day

Use this week to catch up or get ahead on your Bible reading.

Week 04

Begin Again

Genesis 6-9

Week 4: Group Discussion Guide

Key Scriptures

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord."

Genesis 6:8

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..."

John 3:16

Start Talking

- Share a time in life when you longed for a fresh start.

Start Thinking

- Read Exodus 34:6–7. What does Noah's story reveal about both the justice and mercy of God?

Start Sharing

- Noah found favor in the Lord. What do you think set him apart from the culture around him?
- The flood is a story of both judgment and rescue. How do you see those two truths working together?
- The rainbow was a sign of God's promise. Where have you seen God's faithfulness in your own story?
- How does the ark point you to Jesus and deepen your trust in His rescue?

Additional Questions

Surface

- What detail from Noah's story has always stood out to you?

Dig In

- Why is it important to see the flood not only as judgment, but as a story of salvation?

Dig Deeper

- How does God's covenant with Noah point ahead to Jesus and the cross?

Personal

- Where do you need to trust God for a fresh start in your life?

Challenge

- What is one step you can take this week to live like someone made new by Christ?
-

A God of Justice, Mercy, and New Beginnings

Genesis 6–9 tells one of the most sobering—and hopeful—stories in Scripture.

Humanity had drifted far from God.

Violence had spread.

Sin had deeply corrupted the world.

And yet even in judgment, mercy was at work.

God made a way of rescue.

He gave Noah an ark.

He gave humanity a fresh start.

And He gave a promise written in the sky.

More Than a Debate About the Flood

People sometimes ask whether the flood was local or global.

That can be an interesting conversation.

But Genesis is inviting us to ask something deeper.

Not, How high did the waters rise?

But, What does this reveal about God?

The flood shows us:

God takes sin seriously.

God is holy.

And God makes a way of salvation.

That's the heart of the story.

The Ark Points to Rescue

Noah entered the ark and was carried safely through judgment.

That points us to Jesus.

The ark was a picture of salvation.

And Christ is our greatest rescue.

Just as Noah was brought through the waters, Jesus brings us through sin, shame, and death into new life.

The flood wasn't just about destruction.

It was about redemption.

Even judgment was moving toward mercy.

The Rainbow of Promise

After the flood, God placed a rainbow in the sky.

A sign of covenant.

A reminder of mercy.

A promise that God keeps His word.

What looked like an ending became a new beginning.

That's often how God works.
He brings hope out of hard places.
New beginnings out of broken places.
And life where we thought there was only loss.

What This Means for Us

Noah's story reminds us:

Sin is serious.

Grace is real.

And God still makes a way.

Some of us need that reminder.

Maybe you need a fresh start.

Maybe you need rescue from something heavy.

Maybe you need hope that God is not finished writing your story.

Noah reminds us—

He isn't.

Christ Connection From Genesis

A Better Ark, A Greater Rescue

Noah's story points beyond itself to Jesus.

God provided an ark for Noah.

God provided a Savior for us.

The ark carried Noah through judgment.

Jesus carries us through sin into life.

Noah trusted God and stepped into the ark.

We trust Christ and step into grace.

And just as the rainbow became a sign of promise, the cross stands as the ultimate sign that God keeps His word.

His mercy is stronger than judgment.

His grace is greater than failure.

His rescue is real.

A New Beginning in Christ

The story of Noah reminds us that God is not only the God who judges evil—

He is the God who makes things new.

In Christ, we are given more than a second chance.

We are given a new beginning.

A new heart.

A new future.

A new life.

That is the ultimate rescue.

That is the greater ark.

That is Jesus.

This Week's Invitation

Where do you need a fresh start?

Bring that to Jesus.

Trust His rescue.

Rest in His promise.

And remember:

The God who placed a rainbow in the sky is still a promise-keeping God today.



Week **05**

The Birth of Faith
Genesis 15-21

Week 5: Group Discussion Guide

Key Scriptures

“Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”

Genesis 15:6

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

Start Talking

- When you were younger, what was a boundary or rule you didn't understand at first but later came to appreciate?

Start Thinking

- Why do you think God shared His plans with Abraham before judgment came? What does that reveal about His heart?

Start Sharing

- What does Abraham's intercession teach us about prayer and standing in the gap for others?
- Lot hesitated when it was time to leave. Where do you see that kind of hesitation in your own faith journey?
- Jesus said, *“Remember Lot's wife.”* What does it look like to move forward with Jesus without looking back?
- How does this story point you to Jesus as our greatest rescue?

Additional Questions . . .

Surface

- What stood out most to you in Abraham's conversation with God or Lot's escape?

Dig In

- Why is it important to see God as both just and merciful?

Dig Deeper

- How does Abraham's faith shape your understanding of what real faith looks like?

Personal

- Where are you tempted to look back instead of trusting God and moving forward?

Challenge

- What is one area this week where God is inviting you to trust Him and take a step of faith?
-

Justice, Mercy, and the God Who Rescues

Genesis 18–19 can be a difficult story.

But it is also a deeply revealing one.

It shows us a God who is holy.

A God who confronts evil.

And a God who makes a way of rescue.

That matters—because we need all three.

A Story About More Than Judgment

At first glance, this can feel like a story mostly about destruction.

But it is just as much a story about mercy.

Before judgment came, Abraham interceded.

He pleaded.

He wrestled.

And God welcomed it.

What does that show us?

God is not eager to destroy.

He is patient.

Merciful.

Slow to anger.

His justice is never disconnected from His love.

And His mercy is never divorced from His holiness.

A Rescue Fueled by Grace

Then we meet Lot.

Hesitant.

Slow to move.

Still clinging to what he needed to leave behind.

And yet—

God was merciful.

Even in Lot's hesitation, grace moved toward him.

Scripture says the angels took him by the hand and led him out.

What a picture of grace.

Sometimes God rescues us even while we are still hesitating.

Don't Look Back

Lot's wife looked back. (Genesis 19)

Her heart was still tied to the old life.

Jesus later says:

“Remember Lot’s wife.” (Luke 17: 32-33)

Why?

Because following Jesus means moving forward.

Not clinging to what God is calling us out of.

Not longing for old patterns.

Not living half in freedom and half in bondage.

Grace calls us forward.

Jesus, the Greatest Rescue

This story ultimately points us to Jesus.

Abraham stood in the gap for others.

Jesus became the greater Intercessor.

Lot was rescued from judgment.

Jesus rescues us from sin and death.

In Sodom, not even ten righteous people could be found.

But in Jesus, the one truly righteous One stood in our place.

That is the gospel.

The fire of judgment that should have fallen on us—

fell on Him.

So we could receive mercy.

What This Means for Us

This story reminds us:

Sin is serious.

Mercy is real.

And rescue is available.

Some of us may feel like Abraham—burdened for others.

Some may feel like Lot—hesitant, struggling to let go.

Some may feel tempted, like Lot's wife, to keep looking back.

But God's invitation is the same:

Trust Me.

Leave the old behind.

Walk forward in faith.

There is life ahead.

Christ Connection From Genesis

The God Who Pulls Us Forward

One of the most beautiful details in this story is easy to miss.

Lot hesitated.

But grace did not.

God pulled him forward.

That's the gospel.

We all hesitate.

We all struggle.

We all have places where fear competes with faith.

But God's mercy reaches further than our weakness.

And ultimately, that mercy is found in Jesus.

He is our greatest rescue.

Our righteousness.

Our way out.

Our way forward.

Faith Looks Forward

Genesis 15:6 says:

“Abram believed the Lord...”

That is faith.

Not flawless living.

Not perfect performance.

Trust.

And that same invitation is ours.

Trust Jesus.

Keep walking forward.

Don't look back.

His mercy is leading you into life.

This Week's Invitation

Is there something God is asking you to leave behind?

A fear?

A compromise?

A place of hesitation?

Bring it to Him.

Trust His mercy.

Take a step forward.

And remember—

The God who rescued Lot is the same God who rescues people today.

And in Jesus, grace still pulls people forward.



Week 06

Letting Go
Genesis 22-26

Week 6: Group Discussion Guide

Key Scriptures

"Esau despised his birthright."

Genesis 25:34

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ..."

Romans 8:17

Start Talking .

- Share a time you chose something immediate over something more valuable long term. What did you learn?

Start Thinking .

- Why do you think Esau traded something so valuable for something so temporary?

Start Sharing

- Where do you feel tempted to settle for temporary satisfaction instead of God's greater promises?
- How does knowing you are a co-heir with Christ shape how you view your life and purpose?
- What helps keep eternity in view in everyday life?
- How can we use what God has entrusted to us to bless others and build His Kingdom?

Additional Questions

Surface

- What stood out most to you in the story of Jacob and Esau?

Dig In

- Why does God often seem to work through unlikely people?

Dig Deeper

- How does Jesus as the true Firstborn help you understand God's promises more fully?

Personal

- Where are you tempted to trade something eternal for something temporary?

Challenge

- What is one step you can take this week to live more fully as an heir of God's Kingdom?
-

Don't Trade What Matters Most

Esau traded a birthright for a bowl of stew.

It sounds shocking.

Until we realize how often we can do the same.

Trading what lasts
for what fades.

Trading calling
for comfort.

Trading promise
for impulse.

Trading what is eternal
for what is immediate.

That's what makes this story so personal.

The Warning in Esau's Story

Esau didn't lose his birthright in a dramatic rebellion.

He gave it up in a hungry moment.

A short-sighted moment.

A moment that valued what was now over what mattered most.

And how often can we do that?

Choosing approval over obedience.

Comfort over calling.

Temporary relief over lasting joy.

Esau's story asks us:

What "bowl of stew" am I tempted to trade too much for?

God's Kingdom Turns Expectations Upside Down

Throughout Genesis, God often works through the unexpected.

The younger over the older.

The overlooked over the obvious.

The unlikely over the assumed.

Why?

Because God's purposes are never limited by human expectations.

He is looking for faith.

Trust.

Surrender.

That was true then.

And it is true now.

Jesus, the Better Firstborn

This story ultimately points us to Jesus.

He is the true and perfect Firstborn.

The rightful heir of all things.

And unlike Esau—

Jesus did not trade away what mattered most.

He laid down His life so we could share in His inheritance.

That is stunning grace.

Because of Jesus, we are not just forgiven.

We are family.

We are heirs.

We belong.

You Have an Inheritance

Think about that.

If you belong to Christ, you have an inheritance that cannot be lost.

It cannot rust.

It cannot be stolen.

It cannot be diminished.

It is secure in Jesus.

And that changes how we live.

We stop grasping for temporary things.

We stop living like spiritual orphans.

We live as sons and daughters of God.

Secure.

Generous.

Confident.

Free.

What This Means for Us

This story reminds us:

Don't settle for less than what God has for you.

Don't trade eternal things for temporary cravings.

And don't forget who you are.

In Christ:

You are an heir.

You are entrusted with blessing.

And you are called to live like it.

What Are You Trading?

That may be the question this week.

Where am I tempted to settle?

Where am I choosing what is immediate over what is eternal?

Where is God inviting me to trust Him more deeply?

Because He has something better.

Always.

Christ Connection From Genesis

An Inheritance That Cannot Be Lost

Earthly wealth can disappear.

Success can fade.

Even family legacies can unravel.

But what we have in Christ cannot be taken away.

That's the beauty of the gospel.

Our inheritance is not built on our performance.

It is secured by Jesus.

And because it is grace—

it cannot be earned,

and it cannot be undone.

That means you can live from security, not scarcity.

From abundance, not fear.

From identity, not striving.

Live Like an Heir

So live like someone who already has everything in Christ.

Walk in confidence.

Live with generosity.

Hold loosely what is temporary.

Hold tightly to what is eternal.

Because the greatest riches are already yours in Jesus.

This Week's Invitation

Ask yourself:

What am I tempted to trade away?

What temporary thing is competing for my heart?

Bring that before God.

Receive again who you are in Christ.

And live this week like an heir of the Kingdom.

Because in Jesus—

you have an inheritance that can never be taken away.



Week

07

**Why God Uses
Imperfect
People**
Genesis 27-29

Week 7: Group Discussion Guide

Key Scriptures

“He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven...”

Genesis 28:12

“You will see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

John 1:51

Start Talking

Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever tried to force or earn something God wanted you to trust Him for?

Start Thinking

Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Jacob failed often, yet God remained faithful. What does that reveal about God's character?

Start Sharing

Choose a question(s) to create openness.

- How do you relate to Jacob's story of striving, struggle, and transformation?
- What does Jacob's dream reveal about God's presence and nearness?
- Jesus called Himself the true “ladder.” How does that change the way you think about access to God?
- How does God's faithfulness to Jacob encourage you in your own journey?

Additional Questions

Surface

- What stood out most to you from Jacob's story?

Dig In

- Why is it important that God's promises rest on His faithfulness, not our perfection?

Dig Deeper

- How does Jesus fulfill the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

Personal

- Where are you relying on striving instead of trusting God?

Challenge

- What is one way you can walk in greater trust this week rather than trying to force outcomes?

When Grace Meets Striving

Jacob's story feels familiar.

Because many of us know what it's like to strive.

To grasp.

To force things.

To try to secure by effort what can only be received by trust.

That was Jacob.

And yet—

God met him there.

Not when he had it all together.

But in the middle of struggle.

That says so much about grace.

God Meets People in the Middle of Their Mess

Jacob was running.

Broken relationships behind him.

Uncertainty ahead of him.

And in that place—

God met him.

With a dream.

With a promise.

With His presence.

Jacob saw a stairway reaching from earth to heaven.

A reminder that heaven was not far off.

God was near.

And His promises still stood.

Even for Jacob.

Even after failure.

What good news.

God's Promises Rest on His Faithfulness

One of the most beautiful things in Jacob's story is this:

God's covenant was not sustained by Jacob's perfection.

It was sustained by God's faithfulness.

And the same is true for us.

Your relationship with God does not rest on flawless performance.

It rests on a faithful Savior.

That doesn't make obedience unimportant.
It makes grace even more amazing.

Jesus Is the Better Ladder

Then Jesus does something remarkable.
He takes Jacob's dream—
and applies it to Himself.
He is the true ladder.
The bridge between heaven and earth.
The way to the Father.
The connection Jacob longed for—
fulfilled in Christ.
We do not climb our way to God.
Jesus came down to us.
That changes everything.
Access to God is not earned.
It is received.
By grace.
Through Christ.

God Keeps His Promises

Jacob's story also reminds us:
God keeps His covenant.
He kept His promises to Abraham.
To Isaac.

To Jacob.

And He keeps His promises still.

We are part of a story much bigger than ourselves.

A story of grace unfolding through generations.

And in Christ, we have been brought into that story.

Grafted into promise.

Welcomed into family.

Included by grace.

What This Means for Us

Stop striving for what Jesus has already secured.

Stop trying to earn what grace freely gives.

Walk in trust.

Walk in promise.

Walk in the confidence that God is with you.

Because He is.

Christ Connection From Genesis

Jesus Is Our Ladder

Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching heaven.

Jesus said:

That ladder is Me.

What Jacob saw in shadow, we now see in fullness.

Jesus is our way to the Father.

Our access to grace.

Our connection to heaven.

Our bridge to God.

He is not just showing us the way.

He is the way.

From Striving to Trust

Jacob spent much of his life striving for blessing.

But in Jesus, blessing is received, not grasped for.

That changes how we live.

We don't live trying to earn God's favor.

We live from it.

We don't strive for acceptance.

We walk in it.

That is the freedom of grace.

This Week's Invitation

Where are you striving?

Where are you trying to force what God is asking you to trust Him for?

Lay that down.

Trust Jesus.

Walk in His promises.

And remember—

The God who met Jacob in the wilderness still meets people in unexpected places today.

And in Christ,

heaven has come near.

The background is a dynamic, swirling composition of white and green, created with thick, expressive brushstrokes. Scattered throughout are several white daisies with bright yellow centers, some in full bloom and others partially obscured by the swirling motion. The overall effect is one of movement and natural beauty.

Week

08

**Hope in the
Wilderness**
Genesis 37-50

Week 8: Group Discussion Guide

Key Scriptures

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good..."
Genesis 50:20

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him..."
Romans 8:28

Start Talking

- Share a time when something hard in your life later revealed God's goodness in a way you couldn't see at first.

Start Thinking

- Why is it important to hold together both human choices and God's sovereignty in Joseph's story?

Start Sharing

- Where have you seen God bring good out of painful circumstances?
- How does Joseph's forgiveness challenge you in your own relationships?
- How does Jesus—the greater Joseph—give you hope in hard places?
- What does Romans 8:28 look like lived out, not just quoted?

Additional Questions

Surface

- What stood out most to you from Joseph's story this week?

Dig In

- Why do you think God used suffering to shape Joseph before elevating him?

Dig Deeper

- How does Genesis 50:20 point us toward the gospel?

Personal

- Where do you need to release control and trust God more deeply?

Challenge

- What is one step of faith you can take this week believing God can redeem even difficult things?
-

God Can Redeem What Was Meant for Harm

Joseph's life was marked by betrayal.

Rejection.

Waiting.

Injustice.

Pain.

And yet Joseph could say:

**“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.”
(Genesis 50:20)**

What a statement.

Not denial.

Not pretending suffering wasn't real.

But deep confidence that God was at work even in what others meant for harm.

That is one of the great themes of Genesis.

And one of the great hopes of our faith.

God Is Working Even When We Cannot See It

Joseph couldn't see the full story when he was in the pit.

Or in slavery.

Or in prison.

But God was working.

Quietly.

Faithfully.

Redemptively.

And often that is how He works in our lives too.

There may be things you don't understand right now.

Places that feel unresolved.

Prayers still unanswered.

Chapters still painful.

Joseph reminds us:

God may be doing more than you can see.

What Others Meant for Harm...

Genesis does not minimize evil.

Joseph's brothers were responsible for what they did.

Pain was real.

Wounds were real.

But evil did not get the final word.

God redeemed what others meant for harm.

And He still does.

That doesn't mean everything painful is good.

It means God is able to bring good through what is painful.

That is a different—and far deeper—hope.

The Cross Proves It

Nowhere is that clearer than the cross.

Human betrayal.

Violence.

Sin.

And yet through that very evil, God brought salvation.

The worst act in history became the doorway to redemption.

If God can redeem the cross—

He can redeem your story.

Joseph Points Us to Jesus

Joseph's life points us to Christ.

Rejected by his own.

Suffered unjustly.

Yet used by God to save many.

But Jesus is the greater Joseph.

Joseph saved people from famine for a season.

Jesus saves forever.

Joseph forgave his brothers.

Jesus forgave His enemies.

Joseph preserved life.

Jesus gives eternal life.

Every thread points to Him.

What This Means for Us

This story reminds us:

God is sovereign.

God is good.

And God redeems.

Even when life is confusing.

Even when suffering feels heavy.

Even when the story feels unfinished.

He is still writing.

Trust the God Who Sees the Whole Story

Joseph could trust because he knew God saw more than he did.

We can too.

You may not understand every chapter.

But you can trust the Author.

And sometimes faith looks like believing redemption is possible before you can see it.

That is real hope.

Christ Connection From Genesis

The God Who Brings Good Out of Brokenness

Joseph's story whispers what the gospel shouts:

God brings life out of what looks dead.

Hope out of heartbreak.

Redemption out of ruin.

That is what He does.

And Jesus is the fullest expression of that truth.

In Christ,

sorrow can turn to joy,

bondage can turn to freedom,

and suffering is never wasted.

Your Story Is Not Beyond Redemption

Maybe that is what you most need to hear.

Your story is not beyond redemption.

What feels broken is not beyond God's reach.

What feels lost is not beyond His power.

The God who worked in Joseph's story is still working today.

This Week's Invitation

Where do you need to trust God with what you do not understand?

Where do you need to believe He can bring good from what has been painful?

Bring that to Him.

Release control.

Trust His goodness.

And remember—

What others may have meant for harm,
God can still redeem for good.
That is the hope of Genesis.
And that is the hope of Jesus.



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