

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN SIMPLIFIED ENGLISH

STUDY GUIDE

Genesis 1-11

God Shows His Power and Purpose

Includes Bonus Easter Lesson

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BAPTISTWAY PRESS



Dallas, Texas



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Adult Bible Study in Simplified English Study Guide

Genesis 1-11: God Shows His Power and Purpose

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Genesis 1-11: God Shows His Power and Purpose

Introduction

In the beginning... God!

The very first words of the Bible tell us that everything begins with God. The Bible tells us who God is and what He has done.

In Genesis 1-11, we see history on a universal scale. We learn about the beginnings of the earth, plants, and animals. Then we learn about God's best work: the creation of humans. We also discover how sin enters the world. We read about the sad changes it brings to people and to creation. But we also see how a loving God begins His plan to forgive humans for their sin.

We can thank Moses for writing down the events of Genesis. He also wrote four more books in the front of the Old Testament — Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These five books (Genesis through Deuteronomy) are called the Pentateuch which means "five books." The Jews call these five books the Torah.

What does Genesis say to us today? Here are a few thoughts:

- It reminds us of God's power and purpose for us. He is in control of the universe and in control of our lives, even when life seems out of control.

- It teaches us that life is very important to God. We honor God when we respect life, whether unborn, elderly, disabled, or poor.
- It challenges us to fight evil in this world with the strength of God's love.
- It shows us that God is a promise keeper. In a world where trust is hard to find, God keeps His promises and can be trusted with today and all our tomorrows.

About the Writers

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Genesis 1-11: God Shows His Power and Purpose

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Genesis 1-11: God Shows His Power and Purpose

Word List

Lesson 1

chaos: complete confusion and disorder
create: to make something
fertile: able to support the growth of plants
materials: anything from which something is or can be made
nature: the way a person behaves, the character of a person
standard: a level of quality that is accepted

Lesson 2

blessing: help and support from God
celebrated: to do something special for an important event
environment: the surroundings that affect life and growth and health
foundation: A stone or concrete structure that gives support from underneath
handiwork: work of great quality that is done by hand
holy: set apart, different
variety: having many different things

Lesson 3

evolve: to change slowly into something different
mankind: all people, male and female
punish: to make someone suffer
relationship: the way in which two or more people, groups, countries, etc., talk to, behave toward, and deal with each other
temporary: not lasting forever

Lesson 4

image: the likeness, form, or appearance of someone
innocent: not having experience with bad things
physical: something that can be seen and touched
social: relating to other people
spiritual: relating to a person's spirit and God
steward: someone who takes care of something that belongs to someone else

Lesson 5

ashamed: feeling shame, guilt, and embarrassment
evil: things that are completely bad or harmful
purity: the absence of guilt or evil
tricky: likely to use dishonest ways
tempted: caused by someone to do something wrong, bad, or unwise

Lesson 6

consequences: things that happen as a result of one's actions or choices
innocence: the state of not being guilty
offspring: a person's child
punished: making someone suffer for doing wrong things

Lesson 7

jealousy: an unhappy or angry feeling of wanting what someone else has
missionaries: people who leave their home and go away to tell others about Jesus
pride: a feeling that you are more important than other people

Genesis 1-11: God Shows His Power and Purpose

Word List

Lesson 8

chaos: confusion and disorder

devotion: a feeling of strong love or loyalty

inventions: new ideas, devices, or processes

preserve: to keep safe

telegraph: an old way of sending messages over long distances by using wires and electric sounds and signals

Lesson 9

authority: power to make decisions or rule over people

basement: part of a building that is totally underground

judgment: to declare that something is right or wrong

tornado: a violent and destructive storm with powerful winds that go around in a circle

Lesson 10

extravagant: more than is usual, necessary, or proper

familiar: frequently seen, heard, or experienced

generation: a group of people born and living during the same time

legends: a story from the past that is believed by many people but cannot be proved to be true

Lesson 11

ancestor: a relative that lived a long time ago. A person's parents are descendants of such a relative

descendant: a child, grandchild, and so on

Table of Nations: the list of the families of Noah's sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth

Lesson 12

ambitious: desire to be have power, be a success or be famous

idol: a false god, sometimes made of wood or metal or stone and made by people.

Anything that is worshipped that is not the One True God.

Lesson 13

genealogy: study of the history of the past and present members of a family

Easter Lesson

angels: God's servants in heaven; His messengers

recognize: to know someone or something because you have experienced that person or thing before

resurrection: to be raised from the dead; to be alive

Genesis 1-11: God Shows His Power and Purpose

Memory Verses

Lesson 1

“In the beginning God made from nothing the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

Lesson 2

“Then God honored the seventh day and made it holy, because in it He rested from all His work which He had done.” (Genesis 2:3)

Lesson 3

“We are His work. He has made us to belong to Christ Jesus so we can work for Him. He planned that we should do this.” (Ephesians 2:10)

Lesson 4

“For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother when he gets married and be joined to his wife. The two become one.” (Ephesians 5:31)

Lesson 5

“This is what happened: Sin came into the world by one man, Adam. Sin brought death with it. Death spread to all men because all have sinned.” (Romans 5:12)

Lesson 6

“The power of death was over all men because of the sin of one man, Adam.” (Romans 5:17a)

Lesson 7

“...Sin is waiting to destroy you. Its desire is to rule over you, but you must rule over it.” (Genesis 4:7b)

Lesson 8

“Noah did just what God told him to do.” (Genesis 6:22)

Lesson 9

“I will never again destroy every living thing as I have done.” (Genesis 8:21b)

Lesson 10

“See, I make My agreement with you, and with your children after you...” (Genesis 9:9)

Lesson 11

“These are the families of the sons of Noah. From these family groups, nations were spread over the earth after the flood.” (Genesis 10:32)

Lesson 12

“Pride comes before being destroyed and a proud spirit comes before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18)

Lesson 13

“Teach us to understand how many days we have. Then we will have a heart of wisdom to give You.” (Psalm 90:12)

Easter Lesson

“They said, ‘For sure the Lord is risen . . . ’” (Luke 24:34a)

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*Genesis 1-11: God Shows
His Power and Purpose*

Lesson 1: God Forms His Creation

Bible Text

Genesis 1:1-13

Memory Verse

“In the beginning God made from nothing the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

Word List

chaos: complete confusion and disorder

create: to make something

fertile: able to support the growth of plants

materials: anything from which something is or can be made

nature: the way a person behaves, the character of a person

standard: a level of quality that is accepted

Do you like to make things with your hands? Maybe you use paints to make art. Do you like to put together different foods and spices to make something good to eat? Can you sew? Do you use fabric and thread to make something to wear or to make your home more beautiful? Or maybe you work with wood or metal to build things. Perhaps you take old things to make something new.

When we make things, we start with some purpose in mind. We know what we want to create. We use the **materials** we have to make something new. Working with our hands can be very rewarding.

God started with nothing when He made the world and everything in it. God knew from the beginning how He wanted the world to look. He had a purpose for every thing He made. He planned the rules that keep the world working as it should. But God did not work with His hands. He spoke, and it was so. God has power that no man or woman could ever have. There is no god that can do what God does. God had a plan in mind from the beginning. He was preparing a place for the people He would **create**. He planned a beautiful place for them to live in fellowship with Him.

Day 1: God Created Light (Genesis 1:1-2)

In the beginning there was only God. The Bible never explains how God came to be. He has simply always been. God was in the beginning before there was anything else. There has never been a time *before* God. Even today, God is still with us. He promises He will never leave us. So there will never be a time *after* God.

There was nothing until God started His work. He did everything in an orderly way. He had a plan from the very beginning.

God started by making the heavens and the earth. The earth had no form. It was empty and dark. There was **chaos**, but God was there. His Spirit moved over the confusion and disorder as He began His work of creation.

Day 1: God Formed Night and Day (Genesis 1:3-5)

God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. When God speaks, all of creation obeys. Today in our lives, when God speaks, we must obey. God’s word is final.

God knew that what all of creation needed most is light, His light. This was not sunlight. God had not made the sun yet. It was the good and holy **nature** of God. Suddenly, all the chaos was gone! God divided the dark from the light. He gave the dark a good purpose called night. The light He called day.

God knew that His **standard** of good was the only thing that could make His creation what He wanted it to be. His light is the way everything is judged by God. It is the light of God in our hearts that makes us good in His sight. In the light of God, He saw all the work He had done on this first day, and He declared it was good.

Day 2: God Formed Sky and Sea (Genesis 1:6-8)

God knew what it would take for man to live on earth. He spoke and made an open

How Long Was a Day?

No one knows for sure how long one day of creation lasted. Was it 24 hours or many years?

The word used for *day* in Genesis is the word we use for 24 hours. But it is also sometimes used for a period of time, as in “the day of the Lord.”

The real meaning of creation is not how long it took for everything to be created. The real meaning is that God created it all from nothing. In creating this world, God showed His power.

space between the waters. He called this water above the earth heaven or the sky. This isn’t the heaven where God lives. This is the sky above the earth. God made water above the earth to protect it. Look up in the spring sky, and you can see the waters above the earth in all those beautiful clouds. We need that water to move around the earth.

The water on the earth makes this planet different from all the other planets. The earth is the only planet we know that has rivers, oceans and seas. Water is necessary for life. Before God made any living thing, He made water to make life possible. God looked at what He had done on the second day. He saw that it was good.

Day 3: God Formed Fertile Land (Genesis 1:9-13)

At this point, the whole earth was

covered with water. God knew that it would take good, **fertile** land to grow food for all the animals and people He would make. He spoke, and dry land appeared. He set boundaries to control the water in the seas, lakes, and rivers. All of creation followed God's rules. The seas stayed where He put them. He called the dry ground land.

Even before God made the sun, He made plants to live and grow. These were the first living things. Suddenly, there was life on earth! It isn't the sun that brings life to earth. It is the presence of God.

Then God set rules for plants. His rules say that each plant would bring forth seeds that would make new plants just like the first ones. So, even today, we know that if we plant tomato seeds, we will get tomato plants. And those tomato plants will make tomatoes with seeds that can produce other tomato

plants. That is the rule of God, and plants still obey that rule.

Things to Remember

The power of God was shown in creation. No one could do what God did. He made the world and the heavens out of nothing. He spoke everything into being. God's Word is powerful. Even when there was only darkness and confusion, God was there moving over everything. In our lives, we can't always see the light of God, but we can be sure He is there. He never leaves us alone. God always brings order out of confusion. The rules He set for the seas and plants are like the rules God sets for man. If the seas leave their boundaries, they bring death and destruction. If we sin by disobeying God's rules, we bring death and ruin into our lives, too.

God's plan for man did not end when creation was formed. In our next lesson, we will see how God filled His creation with living beings. He planned carefully for them to be able to live on earth. He wanted to care for and be close to all He created. God is still working to bring us close to Him. In John 14:2-3, Jesus said He is preparing a place for us in God's home. God has made a place for us here on earth. But He is also preparing a place for us to live with Him. We, who believe, will one day enter that perfect place to be with Him forever.

Things to Think About

1. Have you ever had a time of confusion in your life, but God's light brought order and peace?
2. What laws of nature keep the earth working properly? What laws of God keep your life peaceful and joyful?
3. What difference has the light of God made in your life? Are you shining His light for those around you?
4. Do you let God's standard of light rule in the things you do and say?
5. Does it comfort you to know that the earth was formed by God and not by chance?

Genesis 1:1-13

1 In the beginning God made from nothing the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was an empty waste and darkness was over the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was moving over the top of the waters.

3 Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

4 God saw that the light was good. He divided the light from the darkness.

5 Then God called the light day, and He called the darkness night. There was evening and there was morning, one day.

6 Then God said, "Let there be an open space between the waters. Let it divide waters from waters."

7 God made the open space, and divided the waters under the open space from the waters above the open space. And it was so.

8 Then God called the open space Heaven. There was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered into one place. Let the dry land be seen." And it was so.

10 Then God called the dry land Earth. He called the gathering of the waters Seas. And God saw that it was good.

11 Then God said, "Let plants grow from the earth, plants that have seeds. Let fruit trees grow on the earth that bring their kind of fruit with their own seeds." And it was so.

12 Plants grew out of the earth, giving their own kind of seeds. Trees grew with their fruit, and their kind of seeds. And God saw that it was good.

13 There was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*Genesis 1-11: God Shows
His Power and Purpose*

Lesson 2: God Fills His Creation

Bible Text

Genesis 1:14-25, 2:1-3

Memory Verse

“Then God honored the seventh day and made it holy, because in it He rested from all His work which He had done.” (Genesis 2:3)

Word List

blessing: help and support from God

celebrated: to do something special for an important event

environment: the surroundings that affect life and growth and health

foundation: A stone or concrete structure that gives support from underneath

handiwork: work of great quality that is done by hand

variety: having many different things

A good builder always starts with the **foundation** first. He makes sure the foundation is strong enough to hold the building. He does not want it to move when the ground is wet or dry. God did the same when He created the world. He set the earth in its place so that it will not move. Then He

provided His light to live by. And He created water for life, plants for our food, and dry land for us to live on. God created the foundations of the earth, and then He turned to filling what He had formed.

God used nothing to make the heavens and the earth. He made everything by speaking it into being. He made light and divided it from the darkness. On day two, God divided the waters above the earth from the waters on the earth. He put a space of sky between them. On the third day, God set boundaries for the water. He made dry land. God also made all kinds of plants to grow in that good soil.

God Filled the Sky with Lights (Genesis 1:14-19)

God formed on Day 1 the foundation for what He would make on Day 4. On the first day, God made the heavens and the earth. He spoke, and the light of God came to guide His creation. On day four, God created the sun, moon, and stars to fill the universe. We tell time by the sun, moon, and stars. The days, years, and seasons are set by the sun. The sun also provides light and heat which help plants to grow. The moon rules over the night and the tides of the oceans. When God looked out at all those glowing lights, He must have smiled. God said that it was good.

God Filled the Sky and Seas

(Genesis 1:20-23)

On the fifth day, God began to fill the sky and the waters that He had made on the second day. God knew what the birds and fish would need. He made the **environment** in which they could live and grow. Then He made the birds and fish to fill that perfect environment. God made every bird and every fish. When we see the many beautiful birds and fish, we see the **handiwork** of God. He did not make all the birds look alike. Each bird and fish is different and beautiful in His eyes. Each one has a special job in nature.

God gave the birds and fish a **blessing**. He gave His help and support so that the birds and fish could increase in number. There would be many more birds and many more fish. God gave them the gift of young. He wanted them to fill the skies and seas.

Jesus spoke about God's care for the birds of the air in Matthew 6:26. It is God who gave the birds a place to live. It is God who gives them food to eat. When we look at the beautiful birds, we remember that our Father cares for us, too. He gives us what we need to live and grow. God looked at all that He made on the fifth day, and He said that it was good.

God Filled the Dry Land (Genesis 1:24-25)

On the sixth day, God filled the dry

land that He had made on the third day. All kinds of animals that live on the land were made by God. There are animals that are busy during the daytime. Some animals hunt for food during the dark of night. There are animals that are much bigger than man. And some are so tiny we can hardly see them. God made them all. He made wild animals that roam the earth. God also made gentle animals for man to work with. The word *cattle* includes all kinds of animals that man could use. Then God also made man and woman. The blessing of God was for all these animals and man to fill the earth.

God's standard for good is His own nature. The world shows what God is like. He is orderly. There is a reason for everything God created. God likes **variety**. There are so many different kinds of plants, animals, birds, and fish. God looked at all that He had made. It was very good.

God Fills the Seventh Day with Rest

(Genesis 2:1-3)

On the seventh day God stopped His work of creation. He rested, but this does not mean that God took a nap. He stopped working, and He enjoyed what He had made. He wants us to do the same. God honored the seventh day and made it **holy**. This means He made this day different from all of the other

days of the week. We call this day the Day of Rest. It is a day of the week for us to rest as well. We stop working and think about God's care for us.

The Jews take their Day of Rest on the seventh day. So they worship and rest on Saturday. Jesus rose from the grave on Sunday. So Christians rest and worship on Sunday, the first day of the week. We call it the Lord's Day. God wants us to stop working one day each week. He wants us to think about Him and to spend time with Him. And He wants us to be thankful.

God knew what man needed to live. He gave us air to breathe, water to drink, a place to live, and animals to work with. God gave us the gift of families. He gave us meaningful work of caring for the earth. But God knew that man needs more than work. We need to stop working and remember how He cares for us. God knew that we need joy in the Lord. We should stop working and stop planning our work. We must respect this one day. In it,

Things to Think About

1. Do you work like God worked in creation? Are you on time, on task, and on purpose in your work?
2. Do you look at your work from God's point of view and say that it is good?
3. Do you take one day out of the week to worship, rest, and remember all that God has done for you?
4. How do you enjoy God on your Day of Rest?
5. Are you filled with joy because you belong to the Lord?

we look for all that God is doing. Then we can face the rest of the days of the week with His wisdom and His guidance. We find joy in the Lord when we stop to remember Him.

Things to Remember

God showed us how to work. He was on time in the beginning. Everything God created had a purpose. He worked hard. He did not stop until everything was complete. God wasted nothing. What He formed, He filled. God cared about the needs of all He created. He examined His work to see that it was good according to His light. Then God **celebrated** on the seventh day. He saw that His work was good, and He was pleased.

We must follow God's example in our work and in our rest. Just like God, we need to be on time. God was not thinking about anything but His creation as He worked. We should do the same. Our work should have a good purpose. We should be able to say our work is good in God's light.

Our Day of Rest should be like God's day when He rested. He stopped and enjoyed His creation. We need to stop and think about God on that day. Just as we should follow God's way in our work, we should follow His way in our rest. He created this world to give us all we need. He made us a beautiful home here on earth. We must take time each week to

look at all He has done for us, and to give Him our thanks.

Genesis 1:14-25

14 Then God said, “Let there be lights in the open space of the heavens to divide day from night. Let them tell the days and years and times of the year.

15 Let them be lights in the open space of the heavens to give light on the earth.” And it was so.

16 Then God made the two great lights, the brighter light to rule the day, and the smaller light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

17 God put them in the open space of the heavens to give light on the earth,

18 to rule the day and the night. He divided the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

19 There was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20 Then God said, “Let the waters be full of living things. Let birds fly above the earth in the open space of the heavens.”

21 God made the big animals that live in the sea, and every living thing that moves through the waters by its kind, and every winged bird after its kind. And God saw that it was good.

22 God wanted good to come to them, saying, “Give birth to many. Grow in number. Fill the waters in the seas. Let birds grow in number on the earth.”

23 There was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring into being living things after their kind: Cattle and things that move upon the ground, and wild animals of the earth after their kind.” And it was so.

25 Then God made the wild animals of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and every thing that moves upon the ground after its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 2:1-3

1 So the heavens and the earth were completed, and all that is in them.

2 On the seventh day God ended His work which He had done. And He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

3 Then God honored the seventh day and made it holy, because in it He rested from all His work which He had done.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*Genesis 1-11: God Shows
His Power and Purpose*

Lesson 3: Creation Is God's Handiwork

Bible Text

Genesis 2:4-10, 15-17

Memory Verse

"We are His work. He has made us to belong to Christ Jesus so we can work for Him. He planned that we should do this." (Ephesians 2:10)

Word List

evolve: to change slowly into something different

mankind: all people, male and female

punish: to make someone suffer

relationship: the way in which two or more people, groups, countries, etc., talk to, behave toward, and deal with each other

temporary: not lasting forever

Genesis 1 is like an outline of creation. It tells the story from a far-away view. There are very few details in chapter 1. In chapter 2, the writer tells what happened in a story. It is a close-up view. We get details in the story that were not in the outline. God prepared a place for man to live close to Him. We learn things about God that were not clear in chapter 1. God made man like Himself so that

He could be close to us. God came close to us. He wants a **relationship** with us.

The Breath of Life (Genesis 2:4-7)

God had already formed light, waters, land, plants, and animal life. Plants were in place. They were watered by fog and rivers and streams. But there was no one to work in the garden.

The Lord God made man to be the worker in His garden. Both words in God's name here are important. God is our Creator, and we belong to Him. The Lord is our Master, and we obey Him.

Another way to say our memory verse is, "We are God's **handiwork**, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10, NIV). God's work of art is **mankind**. He had a purpose for us from the very beginning. And His purpose was beautiful and good.

God used the dust of the ground to form the body of the first man. This body is **temporary**. It came from dust. It will live, die, and return to dust. God came very close to the face of the first man. He breathed His own breath into the nose of the man. The word for God's breath is *spirit*. God's breath entered the man and something wonderful happened. Man received a soul that would live forever with God. His body would die

because it was made from the earth. But man's soul would live forever because it came from God's own breath.

Some people say that animals slowly changed into people. God's Word shows us that is not true. Man did not **evolve** from some other animal. God made man on purpose. He formed us with His own hands. He gave us life from His own Spirit. God created us to know Him and to work in His garden.

The Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:8-10)

We know that the Garden of Eden was a real place because Genesis 2:11-14 names the four rivers that flowed out of it. Today we know two of those rivers flow through Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. But we do not know exactly where Eden was.

There were many trees in the garden. They were beautiful trees. Man must have enjoyed looking at all the beauty of the garden. He could eat the fruit from many different trees. God provided plenty of food for mankind. What a wonderful life he had.

In the very center of the garden God put the tree of life. Man could see that beautiful tree every day as he worked in the garden.

But there was one other special tree. It was the tree of learning good and evil. Seeing and knowing are two different things. Knowing is a learning process that involves experience. We learn about something by

experiencing it. The man could always see everything in the garden. But he had not experienced evil yet. Learning meant he would make a choice to experience evil.

A Choice to Obey (Genesis 2:15-17)

God placed man in the Garden of Eden to work. Work was a part of God's plan from the beginning. It was not meant to **punish** him. It was a gift from God. Ecclesiastes 2:24 tells us that "there is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and find joy in his work. This is from the hand of God."

God still puts us in His world to work. We have work to do to take care of the earth God created. We are also called to show God's love to others. What a joyful job it must have been to work in that perfect garden.

God wanted to know that man loved and trusted Him. He gave him a perfect place to live, a joyful job to do, and only two rules: Work in the garden, and do not eat of the tree of learning of good and evil. God wanted man to love and trust Him willingly. He still wants us to love Him and trust Him.

But God didn't want the man to obey without understanding His command. So God explained why it was so important to obey. He told the man what would happen if the man ate from the tree of learning of good and evil. If he did not trust God enough to follow this one rule, he would surely die. The good and

holy life in the garden would end when he ate the fruit of that tree. He would know about good and evil because he chose to rebel against God's rules. More than his body would die. He would die in his sin because he would be separated from God.

Things to Remember

There are three important truths for us in this lesson. First, what God made is good. It is our job to take care of it. We should not question why God made things the way He did. He made everything good, and His ways are best.

Second, God made man to work in His world. We are the crown of all He created. He made us to do His work and to live close to Him. When we work for God, we take care of the earth. Our best work is to help others come to know Him, too. God is still calling for workers in His kingdom.

Third, our relationship with God is broken when we do not do things His way. God came close to man because He wants a relationship with us. But sin separates us from God. We cannot have God's wisdom when we are living a life of sin. We cannot know God's presence when sin separates us from God.

Things to Think About

1. Our bodies are not meant to last forever. How can this reminder help you to live your life?
2. What do you see in yourself that reminds you that you are made in God's likeness?
3. What does it mean that man is to rule over the animals God made?
4. What can you do this week to work in caring for the world God created?
5. What can you do to help others find a relationship with God?

Genesis 2:4-10

4 This is the story of the heavens and the earth when they were made, in the day the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

5 Now no bush of the field was yet on the earth. And no plant of the field had started to grow. For the Lord God had not sent rain upon the earth. And there was no man to work the ground.

6 But a fog came from the earth and watered the whole top of the ground.

7 Then the Lord God made man from the dust of the ground. And He breathed into his nose the breath of life. Man became a living being.

8 The Lord God planted a garden to the east in Eden. He put the man there whom He had made.

9 And the Lord God made to grow out of the ground every tree that is pleasing to the eyes and good for food. And He made the tree of life grow in the center of the garden, and the tree of learning of good and bad.

10 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden. And from there it divided and became four rivers.

Genesis 2:15-17

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work the ground and care for it.

16 The Lord God told the man, “You are free to eat from any tree of the garden.

17 But do not eat from the tree of learning of good and bad. For the day you eat from it you will die for sure.”

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*Genesis 1-11: God Shows
His Power and Purpose*

Lesson 4: God Creates Mankind

Bible Text

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25

Memory Verse

“For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother when he gets married and be joined to his wife. The two become one.” (Ephesians 5:31)

Word List

image: the likeness, form, or appearance of someone

innocent: not having experience with bad things

physical: something that can be seen and touched

social: relating to other people

spiritual: relating to a person’s spirit and God

steward: someone who takes care of something that belongs to someone else

My mother was very small with thick black hair and green eyes. She had tiny hands and feet. She enjoyed music. My mother loved to laugh and had many friends. My father was tall with blue eyes. His hands and feet were large, and he was strong. He loved to read and learn. When I was a child, I wasn’t sure if I was like either of my parents.

I thought I was just me. But today, I see that I am like both my parents. I have my father’s large hands and feet and my mother’s thick hair and green eyes. I even act like them. I love to laugh like my mother, and I love to read and learn like my father.

All human beings have the same Father. We are not all alike, but we are all like God. He did not make us little “gods.” He made us *like* God.

Created in God’s Image (Genesis 1:26-28)

God decided to make human beings to be like Himself. It was His choice. He said, “Let Us make man like us.” Do you wonder why He said that? Why would God say “Us” instead of “Me”? God was talking to His Spirit that moved over the waters in the beginning (Genesis 1:2). And He was also talking to His Son. Jesus was with God in the beginning (John 1:1-2). So God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit worked together to make man and woman. He made them to bear His **image**. He made them to be like Himself.

Every person on earth is made in the image of God. No matter if you are tall or small, God made you to be like Him. If you have black hair or blond hair, God made you in His image. If you are a man or a woman, God made you to have His nature.

He made us to be **stewards** of the

world He created. A steward does not own the land. He takes care of the land that belongs to someone else. Every one of us is a steward of God's world. We do not own it, but we take care of it for God. God made us **physical** to relate to His world.

God wanted a relationship with man. So He made us **spiritual** as well. God connects with us. He made us to need to connect with Him. We are the only ones in God's creation that can relate to Him that way.

God knew it would not be good for us to be alone. He made us to be **social** beings. We need one another. God invented families. He invented friendship and love between people. God made us to relate to one another.

Adam's First Choices (Genesis 2:18-20)

God gave Adam the job of taking care of the world and naming all the animals. To take care of the world, man needed to be able to make choices. We reflect God's nature because we decide things on our own. We are most like God when we do things the way He would do them. But we always have a choice. Animals do not make choices. They live the way God made them to live.

God gave us this blessing of freedom of choice so that we would be like Him. He did not have to do this. But we would not be like God if we could not choose for ourselves.

Adam's first big job was to name all the

animals. God had filled the skies and seas and the land with living beings. Now He had all the animals come to Adam. God let Adam name them whatever he wanted. He did not argue with Adam about the names. God trusted Adam's choices.

Adam must have seen that he was different from all the other animals. Only Adam could talk to God. He was the only one who did the work in God's garden. He was the only one that could make choices.

But God saw something that had to change. Verse 18 could be said this way: "It is not good for man to be alone, and it will never be good." Adam was made to relate to others. He must have seen the male and female of each kind of animal. He saw that they each had a mate, a helper. Adam was the only one that did not have a helper. He may have felt alone. Maybe he tried to get close to the animals. But they could not talk to him. He could not ask them what they wanted to be named. He could not share his plans with them. There was no one right for Adam.

God Creates a Helper (Genesis 2:21-25)

So God helped Adam. Psalm 33:20 says, "Our soul waits for the Lord. He is our help and our safe cover." It is God's nature to help us. The same word for *help* is used for Eve in Genesis and for God in Psalm 33. Eve was made to be like God because she was

Adam's helper. She was not Adam's slave. She would make the choice to help Adam.

God used the same material for Eve that He had used to make Adam. He took it from Adam's side. When Adam saw the woman, he said, "She is like me!" He must have been very happy with the helper God made for him. He could tell she belonged with him. So he gave her a name like his name. Man called her woman because she was made like him.

Then God explained Adam's new relationship. There is a strong bond between a husband and a wife. God said that the man should make a strong bond with one woman. In the Bible, marriage is like our relationship with God. We leave the world behind and make a strong bond with God. A man and woman are to be true to each other. God expects us to be true to Him and only Him. In marriage, we know things about each other that no one else knows. God knows us that

way. And He lets us know Him that way. We have only one Lord God. The man and woman were to become so close that they would be one. In this perfect garden the man and the woman had no shame. They had not yet learned about evil. They were **innocent**. They were naked, and it did not bother them.

Things to Remember

God made Adam and Eve special, different from all of His creation. He made them physical so they could relate to His world. He gave them His spiritual nature so they could relate to Him. Mankind was made by God to be social so that we can relate to each other. We have the freedom to choose how to live. We reflect God's nature when our choices honor Him.

Things to Think About

1. How do you see the image of God in yourself?
2. How do you see the image of God in others?
3. Who are some helpers in your life? Who are you helping?
4. How do others help you grow as a Christian?
5. What decisions are you making that reflect the image of God?
6. This week, what can you do to better reflect the image of God?

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man like Us and let him be head over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every thing that moves on the ground.”

27 And God made man in His own likeness. In the likeness of God He made him. He made both male and female.

28 And God wanted good to come to them, saying, “Give birth to many. Grow in number. Fill the earth and rule over it. Rule over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 2:18-25

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper that is right for him.”

19 Out of the ground the Lord God made every animal of the field and every bird of the sky. He brought them to the man to find out what he would call them. And whatever the man called a living thing, that was its name.

20 Adam gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every animal of the field. But there was no helper found that was right for Adam.

21 So the Lord God put the man to sleep as if he were dead. And while he was sleeping, He

took one of the bones from his side and closed up the place with flesh.

22 The Lord God made woman from the bone which He had taken from the man. And He brought her to the man.

23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She will be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother, and will be joined to his wife. And they will become one flesh.

25 The man and his wife were both without clothes and were not ashamed.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

Genesis 1-11: God Shows His Power and Purpose

Lesson 5: People Choose to Disobey

Bible Text

Genesis 3:1-7

Memory Verse

“This is what happened: Sin came into the world by one man, Adam. Sin brought death with it. Death spread to all men because all have sinned.” (Romans 5:12)

Word List

ashamed: feeling shame, guilt, and embarrassment

evil: things that are completely bad or harmful

purity: the absence of guilt or evil

tricky: likely to use dishonest ways

tempted: caused by someone to do something wrong, bad, or unwise

Stories are important in every culture around the world. Reading stories from around the world teaches us something interesting. Not every culture has the same stories. Even so, stories from around the world have many things in common. Many of these stories are written about common ideas. Some stories are about growing up. Some stories are about the forces of good and evil.

Some stories explain the world around us. Some stories tell about heroes. And some stories tell about gods and goddesses. Stories from around the world have another common idea. Many stories tell about man’s desire to be like a god. The Ancient Greeks told the story of Daedalus and his son, Icarus. Daedalus wanted to fly. Only the Greek gods could fly. Their story is a sad one. Icarus flew too high. He fell into the sea. Daedalus lost his son.

The Bible tells a true story. It is a story about God’s creation. God created the first people, Adam and Eve. He gave them some important rules. But Adam and Eve were **tempted** to disobey God. In their hearts, they wanted to have God’s power for themselves. They chose to go against God’s rules. They did not obey God. Instead, they chose to please themselves first. Their story has a sad ending.

A Tricky Enemy (Genesis 3:1-3)

The world God made was good. Adam and Eve knew God’s goodness. They knew He gave them food to eat (1:29). They knew He had filled the earth with life (1:28). He had given Adam and Eve to each other (2:22). And God wanted good things for the people he created (1:28).

But there has always been **evil** in the world. Evil always seeks to go against God.

As the story of creation unfolds, Adam and Eve face evil. The snake in the garden brought evil into their lives. The snake was a **tricky** animal. He was able to confuse people about the truth.

The snake tried to confuse Adam and Eve. And he did it in a very clever way. He asked a simple question. It was a question Adam and Eve were not expecting. It was a question that challenged God's rules. It was a question with an important answer. Eve did not understand how important this question would be. The snake asked, "Did God say that you should not eat from any tree in the garden?"

Eve was not totally prepared to answer the snake's question. God gave special rules about the tree in the middle of the garden. Maybe she did not pay careful attention to what God said. Maybe she had not thought about it enough. She remembered part of what God said about the tree. God told them not to eat from the tree. But God never said not to touch it.

Paying close attention to God is important. It is one way that we can be prepared to face evil. Every one of us is like Adam and Eve. Evil has a way of sneaking up on us. We are not always expecting it. We are not always prepared for it. We are not always watching out for evil. If we do not watch out for evil, we can be easily fooled.

A Twisted Truth (Genesis 3:4-5)

At first the snake had been tricky. But now, he changed the way he was talking to Eve. The snake had a bold reply to Eve's answer. He said, "No, you for sure will not die!" (v. 4). This was the opposite of what God said. The snake was calling God a liar! The conversation had changed. The snake had started with a simple question. Now the snake challenged God's words. He challenged God's honesty. And even more, the snake challenged God's goodness.

The snake went against God. He went against the words God said. Not only that, he led Eve to go against God, too. The snake led Eve to doubt God. He said to Eve, "God knows that...your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and bad" (v. 5). The snake's lies pointed Eve in the wrong direction. She began to question God. Could she really be like God? Could she know the things God knows? Was God trying to keep her from something good?

Eve failed to remember God's love. She failed to remember His goodness. She failed to remember how God provided her with all she needed. Adam was with her (3:6). He failed to remind her of the truth. Yes, God had made rules about the tree. That was true. But Adam and Eve forgot the whole truth. God has shown great love and care to Adam and Eve. He wanted good things for them. And

they forgot that. They began to believe the snake's lies.

Many people believe lies. It is easy to reject lies that are completely false. It is harder to see lies when they are mixed with a bit of truth. The snake mixed a truth with a lie. This was a dangerous trap laid for Adam and Eve. They had to decide what to believe. Their choice would determine their future.

The snake told Adam and Eve a twisted version of the truth. He knew they would not experience physical death right away if they ate the fruit. He did not tell the whole truth, though. He did not explain how disobeying God brings separation from Him. Separation from God is spiritual death. This is the death God warned about. Spiritual death leads to physical death. Through Adam and Eve's choice, death would enter God's good world.

Things to Think About

1. In talking to Eve, How did the snake cast doubt on God's goodness?
2. Why is it dangerous for people to decide for themselves what is good and bad?
3. Has believing a lie ever led you to a terrible loss?
4. What are some common ways that you are tempted to disobey God each day?
5. What are some ways you can be prepared to stand strong against evil?

A Foolish Choice (Genesis 3:6-7)

In response to the snake's words, Eve made two costly mistakes. First, she looked at the tree. She did not think of God's warning. Instead, she looked at what was in front of her. And she decided to trust what she could see. The fruit on the tree seemed good. The tree looked pleasing to her. Instead of trusting God's words, she trusted her own ideas.

Eve made a second mistake. She put her own desires first. She wanted to become wise like God. She knew only God was wise. She probably wondered why God had not given her this wisdom. She desired what she did not have. Instead of trusting God's words, she put her own desires first.

When offered the fruit, Adam made the same choice as Eve. The tricky snake succeeded in his plan. He led Adam and Eve to go against God. For the first time, people chose to disobey God.

Their choice brought important results. The snake said that Adam and Eve would know "good and bad" (v. 4). Adam and Eve had wanted to enjoy the good. When they chose to eat, they failed to think about the bad. Now they would experience the bad. Their choice meant that they had new knowledge. Now they knew they were naked and without clothes.

Their choice gave them knowledge that took away their **purity**. Their choice destroyed their joy. And for the first time, they felt guilty and **ashamed**. These were bad things. These were things God wanted to protect them from feeling. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God. By disobeying, they stepped outside the lines of His protection.

Things to Remember

God's words spoke the world into existence. His words bring life. Even His rules and restrictions bring life. God wants good things for His creation. But we must always remember there is evil in the world. Evil always goes against God. We must prepare to stand strong against evil. We must always trust God and his words.

When we choose to trust our own ideas, we choose death. When we choose to trust our own desires, we choose death. Obedience leads to life. Listen to God's instructions from Deuteronomy 30:19: "Choose life so you and your children after you may live." Choose to obey. Choose life!

Genesis 3:1-7

- 1 Now the snake was more able to fool others than any animal of the field which the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say that you should not eat from any tree in the garden?"
- 2 Then the woman said to the snake, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden.
- 3 But from the tree which is in the center of the garden, God has said, 'Do not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"
- 4 The snake said to the woman, "No, you for sure will not die!
- 5 For God knows that when you eat from it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and bad."
- 6 The woman saw that the tree was good for food, and pleasing to the eyes, and could fill the desire of making one wise. So she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave some to her husband, and he ate.
- 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were without clothes. So they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves clothing.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

Genesis 1-11: God Shows His Power and Purpose

Lesson 6: The Power of Choices

Bible Text

Genesis 3:8-24

Memory Verse

“The power of death was over all men because of the sin of one man, Adam.” (Romans 5:17a)

Word List

consequences: things that happen as a result of one’s actions or choices

innocence: the state of not being guilty

offspring: a person’s child

punished: making someone suffer for doing wrong things

My five-year-old daughter is not allowed in her sister’s room. She saw a snack in her sister’s room. She wanted the snack. So she decided to go in her sister’s room. She chose to disobey. She knew I would not be pleased with her actions. So she ran to her room and hid in her closet. She enjoyed nibbling on the chips while hiding from her sister and me.

A week later, I was in her closet putting away clothes. In the back of an empty

drawer, I found a half-eaten can of chips. Her sister had been looking for the missing snack for several days. Right away, I realized what my younger daughter had done.

She had chosen to disobey. She knew her actions were wrong. And she knew the **consequences** for disobeying. She knew she would be **punished**. So she chose to hide, thinking she could avoid punishment.

I came downstairs with the can in my hand. When my five-year-old daughter saw me, she began to cry. She knew she made a wrong choice. She felt the weight of her guilt. She knew I was not pleased. She knew the results of her choice would not be pleasant.

By most standards, her choice did not have serious consequences. But the results were definitely serious to her! She had to go to bed early and miss family movie night. And she had to buy her sister a new snack at the store. This meant she had to earn the money by doing extra chores.

She is learning that wrong choices bring guilt and punishment. She is also learning that right choices bring joy and peace. Now, at the end of the day, she often says, “Mommy, I made good choices today!” Her dad and I are glad she is learning this lesson at an early age. At any age, it is important to remember that disobedience only brings guilt and pain which lead to death.

Disobedience Brings Guilt

(Genesis 3:8-13)

Adam and Eve's eyes had been opened to good and evil. They knew they were naked. And they knew the evil they had done in disobeying God. They knew they were guilty. That is why they hid themselves.

God knew what they had done, too. He knows everything. Yet God did not send angry **punishment** to Adam and Eve right away. Instead, He came to them. He looked for them. He talked to them. His questions show that God has mercy and compassion. His first instincts are not to punish. His first instincts are to restore. He offered Adam and Eve a chance to confess their sin. He offered them a chance to ask for forgiveness.

Adam and Eve acknowledged what they had done. But they did not confess what was in their hearts. They did not admit that they had gone against God. They did not admit they had rebelled against God's rules. They did not admit they had given in to their own desires. They did not confess their wrong choices. Instead, Eve blamed the snake for fooling her. Adam blamed Eve for giving him the fruit. God offered them a second chance to do the right thing. But Adam and Eve clung to their sinful choices.

God does not hand out punishment lightly. He takes the punishment of sin seriously. He does not enjoy punishing

people He loves. He gives people the chance to confess. He wants to show mercy. He wants to show compassion. Like Adam and Eve, we often let the guilt of our sin keep us from God's kindness and goodness.

Disobedience Brings Punishment

(Genesis 3:14-19)

After Adam and Eve defended their sin, God spoke words of punishment. The snake became the lowest and most hated animal. A circle of hatred and conflict began between the snake and humans. This conflict represented a bigger struggle. The snake had brought evil and sin to Adam and Eve. They had chosen sin and changed God's world forever. Sin entered the world. A new struggle began. Adam and Eve's sin released the powerful force of evil in the world. The struggle against sin continues to this very day.

Eve received her punishment next. God had told her to give birth to many children. He wanted them to fill the earth and enjoy His creation. Now, this would come with extra pain. God also pointed to the effects sin would have on Adam and Eve's relationship. Their desires would clash. There would be conflict between them.

Adam received God's punishment, too. Adam's would not be able to enjoy God's goodness with ease. He would have to work hard for his food. The food would not grow

without much effort. The ground would work against him. His work would be difficult. He would trade pleasure and ease for heavy labor. Life would be a struggle.

Disobedience Brings Separation (Genesis 3:20-24)

God's perfect plan had been broken. Although Adam and Eve's sin brought punishment, God's purposes still stood. God had commanded them to "give birth to many" and "grow in number" (1:28). So Adam named his wife Eve, which comes from a Hebrew word. It means *to breathe* or *to live*. The name Adam gave his wife expressed confidence that God would give them many children. Their **offspring** would fill the earth.

God's would fulfill His purposes. He would keep providing for their needs. He replaced their fig leaves with clothes that would last. But things were different for Adam and Eve now. In the garden, sin

replaced **innocence**, trust, and obedience. God feared that sin might lead them to eat from the tree of life. If Adam and Eve lived forever, the curse of sin would live on in them. God wanted to end the curse of sin. He wanted to make all things new again. He sent Adam and Eve away from the garden. They lost the closeness they had with God in the garden. The curse of sin had separated God and man.

Things to Remember

Adam and Eve's choice had changed the course of history. But God's purposes did not end with their choice. God's plan to end sin's curse brought a life different from what Adam and Eve had known. Their broken relationship with God affected their whole life. It affected where they lived. It affected their work. It affected their roles as husband and wife. It would even affect their children.

Sin is a powerful force. It brings more consequences than we think. It affects us more than we expect. It affects the lives of others more than we expect. When we choose sin, we choose the consequences. These are not the things God wants for us.

In the midst of sin, God's purposes still stand strong. When people choose sin and death, God chooses goodness and life. He loves us. He will bring us back to Himself at any cost. He will make a way. He will bring life. He will make things new.

Things to Think About

1. Why did Adam and Eve try to hide from God in the garden?
2. How do we see God's mercy and compassion toward Adam and Eve in today's Bible text?
3. Who was affected by Adam and Eve's sinful choices?
4. In what ways have Adam and Eve's punishments affected people in today's world?
5. Adam and Eve tried to hide their sin from God. How do people today try to hide from God?

Genesis 3:8-24

8 Then they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the evening. The man and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

9 But the Lord God called to the man. He said to him, “Where are you?”

10 And the man said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden. I was afraid because I was without clothes. So I hid myself.”

11 The Lord God said, “Who told you that you were without clothes? Have you eaten from the tree of which I told you not to eat?”

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

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The snake fooled me, and I ate.”

14 Then the Lord God said to the snake, “Because you have done this, you will be hated and will suffer more than all cattle, and more than every animal of the field. You will go on your stomach and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

15 And I will make you and the woman hate each other, and your seed and her seed will hate each other. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.”

16 To the woman He said, “I will make your pain much worse in giving birth. You will give birth to children in pain. Yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

17 Then He said to Adam, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I told you, “Do not eat from it,” the ground is cursed because of you. By hard work you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

18 It will grow thorns and thistles for you. You will eat the plants of the field.

19 You will eat bread by the sweat of your face because of hard work, until you return to the ground, because you were taken from the ground. You are dust, and you will return to dust.”

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

21 And the Lord God made clothes of skins for Adam and his wife, and dressed them.

22 Then the Lord God said, “See, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and bad. Now then, he might put out his hand to take from the tree of life also, and eat and live forever.”

23 So the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to work the ground from which he was taken.

24 So He drove the man out. And He placed cherubim east of the garden of Eden with a sword of fire that turned every way. They kept watch over the path to the tree of life.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*Genesis 1-11: God Shows
His Power and Purpose*

Lesson 7: God Warns Against Sin

Bible Text

Genesis 4:1-16

Memory Verse

“...Sin is waiting to destroy you. Its desire is to rule over you, but you must rule over it.”

(Genesis 4:7b)

Word List

jealousy: an unhappy or angry feeling of wanting what someone else has

missionaries: people who leave their home and go away to tell others about Jesus

pride: a feeling that you are more important than other people

A married couple was invited to help lead a meeting for **missionaries**. The husband and wife wanted a creative way to teach the missionaries. They thought about the important ideas they wanted to teach. They decided on a plan to work as a team. The wife wrote short skits and songs for her husband to perform. The husband performed her work on stage in front of many people. The people loved how he acted and sang. The skits and

songs helped them learn important things. The husband and wife were excited about the way God used them.

At the end of the meeting, the group’s leader spoke from the stage. He invited the husband to come on stage, too. He thanked the husband for all his acting and singing. He praised the husband’s efforts and hard work. The husband felt honored. But the wife felt ignored. Her hard work was not seen by others. She was very upset that her time and talents were not honored, too.

Over the next few hours, she became more and more angry. Her anger started to show in her actions. Her words became harsh and mean. Her husband wondered what was wrong. Near the end of the evening, the wife began to change her attitude.

God began to show her something important. She was acting with a lot of **pride** in her heart. She was focusing on herself too much. She was not focusing on God. She was not focusing on the way he had blessed her with many talents to share. Instead, she was focusing on the honor and attention she felt she deserved.

The wife was a wise woman who loved the Lord. When she realized the sin in her heart, she asked God to forgive her. She asked her husband to forgive her, too. From reading the Bible, she understood God’s many warnings about sin. She knew that if she let

sin grow in her heart, it could lead to bad things.

If she did not confess her sin to God, things would get much worse. Her heart could become covered with **jealousy**, greed, and hatred. Eventually, she might even act on those feelings to harm others. She might try to hurt the people who ignored her work. She might even try to hurt her husband, who received more attention than she did. That is how sin works. It starts in the heart, but it leads to wrong actions.

Two Different Brothers (Genesis 4:1-4)

Genesis 4 continues to tell the story of Adam and Eve. Their life outside the garden kept going. Adam and Eve had children. But life was less than what God had wanted for them. They continued to struggle with sin. Sin kept trying to pull them away from God. Sin began to affect their children, too. Indeed, their whole family would become tangled in the struggle against sin.

Two of Adam and Eve's sons are mentioned in Genesis 4. The older son, Cain, worked in the fields to grow food like his dad. The younger son, Abel, worked to take care of animals, especially the sheep. The boys were different in other ways, too.

Their offerings to God were different. Cain brought some of the fruit he had grown. Abel brought a carefully selected lamb from

his flock. Abel's gift was special. He brought the best gift he could offer. He brought the first sheep born in his flock. He brought the best and most valuable meat from the sheep. Abel went out of his way to give his best offering to God. On the other hand, Cain gave an ordinary gift. He did not give his best.

A Heart Problem (Genesis 4:5-7)

God knew something important about the brothers' offerings. What they gave showed what was in their hearts. Abel had a heart that wanted to please God greatly. His desire to please God led him to give something valuable. His offering was a great sacrifice. It was the best of his possessions.

In contrast, Cain's offering was not the best of all his crop. He simply gathered *some* of the fruit from the field. Apparently, Cain did not select a special portion for the Lord. His gift showed that he was not seeking to please God with all his heart. He was content to simply gather some fruit in the usual course of his work. Cain offered something that was far less valuable to him than Abel's sheep.

When God saw this, "He had no respect for Cain and his gift" (v. 5). Cain felt God's disappointment. Maybe he felt his offering had been overlooked. Maybe he felt that the Lord owed him some kind of honor. Instead of focusing on what pleases God, Cain

focused on himself. He became very angry with God.

Cain made a big mistake. He let pride take over his heart. God saw the sin in Cain's heart. So God went to Cain. This is the same thing God did when Adam and Eve sinned (3:8). God questioned Cain like he questioned Adam and Eve (3:9, 11). He asked Cain about his anger. He wanted Cain to look in his own heart. He wanted Cain to confess his sin. But Cain hardened his heart. God warned Cain about the danger of sin. If Cain did not let go of his pride, sin would destroy him.

A Hardened Heart (Genesis 4:8-12)

Cain clearly rejected God's warning. The sin in Cain's heart led to violent actions. Cain killed his brother. Again God came to Cain. Again God questioned Cain. But Cain did not confess his sin to God. He did not take responsibility for the wrong things he had done. So Cain was punished for his sin.

Things to Think About

1. Why was Cain angry with Abel?
2. How do anger, jealousy, and pride affect our attitudes toward God and others?
3. How have wrong attitudes in your own heart led to wrong actions in your life?
4. How can we begin to recognize sin in our hearts more quickly?
5. Describe a time when you experienced God's grace and forgiveness after confessing your sin to Him.

His work would be harder than ever. In addition, Cain was sent away from his home.

A Broken Relationship (Genesis 4:13-16)

This punishment made Cain harden his heart even more. He argued that his punishment was too hard (v. 13). While Cain's punishment was hard, God still offered Cain his protection (v. 15). This shows that even in punishment, God showed his love and care for Cain. But Cain purposely ran away from God's presence (v. 14, 16). He refused to seek forgiveness from God. He refused to humble himself. He refused to come back to God.

Things to Remember

Anger took over Cain's heart. A sinful heart takes over when people do not confess their sins. A sinful heart will lead to sinful actions. Sinful actions separate us from God's presence. Hanging onto our sin will only bring punishment and pain. It will only bring sorrow and regret.

God warned Cain about all the ways sin could destroy him. But Cain did not listen. He wanted his anger and pride more than he wanted God's presence in his life. Cain's story is a warning for us. Uncontrolled sin can lead to violence. It can lead to much pain and suffering. But God always offers us a chance to return to Him. He does not want sin to destroy us. He wants us to come back to Him.

Genesis 4:1-16

1 The man lay with his wife Eve and she was going to have a child and she gave birth to Cain. She said, “I have given birth to a man with the help of the Lord.”

2 Next she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was one who worked the ground.

3 The day came when Cain brought a gift of the fruit of the ground to the Lord.

4 But Abel brought a gift of the first-born of his flocks and of the fat parts. The Lord showed favor to Abel and his gift.

5 But He had no respect for Cain and his gift. So Cain became very angry and his face became sad.

6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why are you looking down?

7 Will not your face be happy if you do well? If you do not do well, sin is waiting to destroy you. Its desire is to rule over you, but you must rule over it.”

8 Cain told this to his brother Abel. And when they were in the field, Cain stood up against his brother Abel and killed him.

9 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

10 The Lord said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground.

11 Now you are cursed because of the

ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.

12 When you work the ground, it will no longer give its strength to you. You will always travel from place to place on the earth.”

13 Then Cain said to the Lord, “I am being punished more than I can take!

14 See, this day You have made me go away from the land. And I will be hidden from Your face. I will run away and move from place to place. And whoever finds me will kill me.”

15 So the Lord said to him, “Whoever kills Cain will be punished by Me seven times worse.” And the Lord put a mark on Cain so that any one who found him would not kill him.

16 Then Cain went away from the face of the Lord, and stayed in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*Genesis 1-11: God Shows
His Power and Purpose*

Lesson 8: Living the Right Way

Bible Text

Genesis 6

Memory Verse

“Noah did just what God told him to do.”
(Genesis 6:22)

Word List

chaos: confusion and disorder

devotion: a feeling of strong love or loyalty

inventions: new ideas, devices, or processes

preserve: to keep safe

telegraph: an old way of sending messages over long distances by using wires and electric sounds and signals

Modern technology has given us amazing ways to connect with each other. We can send instant text messages or emails. We can call and talk to people around the world. We can even make a video call so that we can see and hear the person we are calling. Before these modern **inventions**, people communicated differently. One way people sent messages was by **telegraph**.

During the time of telegraphs, one telegraph company was looking to hire new

workers. They posted an ad in the paper. One man came to see about the job at this company. The man noticed five others in the waiting room when he arrived. The waiting room was busy and noisy. It was full of noise from machines in the office.

A short time passed. The man stood up and walked into the manager’s office. A couple of minutes later, something happened. The manager came out of the office with the man. He announced that he had given the job to this man. The others in the waiting area were confused. Why had this man gotten the job? The manager explained. The whole time they were in the waiting area, a telegraph message was repeating. The message said: “If you are here for the job, come into the manager’s office. The job is yours.” Only one man heard and understood the message.

The world is very noisy like that waiting room. Every day is filled with people and work and news and problems. In the middle of life’s **chaos**, God is talking to people. But people are not always listening. This is how it was in the days of Noah. God was speaking, but no one was listening. Only Noah heard and obeyed God’s voice.

The Spread of Sin (Genesis 6:1-7)

From Genesis 4 to Genesis 6, the struggle with sin continued. Adam and Eve had children. Their children had more

children. People filled the earth. This is what God wanted (1:28). But not everything was the way God wanted it. Sin also filled up the earth. Adam and Eve chose sin in the garden (2:6). From that time, sin only increased on the earth.

Sin spread so much that every “thought of the heart of man was sinful always” (v. 5). Things were very different from the time God created the earth. In the beginning, God “saw all that He had made and it was very good” (1:31). But things had changed. Now, God “was sorry that He had made man on the earth. He had sorrow in His heart” (v. 6). God’s great joy in creation was replaced by great sadness.

God’s deep sadness shows his deep feelings for the people He created. His deep sadness is proof of His deep love for people. God has an honest, real relationship with humans. God’s strong feelings are a sign of how important people are to Him.

The Faith of Noah (Genesis 6:8-12)

In the middle of a dark, sinful world, one man stood out. God saw one man who lived differently. Noah was “without blame in his time” because he “walked with God” (v. 9). Sin was everywhere. Many people were hurting each other. But Noah lived the right way. He lived in a way that pleased God.

Noah found favor in God’s eyes. In

Noah, God saw a man who did not go against Him. In Noah, God saw the way He wanted things to be. He enjoyed fellowship with Noah. He talked to Noah, and Noah obeyed God’s words. Their relationship was not broken by sin. Instead, it was marked by love and obedience. God had Noah’s whole heart. And Noah knew God’s loving-kindness.

Noah brought God great joy. But Noah’s **devotion** may have reminded God of other things. It might have reminded God how sin had destroyed so many good things. It might have reminded God of his first hopes for creation. It might have reminded God of all that had been lost to sin. Finally, God decided He must take action against sin.

The Plan of God (Genesis 6:13-22)

God knew Noah could be trusted to obey Him. So God included Noah in his plan to act against sin. God’s plan must have frightened Noah. A plan to end the human race? That kind of destruction would bring fear to anyone. In the midst of his fear, Noah trusted God. Even though he did not understand everything, Noah did what God said.

God told Noah very little. He only gave instructions for building the boat. Noah must have had many unanswered questions. When would this happen? Would the boat be big enough? What would his friends think of his

work? How would he get the materials that were needed? How could he do such a big job by himself? But Noah's questions did not keep him from obeying God. He followed all of God's instructions. He built the boat, the windows, the roof, the floor, and the door. He built them just how God said.

Through it all, Noah clung tightly to God's promise. God made a special agreement with Noah. The boat would hold Noah and his family. The boat would keep them safe. God would use the boat to hold a male and female of every kind of animal. God would use the boat to hold every kind of food. Everything in the boat would be safe from harm. In this way, Noah and his family could live after the flood. In this way, God would start new life on the earth again. This was the agreement God made with Noah. Noah trusted God, so he placed his faith in God's plan. Noah's faith led him to obey all of God's words.

Things to Think About

1. What things make noise in your life and keep you away from hearing God's voice?
2. What most often keeps you from obeying the things God says to do?
3. When was the last time you obeyed God in the middle of your fears and questions?
4. Does the way you live stand out in this sinful world like Noah's way of living?
5. How does your sin affect the heart of God?

Things to Remember

Like Noah, we find ourselves surrounded by sin in this world. A quick look at the news shows that things in the world are bad. The world is filled with people who are hurting each other. There are many wars all over the world. Evil people do evil things in every part of the world. Surely God is deeply saddened by the sinful things that happen everywhere. He longs for the people He created to be free from sin. He longs for the people He created to turn back to Him.

But there is good news in this dark world. God is still speaking to people, even if many choose not to listen. Noah's life is an example for us. God sees when people choose to live the right way. God notices when people walk closely with Him. God is pleased when people keep away from sin.

These are God's people. These people find favor with God. These are the people God uses to make His plans happen. These are the people God **preserves**. These are the people with whom God makes a special agreement. Even today, God is looking for these kind of people. Listen for God's voice and obey Him. Follow Noah's example, and find God's loving-favor.

Genesis 6

1 When men became many in number on the earth, and daughters were born to them,
 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful. And they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.
 3 Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not stay in man forever, for he is flesh. But yet he will live for 120 years.”
 4 Very large men were on the earth in those days, and later also, when the sons of God lived with the daughters of men, who gave birth to their children. These were the powerful men of long ago, men of much strength.
 5 Then the Lord saw that man was very sinful on the earth. Every plan and thought of the heart of man was sinful always.
 6 The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth. He had sorrow in His heart.
 7 So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have made from the land, man and animals, things that move upon the earth and birds of the sky. For I am sorry that I have made them.”
 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.
 9 This is the story of Noah and his family. Noah was right with God. He was without blame in his time. Noah walked with God.
 10 And Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
 11 Now the earth was sinful in the eyes of God. The earth was filled with people hurting each other.
 12 God looked at the earth and saw how sinful it was. For all who lived on the earth had become

sinful in their ways.

13 Then God said to Noah, “I have decided to make an end to all the people on the earth. They are the cause of very much trouble. See, I will destroy them as I destroy the earth.

14 Make a large boat of gopher wood for yourself. Build rooms in the boat. And cover it inside and out with tar.

15 This is how you are to make it: The boat is to be as long as 150 long steps, as wide as twenty-five long steps, and eight times taller than a man.

16 Make a window for the boat, that goes down a cubit from the roof. Put a door in the side of the boat. And make it with first, second, and third floors.

17 See, I will bring a flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh under heaven that has the breath of life. Everything on earth will be destroyed.

18 But I will make My agreement with you. You will go into the large boat, you and your sons and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.

19 You are to bring into the large boat two of every kind of living thing of all flesh, to keep them alive with you. They will be male and female.

20 Two of all the kinds of birds, and animals, and every thing that moves on the ground are to be with you to keep them alive.

21 And take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it. It will be food for you and for them.”

22 Noah did just what God told him to do.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

Genesis 1-11: God Shows His Power and Purpose

Lesson 9: Judgment and Promise

Bible Text

Genesis 7:1, 13-24; 8:1-5, 13-16, 20-22

Memory Verse

"I will never again destroy every living thing as I have done." (Genesis 8:21b)

Word List

authority: power to make decisions or rule over people

basement: part of a building that is totally underground

judgment: to declare that something is right or wrong

tornado: a violent and destructive storm with powerful winds that go around in a circle

A young married couple lived in Texas. One night, a strong storm came through their neighborhood. The storm produced a **tornado**. The tornado destroyed their home, their car, and all their belongings. The young man was at home that night. When he heard the storm, he ran for shelter. He hid in the **basement** of his home. He was afraid he would die. He prayed to God. God kept him

safe. God saved his life.

Though everything was destroyed, the man lived. The man and his wife never forgot God's goodness. It changed the rest of their lives. After the storm, they kept thanking God for His protection. They lived grateful lives. They were never the same.

In some ways, Noah's story is like this couple's story. Noah was surrounded by destruction. God kept Noah and his family safe. When the danger was over, God gave them a new life. Noah and his family had a chance to start over. They gave thanks to God.

Preparing for Judgment

(Genesis 7:1, 13-16)

All the men on earth were filled with sin. God planned to act in **judgment** against sin. Every living thing on earth would be destroyed. Of all men on earth, God was only pleased with Noah. God would act against sin. But God would save Noah. God made a special agreement with Noah (6:18). And Noah did everything God said (7:5).

Noah's obedience honored God. And Noah's obedience blessed his family. Because Noah lived the right way, his whole family would be saved (v. 13). God sent a flood to destroy the earth (7:12). But first, God made sure Noah was safe. Noah had faithfully built a large boat exactly the way God said. Noah

and his family entered the boat exactly the way God told them. They brought with them the exact animals God told them to bring. And God shut them inside the boat. It was God's power that shut them inside.

God has all power. God was in control of everything that happened. He was in control of the boat. He was in control of the coming judgment. And through his obedience, Noah had placed his life under God's control. There is no safer place to be than under God's **authority**.

The Flood of Judgment (Genesis 7:17-24)

The rains began. The water got deeper and deeper. The boat rose to float on top the water. For 40 days, things got worse and worse. There was nowhere for people to hide. Even the tops of the mountains slipped under the water. Every life on earth was lost.

God's creation had been destroyed by sin. God always acts against sin. God does not allow sin to go on forever. He does not allow it because He knows that sin leads to death. This was true for Adam and Eve. It was true for Cain. Now the whole world had seen this was true. God judges sin. Nothing can stand against God's judgment.

The flood lasted 150 days on the earth. God's anger against sin is a strong force. It brings lasting effects. The crushing power of God's judgment did not go away quickly.

During that fearful time, Noah stayed safe in the large boat.

A New Beginning (Genesis 8:1-5, 13-16)

Genesis 8:1 marks a turning point in these events. "God remembered Noah" (v. 1). This does not mean that God had forgotten about Noah. In the middle of the storm and the violence, God never forgot Noah. Instead, these words show that God was thinking of Noah constantly. His eyes were on Noah all the time. God sees those who live rightly. God watched over Noah and kept him safe, just like He promised.

Noah was safe, but he was still surrounded by death and danger. These were not easy times. God's protection does not always take us out of hard times. God's protection does not always remove fearful things from our lives. Noah was shielded from God's judgment while he was in the middle of it.

Noah and his family had to wait for God's judgment to pass. As they waited, they had to continue trusting God's plan. They had to keep living by faith. They had to keep obeying God's words. Many of God's faithful people have gone through times of waiting. Job waited for God to restore his life. David waited to become king. Joseph waited to become a great ruler. And Moses had to wait to enter the land God gave Israel. Obedience

is always important. But it can be especially important during times of waiting.

Obedience always brings blessing. And God blessed Noah's family greatly after the flood. He gave them a new life. Before the world was filled with sin. Now they lived in a world that was made clean from sin. It was a new beginning for creation. God told Noah the same thing He told Adam and Eve. He said, "Give birth and become many on the earth" (8:17). These words show that God wanted to fill the earth with good things again.

A New Promise (Genesis 8:20-22)

Noah and his family were grateful to God. They were thankful for a new start and a new life. They rejoiced that God had kept them safe. They celebrated that God had kept His agreement with Noah. Their hearts were

Things to Think About

1. When was the last time you felt you were in the middle of a flood? What happened?
2. How can you follow the example of Noah?
3. Can you tell about a time when your obedience brought blessings to other people?
4. Noah and his family experienced God's deliverance from destruction. In what ways has God worked in your life to keep you safe in the middle of danger?
5. In what ways has God given you new life?
6. Noah gave a burnt gift as an offering to God. Why was this appropriate? What can you give to God?

glad because of God's goodness. They showed what was in their hearts by worshiping God. They made an altar. They gave burnt gifts and offerings to God.

Again, God was watching Noah. And again, Noah's actions were pleasing to God. It also pleased God to make another promise to Noah. God promised to never again destroy the whole earth. This was an important promise. It showed that judgment would never have the final word. God's anger and judgment do not last forever. He wants to show love and kindness to people.

Things to Remember

The world today is much like the days of Noah. Sin and violence are everywhere. Where there is sin, there is judgment. For those who live the right way, God promises His love, care and protection. These are the blessings of obedience. God's protection does not mean that He will remove us from all danger. It does not mean that we will be spared from all harm. It means that God saves us from the judgment of sin. It means we have the promise of new life like Noah.

What should our response be to God? Like Noah, we can offer Him a thankful heart. We can live our life as an offering to Him. His promises win out over judgment. It is right to worship and praise Him with your whole life!

Genesis 7:1, 13-24, 8:5, 13-16, 20-22

1 Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the boat, you and all your family. For I have seen that you only are right and good at this time.

.....

13 On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, all went into the large boat.

14 With them went every kind of animal, and all the cattle, and every thing that moved on the earth, and every kind of bird.

15 They went into the large boat with Noah, two of every living thing.

16 Male and female of all flesh went in as God had told Noah. Then the Lord shut him in.

17 The flood came upon the earth for forty days. The water got deeper and raised up the large boat so that it was lifted above the earth.

18 The water was very deep upon the earth. And the boat stayed upon the top of the water.

19 The water got higher and higher upon the earth until all the high mountains under heaven were covered.

20 But the water went about four times taller than a man above the tops of the mountains.

21 All flesh that moved on the earth was destroyed, birds and cattle and wild animals, and every man.

22 Every thing that had the breath of life and lived on dry land died.

23 God destroyed every living thing upon the land, from man to animals, from things that moved upon the ground to birds of the sky. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the large boat.

24 And the water covered the earth for 150 days. But God remembered Noah and all the

wild animals and all the cattle that were with him in the large boat.

.....

8:1 Then God made a wind blow over the earth until the water went down.

2 Also the wells of water under the earth and the windows of the heavens were shut. And it stopped raining.

3 The water kept moving away from the earth. At the end of 150 days the water was less.

4 And in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the large boat came to rest on Mount Ararat.

5 The water kept on going down until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains could be seen.

.....

13 In the year 601, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the water was dried up from the earth. Then Noah took the covering off the large boat, and looked out and saw that the earth was dry.

14 In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the ground was dry.

15 Then God said to Noah,

16 "Go out of the boat, you and your wife and your sons and your sons' wives with you.

.....

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord. He took of every clean animal and every clean bird, and gave burnt gifts in worship on the altar.

21 Then the Lord smelled a pleasing smell. And the Lord said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of man. For the desire of man's heart is sinful from when he is young. I will never again destroy every living thing as I have done.

22 While the earth lasts, planting time and gathering time, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not end."

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

Genesis 1-11: God Shows His Power and Purpose

Lesson 10: God's New Agreement

Bible Text

Genesis 9:1-17

Memory Verse

"See, I make My agreement with you, and with your children after you..." (Genesis 9:9)

Word List

extravagant: more than is usual, necessary, or proper

familiar: frequently seen, heard, or experienced
generation: a group of people born and living during the same time

legends: a story from the past that is believed by many people but cannot be proved to be true

A rainbow in the sky is a beautiful sight. The colors of a rainbow makes us stop and realize the wonder of God's creation. Little children love to draw pictures of rainbows. There are stories and songs about rainbows, too. In some stories, a rainbow leads to a magical land. In other stories, a pot of gold waits on the other side of a rainbow.

None of these stories are true. They are just **legends**. Science explains the truth about

rainbows. Rainbows are a vibrant display of light. Rainbows form when sunlight and water combine in a certain way. Something happens when a beam of light passes through a drop of water. The light separates into different colors we can see. A rainbow is one of God's special creations.

The Bible tells us even more about rainbows. The Book of Genesis explains why rainbows are important symbols to God. He did this after the flood in the time of Noah. A rainbow is a visible reminder of an important truth. The real beauty of a rainbow can be found in the special meaning God gave it.

God's Design and Order Restored (Genesis 9:1-7)

The flood of God's judgment filled the earth with water. This is how the earth was in the beginning of time. It had no form or shape. "The earth was an empty waste and darkness was over the deep waters" (Genesis 1:1). In many ways, the flood of God's judgment was a return to the beginning. God was giving the world a new start. The world was beginning again.

God's words to Noah after the flood are **familiar**. They are the same kind of words He said to Adam and Eve in the beginning. God wanted good things for Adam and Eve (1:28). He also wanted good to come to Noah (v. 1). God wanted Adam and Eve to have children

and fill the earth with people (1:28). God also said this to Noah (v. 1). God placed the earth under Adam and Eve's control (1:28). God put Noah in charge of His world after the flood (v. 2). God also gave Adam and Eve plants for food (1:29). He did the same for Noah (v. 3).

God had only given one rule to Adam and Eve. He told them they should “not eat from the tree of learning of good and bad” (2:17). God knew that this tree would bring the curse of sin. Choosing to eat from the tree would mean that Adam and Eve would decide for themselves what was good and bad. Then they could decide to go against God. They could seek life apart from God. They would be separated from Him. This was the curse of sin.

In the days of Noah, the curse of sin was already in the world. Sin brought pain and suffering into the world. Sin caused people to hurt one another. So God needed to give Noah more rules than Adam and Eve had in the beginning.

These rules were needed because the curse of sin had already entered Noah's world. The curses of sin brings death. Just like it did to Cain's brother Abel. So now God gave rules to protect life. Life is valuable to God. We must remember that every person's life is precious to God. We must defend and protect life in the same way God does. God made this very plain as He gave the world a new start.

God's Agreement with Creation (Genesis 9:8-11)

Before the flood, God made an agreement with Noah (6:18). God agreed to save Noah because Noah's heart and actions were right. Now, God made a bigger agreement. This agreement was not just between God and Noah. This agreement was made between God and his whole creation. The agreement was for Noah and every **generation** after him (v. 9). This agreement is still true today.

God promised to limit his judgment against sin. As long as the earth continued, God promised not to destroy it “by the water of a flood” (v. 11). There would “never again be a flood to destroy the earth” (v. 11). God's did not place any conditions on His promise. No human action could change His great promise. This promise would stand to show God's **extravagant** love for people regardless of their sinful acts. No matter how deep into sin the world may fall, God's love is even deeper. His special agreement proves this is true.

God's Special Sign of Agreement (Genesis 9:12-17)

This agreement was an important marker in the relationship between God and man. The agreement is mentioned five times in Genesis 9:12-17. Such an important

agreement must be remembered. God wanted every generation of people to remember His promise. So God planned a special way for people to remember.

After the flood, people surely were afraid when it would rain. Storm clouds probably reminded them of God's flood of judgment. They would remember the time when water covered the earth. They would remember all that was destroyed. They would remember all that was lost. Yes, God had promised never to flood the earth again. But it might be hard for people to let go of their fear.

God gave a special sign to remind people that they did not need to fear. When storm clouds gathered, He would shine His light through the rain clouds. This would make an arc of color in the sky. The arc would be shaped like a warrior's bow. The colorful *bow* would shine through the rain. In the middle of fearful storms, a *rainbow* would

remind people of God's beautiful promise. Now, instead of thinking about judgment, people could remember the hope of God's amazing promise.

Things to Remember

God's agreement with the world is unlike anything before or since. His promise still stands. It shows His faithfulness to all people everywhere. It shows his loving kindness toward all He has created. It shows that He is good and deserves our trust.

Sometimes in life, we find ourselves in the middle of stormy times. When hard things happen, we may wonder if God loves us.

When we face problems, we may think God has forgotten His promises. When we have bad times, we may fear God has left us. God knows we have these questions, fears, and worries.

We must always remember how God made an agreement with His creation. It is a never-ending promise. It is a promise that proves his love and care for you and me. It is a promise that carries His love to every generation. It is a promise we can trust because the God of Noah is faithful to all His creation.

Things to Think About

1. How do you feel when you see a rainbow?
2. Why did God give His creation the chance for a new beginning?
3. Why did God make a new agreement with Noah after the flood?
4. How is God's special agreement different from other agreements in the world?
5. Why is a rainbow an appropriate reminder of God's promise to never again destroy the world in a flood?

Genesis 9:1-17

1 God made good come to Noah and his sons, and said to them, “Have many children, and cover the earth.

2 Every animal of the earth, every bird of the sky, everything that moves on the ground, and all the fish of the sea will be afraid of you.

They are given into your hand.

3 Every moving thing that lives will be food for you. I give all to you as I gave you the green plants.

4 But you must not eat meat with blood in it because that is its life.

5 For sure, I will take the life of every animal and every person for taking a life. I will punish every man’s brother for taking the life of man.

6 Whoever takes the life of a man will have his life taken. For God made man to be like Him.

7 As for you, have many children. Cover the earth with many people.”

8 Then God said to Noah and his sons,

9 “See, I make My agreement with you, and with your children after you,

10 and with every living thing that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every animal of the earth, of all that came out of the large boat, every living thing on earth.

11 I make My agreement with you, that never again will all flesh be destroyed by the water of a flood. There will never again be a flood to destroy the earth.”

12 Then God said, “This is something special to see for all time, because of the agreement that I am making between Me and you and every living thing that is with you:

13 I will set My rain-bow in the cloud, and it will be something special to see because of an agreement between Me and the earth.

14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the rain-bow is seen in the clouds,

15 I will remember My agreement that is between Me and you and every living thing of all flesh. Never again will the water become a flood to destroy all flesh.

16 When the rain-bow is in the cloud, I will look upon it to remember the agreement that will last forever between God and every living thing of all flesh that is on the earth.”

17 God said to Noah, “This is the special thing to see because of the agreement I have made between Me and all flesh upon the earth.”

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

Genesis 1-11: God Shows His Power and Purpose

Lesson 11: God: The Father of All Nations

Bible Text
Genesis 10

Memory Verse

“These are the families of the sons of Noah. From these family groups, nations were spread over the earth after the flood.” (Genesis 10:32)

Word List

ancestor: a relative that lived a long time ago. A person’s parents are descendants of such a relative

descendant: a child, grandchild, and so on

Table of Nations: the list of the families of Noah’s sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth

What do you know about your grandparents and their grandparents before them? Some people spend a lot of time studying about their **ancestors**. Others know very little. Our lesson today starts with a new part of Genesis. This is a list of the people who were starting again after the flood. We learn how God took one family to make all the people of the world. His love and blessings are intended for all people everywhere.

The list of people in Genesis 10 shows how the grandsons of Noah (the sons of Shem, Ham, and Japheth) went to different places.

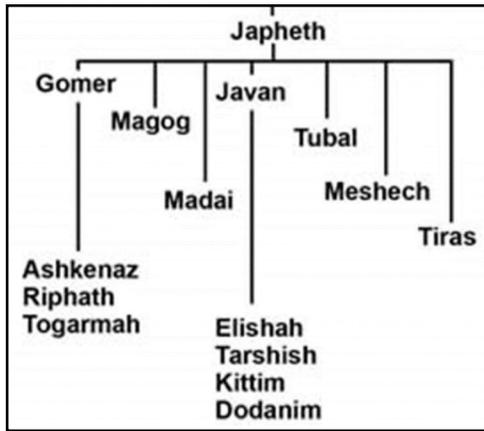
Look at the verses. Try to count the names of Noah’s family. The list contains 70 names. This is an important number in the Bible. It comes from two numbers: 7, which means perfect, and 10, which means complete. Later there were 70 family members of Jacob who went to Egypt (Genesis 46:27).

This list of the nations may not seem important to us at first. But these names of real people show that the Bible is true. They actually lived. We learn how quickly new families were born. Some of these names may be names of places. These people did not stay close together. They moved to new areas and then became many nations as they obeyed God.

Genesis 10 is not a list of every nation at the time, but it is a list that helps Israel understand its beginnings. It is known as the **Table of Nations**. The people from these 70 nations are all **descendants** of Noah’s sons.

Japheth’s Family (Genesis 10:2-5)

The list of names begins with Japheth and his sons and grandsons. He was the middle son of Noah, but his descendants were



listed first. Japheth had seven sons: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. Then the grandsons of Japheth through Gomer and Javan are listed.

They were the people who lived along the Mediterranean Sea, as well as those who moved toward current-day Turkey, around the Caspian Sea, and into the Middle East.

Since these areas were some distance away, Japheth's descendants did not have much to do with the history of Israel. Later the Israelites would call them people from "across the sea."

Ham's Family (Genesis 10:6-20)

Ham was the youngest son of Noah. There is much written about the family of Ham. They settled close to Israel and had a bigger part in Israel's history. They lived in North Africa, Canaan, Arabia, and Mesopotamia. Some became enemies of Israel.

His son Canaan's descendants are important to the history in the Bible. Canaan

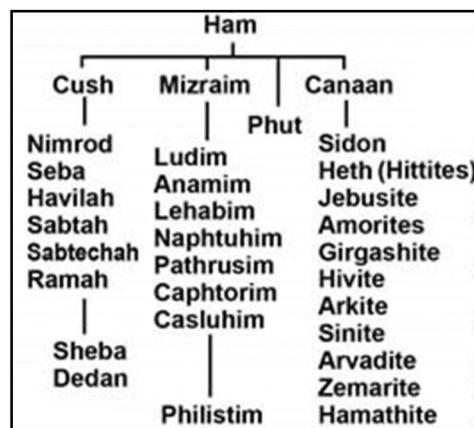
was the first name of the country that became Israel. But Ham's other sons lived across a much larger area. Cush went to Ethiopia, Mizraim to Egypt, and Put went to Libya and Somalia.

Groups of Canaanites settled along the eastern coast of the Mediterranean. They were the Jebusites and the Hivites. Other descendants were Semitic peoples, such as the Canaanites, Phoenicians, Amorites, and the Philistines.

Canaanites also went north to the coastal town of Sidon, south to Gerar and Gaza, and to Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zoboim. Genesis 19 mentions the destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zoboim for their sins. Gerar played an important part in later stories of Abraham and Sarah, as well as Isaac and Rebecca (Gen. 20-21, 26).

Many years later, the Israelites overcame these groups as they entered the Promised Land.

Nimrod came from the family of Cush and he and his descendants were powerful. He



Note: Some of the spellings in this chart are different from the New Life Version.

is said to have built Babylon and Nineveh. These were two of the great cities of the ancient world.

Shem's Family (Genesis 10:21-32)

Shem's family comes last in this chapter, although his name comes first in verse 1 as the oldest son. Shem's family lived in Mesopotamia and Arabia. They are very important in the book of Genesis. Abraham came from this family through Eber and Peleg. God chose Abraham's family line to bring fallen man to Himself through Jesus.

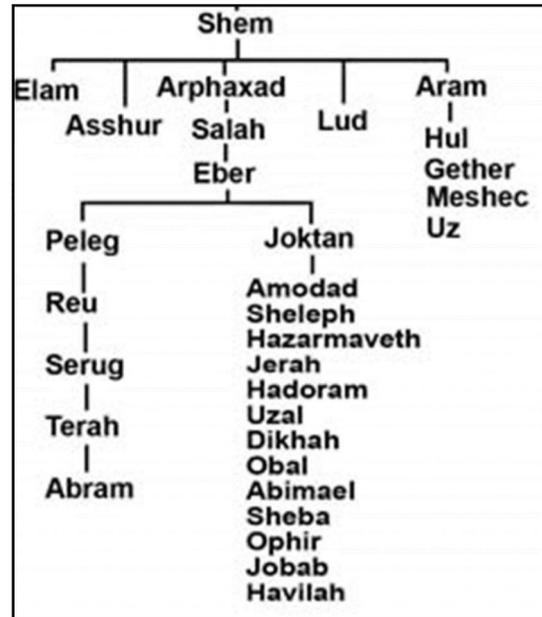
Shem's other sons were not part of the family of Abraham, and their names were not listed. One of the purposes of the Table of Nations was to trace the merciful kindness of God from Noah to Abraham.

Peleg's Hebrew name contains the letters of the word that means "separated or divided." This could refer to the scattering of the nations.

Most of Jotkan's sons lived in the

Things to Think About

1. Have you ever made a chart of those who came before you in your family? What do you know about your ancestors?
2. What does the step-by-step telling of the story of God's plan to love all people say about God?
3. What does the story of Table of Nations tell you about you and others?
4. How can we stop trying to rule over others and instead take God's Good News to all people everywhere?



Note: Some of the spellings in this chart are different from the New Life Version.

southern Arabian Peninsula. Their names may be false gods or the One True God. Almodad might be El Modad, "God is a friend." Abimael means "My father is the true God."

Things to Remember

All people are one. Noah's sons and grandsons once again filled the earth with people. God showed His loving mercy through Noah, whose name means "comfort." These lists show how the hand of God guided and blessed the faithful.

We are part of the faithful. We can share the Good News of God's love through Jesus that is meant for all people everywhere.

Genesis 10

1 These are the families of Shem, Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and of their families. Sons were born to them after the flood.

2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

3 The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

4 The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

5 From these the people who live beside the sea spread out into their lands, each one by his language, family, and nation.

6 The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

7 The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.

8 Cush became the father of Nimrod, who was the first on earth to become a powerful man.

9 He was a powerful animal-killer in the eyes of the Lord. So it is said, "Like Nimrod, a powerful animal-killer in the eyes of the Lord."

10 The beginning of his nation was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

11 He went into Assyria from the land, and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah

12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah. That is the great city.

13 Mizraim became the father of Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,

14 Pathrusim, Casluhim (from which came the Philistines), and Caphtorim.

15 Canaan became the father of Sidon, his first-born, and Heth,

16 and the Jebusite, the Amorite, the Girgashite,

17 the Hivite, the Arkite, the Sinite,

18 the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Later the Canaanite families spread out.

19 So the land of the Canaanite was from Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza, then toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim as far as Lasha.

20 These are the sons of Ham, by their families, languages, lands and nations.

21 Children were born to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, and the older brother of Japheth.

22 The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.

23 The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

24 Arpachshad became the father of Shelah. Shelah became the father of Eber.

25 Eber had two sons. The name of one was Peleg, for the earth was divided in his day. The name of his brother was Joktan.

26 Joktan became the father of Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba,

29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan.

30 The land where they lived was from Mesha toward Sephar to the hill country of the east.

31 These are the sons of Shem, by their families, languages, lands and nations.

32 These are the families of the sons of Noah. From these family groups, nations were spread over the earth after the flood.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

*Genesis 1-11: God Shows
His Power and Purpose*

Lesson 12: God Says: No Idol Worship

Bible Text

Genesis 11:1-9

Memory Verse

“Pride comes before being destroyed and a proud spirit comes before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18)

Word List

ambitious: desire to be have power, be a success or be famous

idol: a false god, sometimes made of wood or metal or stone and made by people. Anything that is worshipped that is not the One True God.

When I taught English classes at our apartment church in New York City, there were 25 people and 15 different languages in just one of my classes. This year my church in Texas has enrolled more than 200 people from over 30 different countries to learn English.

There are about 6,000 languages on Earth today. If all people come from the family of Noah, how did all these languages happen? The story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 gives the answers.

People Make Their Own Plans

(Genesis 11:1-4)

At first all the people spoke the same language because they were all from Noah’s family. God had told people to move across the world (Genesis 9:1) so that the whole earth would be filled with people.

This did not happen. People began to travel east toward a valley where they built a great city. Instead of spreading around, people moved to an area of Babylonia called Shinar. They decided not to obey God’s command to go all over the whole earth. They decided to live close together in one city. They wanted to be more powerful. They were proud. They were not obeying God’s commands. They were doing what they wanted to do.

They were **ambitious**. They built buildings for their new city. There were not enough stones in this area so they made their own bricks from clay and straw. They dried them in the sun or baked them in ovens.

They decided to build a tower in their city. The people did not ask what the Lord wanted. They wanted to build for themselves. They were not building this city in order to bring honor to God. They wanted to be famous themselves. They were building a tower that would reach heaven. Maybe they thought they could be like God.

Anytime what we do comes first before the place of the One True God, that is **idol**

worship. They were replacing God’s plan for people to trust and obey Him. When our idols replace God, He knows we do not trust Him.

The people of Babel worshiped the work their hands could do. They wanted to be Number One. They wanted to make a name for themselves and be famous. They wanted security. They thought the tower would give them both things. They did what God said not to do.

They wanted their tower to reach up into the sky. The people had a bad kind of pride—the kind of pride that makes you think only about yourself and not about God.

They were also afraid of being scattered and thought building the city and tower could keep this from happening.

The work on the tower went well because everyone spoke the same language. They could understand each other. The people felt like they had done it all on their own. Count how many times the words “us” and “ourselves” are used in Genesis 11:2-4.

Divine Response (Genesis 11:5-9)

The people who built the tower thought they could reach up to heaven. But God knew what they were doing. He came down to see it. He knew that the people would just keep building it higher and higher if He didn’t do something.

As God saw their pride, He knew that

they would try to do whatever they thought they could do. Perhaps they wanted to replace God and become “godlike” by building a tower into the heavens. Instead of giving glory to the name of God, they wanted the glory for themselves. Their sin was keeping them from doing what God wanted. The people of Babel would just keep thinking about themselves without thinking about Him.

To make the people stop building, the Lord mixed up the languages. They could no longer understand each other. When they heard another person talking, it sounded like strange noises or “babbling.” It became impossible to work together. The work of building the city and the tower stopped.

The town became known as “Babel” because of all the different languages. Without the One True God, the people of Babel were confused or mixed up.

The different language groups moved away from each other and away from the city. Finally the people were obeying what God had told them to do. Once again they spread over the earth. They had feared being scattered, and that’s what happened.

Later David would write: “Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders work for nothing. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the men who watch over it watch for nothing” (Psalm 127:1).

At Babel, God mixed up their language

and scattered people to keep them from idol worship and their own selfish pride. The idea for the Tower of Babel began with selfish ambition and pride that said no to God's command to "Have many children. Cover the earth with many people" (Genesis 9:7). To make it worse, they wanted to make a great name for themselves and try to make God do what they wanted Him to do.

God judged their sin. The builders' fear of scattering led to that very thing. Their language was mixed up so they could no longer live together. This is a reminder that only God can provide what we truly need.

Jesus would come from Abraham's family to save people with the same sins. Jesus' followers were told to scatter across the earth to share this story and to start churches. Are you a person who "scatters" the Good News to everyone you meet?

Things to Think About

1. People still try to find ways to build something between heaven and earth. Jesus said that He is the only way to the Father (John 14:6). How can we live our lives in such a way that we show this to be true?
2. Do you think people are still afraid of being moved apart? How does this change the way a person follows Jesus?
3. Is trying to make a name for ourselves a mark of success? Why or why not? Explain.
4. How are we tempted to think we no longer need to trust and obey God?

Things to Remember

These people wanted to build a city for themselves and a name for themselves. They were proud and placed themselves ahead of God. But they were also afraid and did not trust God. They built the tower so they wouldn't be scattered, but they ended up scattered anyway. They should not have been thinking about their name but about God. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower" (Proverbs 18:10).

Idol worship is when we let anything take the place of God. Making a name for ourselves is putting ourselves in place of God. It is important to give God first place.

God used language to scatter. He also uses language to gather. The church's spiritual language is love. People of different nations and cultures come together by God's Spirit. We should be building with God's language of love and not building with pride. We can praise God and serve people in every nation. This is the right way to trust and obey God.

Genesis 11

1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.

2 And as men traveled in the east, they found a valley in the land of Shinar and made their home there.

3 They said to one another, "Come, let us make blocks and burn them until they are hard." They used blocks for stone, and tar to hold them together.

4 Then they said, "Come, let us build a city for ourselves, with a tower that touches the heavens. Let us make a name for ourselves, or else we may be sent everywhere over the whole earth."

5 Then the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the sons of men had built.

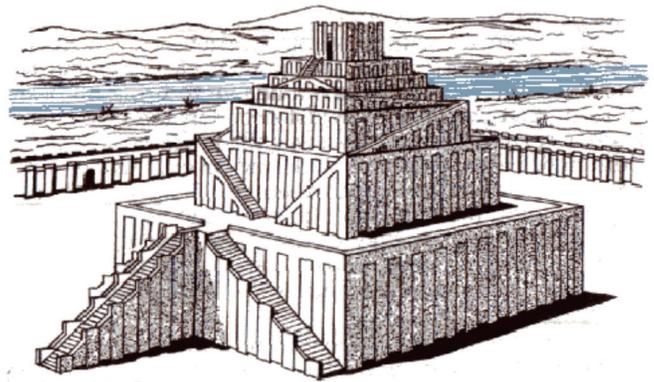
6 And the Lord said, "See, they are one people, and they all have the same language. This is only the beginning of what they will do. Now all they plan to do will be possible for them.

7 Come, let us go down and mix up their language so they will not understand what each other says."

8 So the Lord sent them everywhere over the whole earth. And they stopped building the city.

9 So the name of the city was Babel, because there the Lord mixed up the language of the whole earth. The Lord sent the people everywhere over the whole earth.

Note: No one knows what the Tower of Babel looked like. It was never finished. Some people think it was squares built on top of squares.



Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

Genesis 1-11: God Shows His Power and Purpose

Lesson 13: God Gets Ready for His Chosen People

Bible Text

Genesis 11:10-32

Memory Verse

“Teach us to understand how many days we have. Then we will have a heart of wisdom to give You.” (Psalm 90:12)

Word List

genealogy: study of the history of the past and present members of a family

Children like to race each other. They say, “Get ready. Get set. Go!” Then they take off and run. You can almost see their happy faces as they play.

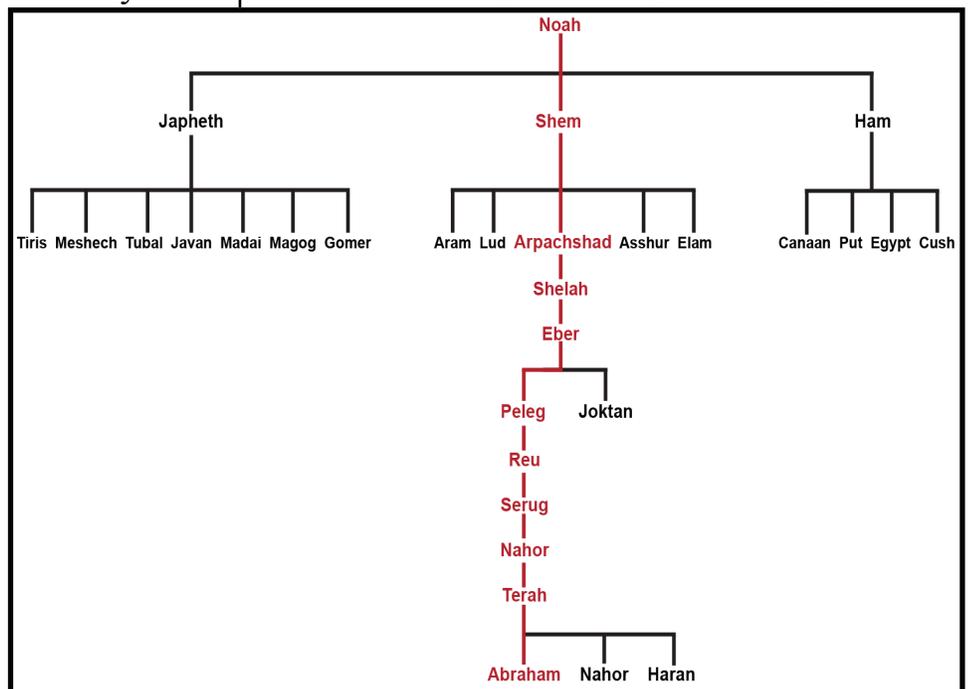
Reading the names in these verses is almost like seeing a race. Tracing the family line from Noah to Abraham helps us get ready to see God’s plan for His people.

This story begins two years after the flood with

Noah’s son Shem and ends with Abram. Abram was different from other people because he believed God. The book of Genesis previously told about the lives of people who pleased God like Abel, Enoch and Noah. Now Abram joins those who pleased God. God said that all the people in the world would receive a blessing because of Abram (Genesis 12:3).

As the author of Genesis starts the story of Abram, he uses part of the Table of Nations in Genesis 10. But this one is different. Genesis 10 lists the three brothers and spreads out. Think of the big letter *E* turned sideways like this **III** with Ham, Shem, and Japheth at the top. Genesis 11:10-32 tells only about the family members of Shem. Think of the small letter *l* like this **l**.

After scattering the people at the Tower of Babel, God showed His mercy. He began to work out His plan through the family line



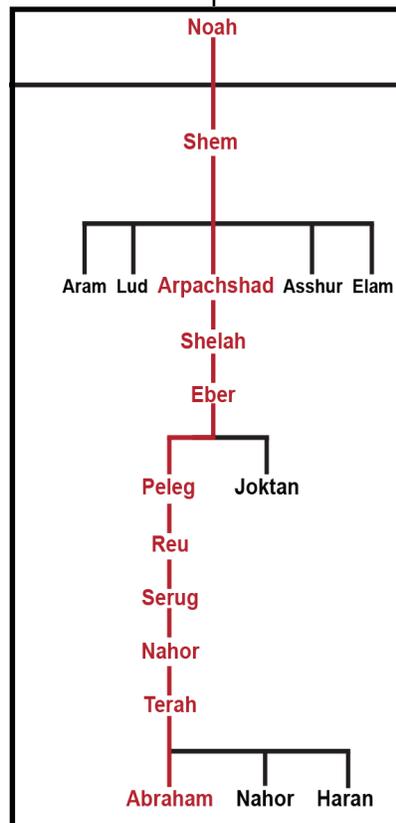
of Shem. (See a close-up of Shem's family tree on this page.) In this **genealogy**, the family goes forward to Abram. He was the man chosen by God to be a blessing to all the world. His name changed from Abram meaning "high father" to Abraham meaning "father of many" or "father of nations."

Family Members after Shem (Genesis 11:10-25)

Genesis 10 tells the story of the families of the brothers Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Someone has said that *history* is actually "His story" (God's story). God has the power to move men and nations to fit His purposes. When we understand history, it helps us understand what God is doing and how our lives can fit into His purpose.

The people building the Tower of Babel had wanted to make a name for themselves. But God had already given a name to His people. This passage is about the family born to Shem. His name means "name."

These 10 generations are very important in God's plan. We find each man's name, how old he was when his first son was born, and how long he lived after that.



Several were fathers by the time they were 30 years old. Many times we are also told that one had other sons and daughters. These are the names of real people, and people are important.

We learn that these people did not live as many years as those before them. It seems the later they were from when God made the world, the shorter the number of years they lived.

God is the God of history.

He is working out His eternal plan through the lives of His people. We do not know much about the men listed in the family of Shem. But we know that God was at work. And this God of history is our God. He has called us to be part of that history also.

The story from Adam to Noah to the Tower of Babel told of the sinfulness of people and how God judged their sin. There is now new hope with Shem's family. God's story is that His love is stronger than His anger.

God would tell Moses later in Deuteronomy 5:9-10, "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God. I punish the children, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren for the sins of their fathers who hate Me. But I show loving-kindness to thousands, to those

who love Me and keep My Laws.”

God’s gift of hope for the future was that Jesus Christ would come through the family of Shem and Abraham. Jesus would make us right with God when He gave His life on the cross.

Family Members from Terah (Genesis 11:26-32)

Terah was 70 years old when he became the father of three sons: Abram, Nahor, and Haran. He had at least one daughter, Sarai. Haran was the father of Lot. Abram later adopted Lot after Haran died. Nahor married Milcah, who was his niece.

Abram married Sarai. She was his half-sister. She had the same father, Terah, but a different mother. The name Sarai means “princess” or “queen.” We learn that Sarai had no children. This was important to say because God later promised Abram that he would have lots of descendants. Many years later, the story of the birth of their son shows God’s power and plan at work again.

Terah’s family home was in Ur of the

Chaldeans, where Abram was born. It was a city in the southern part of Mesopotamia. Terah, Abram and Sarai left their home in Ur and started toward the land of Canaan.

They settled in Haran, which was still in Mesopotamia. Terah never made the rest of the journey to Canaan. The name Terah can mean “delay.”

Note that for this family of faith, the blessing of God goes back in time. Noah was part of God’s plan for the family of faith. The call now comes through the family of Shem, through Terah, then through Abram and his descendants. Abram would obey God, go on to Canaan, and receive God’s blessing.

Things to Remember

Christians can have joy in God’s choice of the genealogy of Shem is a story of hope. God worked out His plan to save us through each person He called. The God of Arphachshad, Peleg, Serug and all the other family members is our God too.

Our calling as believers is to keep on taking God’s message of hope to others. We trust in God’s plans. We know God showed His love to us in Jesus.

God has promised to take care of us and our families to come. As long as time lasts, God will be faithful to every generation—past, present and future. This is part of His plan and purpose. He has all the power to care for us.

Things to Think About

1. How have you seen God’s purpose for your life as you look back at what has happened in your past?
2. Have you seen God answer His promises to you?
3. Can you give examples of ways in which God has used your past to prepare you for the next step in your life’s story?

Genesis 11

10 These are the children of Shem. When Shem had lived 100 years, he became the father of Arpachshad, two years after the flood.

11 Shem lived 500 years after the birth of Arpachshad. He had other sons and daughters.

12 When Arpachshad had lived thirty-five years, he became the father of Shelah.

13 Arpachshad lived 403 years after the birth of Shelah. He had other sons and daughters.

14 When Shelah had lived thirty years, he became the father of Eber.

15 Shelah lived 403 years after the birth of Eber. He had other sons and daughters.

16 When Eber had lived thirty-four years, he became the father of Peleg.

17 Eber lived 430 years after the birth of Peleg. He had other sons and daughters.

18 When Peleg had lived thirty years, he became the father of Reu.

19 Peleg lived 209 years after the birth of Reu. He had other sons and daughters.

20 When Reu had lived thirty-two years, he became the father of Serug.

21 Reu lived 207 years after the birth of Serug. He had other sons and daughters.

22 When Serug had lived thirty years, he became the father of Nahor.

23 Serug lived 200 years after the birth of Nahor. He had other sons and daughters.

24 When Nahor had lived twenty-nine years, he became the father of Terah.

25 Nahor lived 119 years after the birth of Terah. He had other sons and daughters.

26 When Terah had lived seventy years, he became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran.

27 Now these are the children of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot.

28 Haran died with his father Terah beside him in the land of his birth, Ur of the Chaldeans.

29 Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai. The name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran. Haran was the father of Milcah and Iscah.

30 But Sarai could not give birth. She had no child.

31 Terah took his son Abram, and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram and they went together from Ur of the Chaldeans to the land of Canaan. But when they went as far as Haran, they made their home there.

32 Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran.

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

Easter Lesson: A Talk Brings Joy to the Heart

Bible Text

Luke 24:1-6a, 13-35

Memory Verse

“They said, ‘For sure the Lord is risen . . .’”
(Luke 24:34a)

Word List

angels: God’s servants in heaven; His messengers

recognize: to know someone or something because you have experienced that person or thing before

resurrection: to be raised from the dead; to be alive

What is the definition of the word *Easter*? It is interesting to learn what the word means in different languages. It can mean “new dawn” or “sunrise,” like the rising of the sun or a new day. Others use a word that comes from Passover—the time of year when Jesus was nailed to the cross. Some call it **Resurrection** Sunday. Others say The Grand Day. Whatever it is called, Easter means this important truth: Jesus is alive! The

Rising of the Son is a new day, the most important of all Christian days.

Christ’s Word Comes True

(Luke 24:1-6a)

Jesus’ followers were so sad after He died. They did not remember that He had promised He would be raised again in three days. They had to see Him with their own eyes and know that He was a living Savior. It was not until they met Him again, alive and glorified, that they remembered, understood and believed His teachings.

Jesus had died on the cross on Friday. He was buried quickly in Joseph’s tomb. Very early Sunday morning, as soon as the sun rose, some women went to the grave with spices for the body.

There had been a very heavy round stone that covered the opening of the grave. Someone had rolled this stone away. The women could see in. But the body of Jesus was not there.

The women saw two **angels**, who looked like men but were shining. The women were very afraid. The angels reminded them what Jesus had said about His death and resurrection.

The women remembered Jesus’ words and ran to tell His other followers what they had seen and heard. The followers could not

believe what they heard. Peter ran to the tomb to see for himself. Jesus' body truly was gone.

Two Others Meet Jesus (Luke 24:13-27)

Two people were returning from Jerusalem to the town of Emmaus. They were followers of Jesus. The name of one was Cleopas, but Luke does not name the other one. Perhaps the other follower was his wife. As the two walked, they talked about all the things that had just happened in Jerusalem related to the death of Jesus.

Jesus must have been behind the two. He came to speak to them. They did not know who He was. We do not know why these followers did not **recognize** Jesus. We know they were not expecting to see Him. Perhaps they were too sad to look at this person in the eyes. Maybe Jesus looked different. We learn that the two followers needed to understand the message of the Old Testament before they could recognize Him.

The two followers were surprised when Jesus asked what they had been talking about. They thought everyone in Jerusalem had heard about Jesus' death.

So they began to tell Jesus what He of course knew. They said Jesus was like the early preachers in the Old Testament. They told of His mighty works, that God approved of Him, and that ordinary people had accepted Him.

The Jews all hoped for a political Messiah who would drive the Roman rulers out of their country. These two, along with the other believers, hoped that Jesus would be that Messiah. Now their hope had ended in bitter disappointment.

The two explained that the women had visited the tomb but did not see Jesus. They told that some apostles had gone to the grave to check their story. Luke mentions only Peter. In John 20:3-8 we learn that John also went with him. These two on the road to Emmaus did not yet know about Jesus' resurrection.

Jesus began to speak. He called them foolish for not believing the teachings of the early preachers. He began to explain the Bible to them. We know that the books of Moses are the first five books of the Old Testament. In the second part of the Hebrew Bible, the early preachers wrote that the Messiah would suffer. Perhaps Jesus used a passage like Isaiah 53 about God's Suffering Servant. Israel had thought of itself as this servant. Jesus became the suffering servant. And He died on behalf of other people (Isaiah 53:12).

Hearts Filled with Joy (Luke 24:28-35)

When they arrived in Emmaus, Jesus acted as if he were going on. He never forces anyone to welcome Him. The two asked Him to stay. They wanted to hear more of the

teachings. Jesus accepted their invitation. It was getting late in the day.

The two offered Jesus bread. Jesus did something unusual. He became the host. He was the One Who gave thanks to God, then He broke the bread. This is something Jesus had done before. One time He fed 5,000 people. He also broke bread at the Last Supper at Passover.

When Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it, the two suddenly recognized Him. They may have seen the marks of the nails on His hands. They knew it was Jesus. They believed. Then suddenly Jesus was gone. He had disappeared!

The two people remembered that their hearts had a warm, inner glow as Jesus was explaining the Scriptures to them. They asked, “Were not our hearts filled with joy

when He talked to us on the road about what the Holy Writings said?”

Even though it was evening, the two hurried the seven miles uphill back to Jerusalem. They knew where the 11 apostles and the other followers would be. Their sorrow and confusion was gone. They wanted to share their good news with the other followers immediately. They wanted to share that they had seen Jesus. He was alive!

The followers in Jerusalem already knew that Jesus had arisen. He had shown Himself to Peter. The two travelers told about their own experience. Now they had all seen that Jesus was risen from the dead.

Things to Remember

Jesus showed His power over death. The chains of our slavery to sin are broken. Because Jesus rose to life and went up to heaven, His Spirit is in believers and leads us. Through the Spirit’s guidance, God’s Word is living and active in our lives.

Jesus teaches us today as He taught His followers on the Emmaus road. Jesus works in our hearts to help us know Him better and become more like Him. He died for us so we would know how to live for Him. That is His promise and our sure hope.

Things to Think About

1. Why did Jesus’ followers have a hard time believing the news of His resurrection?
2. Why do you think the followers on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus while he spoke to them?
3. What are some things that make it hard for today’s believers to recognize Jesus’ voice and trust His word?
4. How has the truth of Christ’s resurrection made a difference in your faith?
5. How can we have the same joy Jesus’ followers felt when they finally believed the truth that Jesus was alive? What keeps us from sharing that good news with others?

Luke 24

1 Early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the grave taking the spices they had made ready.

2 They found the stone had been pushed away from the grave.

3 They went in but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 While they wondered about what had happened, they saw two men standing by them in shining clothes.

5 They were very much afraid and got down with their faces to the ground. The men said to them, “Why do you look for the living One among those who are dead?

6 He is not here. He is risen.”

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13 That same day two of His followers were going to the town of Emmaus. It was about a two-hour walk from Jerusalem.

14 They talked of all these things that had happened.

15 While they were talking together, Jesus Himself came and walked along with them.

16 Something kept their eyes from seeing Who He was.

17 He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk?” They stood still and looked sad.

18 One of them, whose name was Cleopas, said to Him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who has not heard of the things that have happened here these days?”

19 Jesus said to them, “What things?” They answered, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. He was the great One Who spoke for God. He did powerful works and spoke powerful words in the sight of God and the people.

20 And the religious leaders and the leaders of the people gave Him over to be killed and nailed Him to a cross.

21 We were hoping He was the One Who was going to make the Jewish people free. But it was three days ago when these things happened.

22 “Some of the women of our group have surprised us and made us wonder. They went to the grave early this morning.

23 They did not find His body. They came back saying they had seen angels in a special dream who said that He was alive.

24 Some of those who were with us went to the grave and found it as the women had said. But they did not see Him.”

25 Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish men. How slow you are to believe what the early preachers have said.

26 Did not Christ have to go through these hard things to come into His shining-greatness?”

27 Jesus kept on telling them what Moses and all the early preachers had said about Him in the Holy Writings.

28 When they came to the town where they were going, Jesus acted as if He were going farther.

29 But they said to Him, “Stay with us. It will soon be evening. The day is about over.” He went in to stay with them.

30 As He sat at the table with them, He took the bread and gave thanks and broke it. Then He gave it to them.

31 And their eyes were opened and they knew Him. Then He left them and could not be seen.

32 They said to each other, “Were not our hearts filled with joy when He talked to us on the road about what the Holy Writings said?”

33 Then they got up at once and went back to Jerusalem. They found the eleven followers together and others with them.

34 They said, “For sure the Lord is risen and was seen by Simon.”

35 Then they told what had happened on the road and how they came to know Him when He broke the bread.