

GENESIS



PART 1

God of the World





PART 1 - GOD OF THE WORLD

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Creation – Gen 1:1-2:3

Week 3: Humankind – Gen 2:4-25

Week 4: Fallen – Gen 3

Week 5: Humanity – Gen 4-5

Week 6: Flood – Gen 6-8

Week 7: Covenant – Gen 9

Week 8: Babel – Gen 10-11

In the beginning....

To grow from studying God's word, we must do so independently *and* in community, relying on the Holy Spirit and sound teaching within the Church. The purpose of study is to magnify God and mature His people into enduring disciples who become more and more like Jesus. We study in community to gain perspectives from our brothers & sisters in Christ. We study on our own to hear personally from God and develop the skill of discerning His voice. Personal study, study in community, and solid teaching from trained leaders create a balanced diet of the word of God. Let us feast on it regularly!

As we embark on a year in the book of Genesis, are you expectant that you will grow and change through the words of the One who spoke life into being? Will you j ^hb ^ni^k to set aside time ahead to **Prepare** by reading the passage and answering a few questions, **Attend** on Wednesdays to learn from the Pastor's study, take time to **Reflect** on what you have learned and think on how you can **Act** on that new understanding? Who could you invite to participate with you so you can support one another on your journey? Be assured that the time you commit will help you know Christ more deeply and make Him known more consistently.

My plan for growing thru this study:

Introduction

ATTEND (Notes)

CREATION

Gen 1:1-2:3

PREPARE

God alone is uncreated and eternally existing. (Psalm 93:2, 90:1-2) He created the heavens and earth out of nothing – which is something *only* God can do. This first chapter in Genesis lays the foundation for all the rest of what we read in Scripture. If God is able to create as He has said He did – every other statement can be trusted. His love can endure forever, He can raise the dead back to life and He can give us eternal life with Him. (Psalm 136:4-9, John 11:25-26, 43) As we begin, let us keep focused on the grandeur of a God we cannot fully comprehend but are invited to know personally and relate to intimately. When we need perspective, meditating on Genesis 1 alongside Psalm 139 and Isaiah 40:10-31 can settle our hearts as nothing else can. Let us approach with humility our study of God's revealed account of our world's beginning.

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 1:1-2:3

and answer the following questions.

What about God's nature does this chapter reveal?

What did God do, how did He do it, and what did He say about it?

From Gen 1:1-3, 26, John 1:1-4 and Colossians 1:16-17 what do you learn about each member of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Read through Genesis 1:1-2:3 again.

State in one sentence the main point of the passage.

How does knowing that God creates Life out of nothing give you assurance in the burdens you are carrying?

What do you find most meaningful about God's activity in creating the world?

and God saw that it was good

ATTEND

REFLECT

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

What challenged you or encouraged you?

What did you learn about the character of God?

How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God as your **Creator**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



HUMANKIND

Gen 2:4-25

PREPARE

We now move from broad strokes of all creation, down to man and woman, revealing who we are, and the meaning and purpose of life. Another distinction is a change from; “after its kind” to “after God’s own image and likeness.” Additionally, just as God rules over the entire universe, humankind is given permission to rule over and name the creatures God has made. With everything else, God speaks “let it be, and it was so,” but with man and woman He shares a more detailed and intimate account of forming from dust and breathing His own breath to give life. God’s Eden is a garden of delight, pleasing to the eye and good for food. He has thoughtfully made a place for Adam and Eve to live together and flourish. And finally, He has invited them into a relationship of trust in His wisdom, love, and care; willingly living according to His command.

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God’s word.

Read Genesis 2:4-25

and answer the following questions.

Compare and contrast what is emphasized about the person of God and His relationship to creation in Genesis 1 vs. Genesis 2.

What does it mean to be made in God's image?

What detail on how God made Adam and Eve do you find most meaningful?

Which two trees are specifically named and what does God say about each of them? Which one was man told not to eat from?

Read through Genesis 2:4-25 again.

In one sentence, what is the main point of this chapter?.

What of Adam and Eve's experience in Eden do you long for the most?

What comfort do we have while we now live outside of Eden?

and the man became a living being

ATTEND

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ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God who gives **Life**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?





Gen 3

PREPARE

The pursuit of knowledge at the expense of trust is a *Siren song* we struggle against still to this day. We place high esteem on the learned and at times pity the uneducated. Having more information doesn't always lead to deeper trust. It is trust we need in keeping with worship of, hope in, and obedience to God. Jesus tells us it is in Him that life is found, and the pursuit of understanding is in vain if it does not lead us to Him. *"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."* (John 5:39-40)

The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made, His love is great, and His compassion never fails. Ultimately that is all we need to know.

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 3

and answer the following questions.

Compare what God actually said in Genesis 2 with what the serpent claims and what Eve answers.

Locate the 'but' in this passage and summarize it. What comfort do you find in God's pursuit?

How have you experienced God moving towards you, drawing you out of hiding, and covering over your own shame?

Grace did not override the loss of Eden. Where have you experienced losses that last beyond forgiveness? How does this help you understand grace & forgiveness more clearly alongside unalleviated consequences?

Read through Genesis 3 again.

What question do you expect God to ask when you are hiding and ashamed?

What question does God ask Adam and Eve?

While we can't know the mind of God (Rom 11:33-34) take a moment to ponder the difference between what you expect and what He did in this story. What does God's question reveal about what He is like?

Summarize the result for the serpent, Eve, and Adam after eating from the tree.

Whose head will be crushed, whose heel will be struck?

and they hid from the Lord

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Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God who **pursues** you.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



HUMANITY

Gen 4-5

PREPARE

Every life is important to God, and His desire is for none to perish but all to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9) The dividing point between all people is their response to God and His word. These chapters describe two such streams of humanity – the descendants of Cain (ch 4) and those of Seth (ch 5). These histories illustrate the enmity God promised between those who follow Him by faith and those who pridefully go their own way.

In one family line we are told of individuals' cultural advancements including their skill, artistry, and craftsmanship. In the other we are only told of individuals' relationship with God. We say that our identity is in Christ, yet let us pause and ponder; *if my own legacy were to be recorded, would I be ok with **everything** about me being left out except for my relationship with God?*

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 4-5

and answer the following questions.

What do these chapters reveal about how God interacts with people?

Does the passage state *why* the Lord was pleased with one offering over the other?

What insights do Hebrews 11:4 and Jude 11 give about the difference between Cain's offering and Abel's offering?

How is the question in chapter 4:9 similar to the question in chapter 3:9?

How does 5:29 connect with 3:17?

Read through Genesis 4-5 again.

Locate the 'but' in this passage and summarize it. What surprises you about God's responses to Cain before and after he murders his brother?

Compare and contrast Cain's 5th descendant (4:19-24) with Seth's 5th descendant (5:21-24).

What phrase is repeated in chapter 5? What does this illustrate?

and then he died

ATTEND

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How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God who **warns** you?.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?





Gen 6-8

PREPARE

This account of God's judgment is jarring as the concept of His wrath can seem offensive. That is until your son's bike gets stolen and then it is deeply comforting. In all seriousness, this is one of the most heart wrenching and sad chapters in scripture. The entire human race has reached the point of no return. No hope. No thoughts of love or kindness or goodness or beauty. Enmity – that is, active opposition and hostility - exists between God's Spirit and the sinful nature of Adam's race. Where is that promised seed of the women who will crush the head of the serpent?

God is not distant – He has remained present and connected throughout all these generations since the beginning of time. He is grieved beyond any grief we can possibly imagine. God's beautiful creation, the ones made in His own likeness – The likeness of Him whose disposition is *only good* all the time – have now reached a level of depravity that “every inclination of the thoughts of their heart is *only evil* all the time.” And so, God is going to destroy what He created – the people, the animals, and the earth. But, He will not leave anyone without a way to be saved – He will provide a means of rescue and place of safety. Sound familiar??

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 6-8

and answer the following questions.

Noah _____ with God. What do you think this means?

Summarize 6:5-8. How are things today different? What do we have that the people in Noah's day did not have?

What makes a person righteous? How, since Jesus has not yet completed salvation, could Noah be righteous?

We've moved from the death of a brother to the death of the entire world. How is this connected to Genesis 2:17?

We have the privilege of seeing how things played out that Adam and Eve didn't have. What does this tell us about God's warnings?

Read through Genesis 6-8 again.

Locate the 'but' in chapter 6 and the promise in 8:21 and summarize them.

Compare 6:19 with 7:2-3. What does this hint towards?

In 7:16 – what did God do?

and His heart was filled with pain

ATTEND

REFLECT

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

What challenged you or encouraged you?

What did you learn about the character of God?

How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

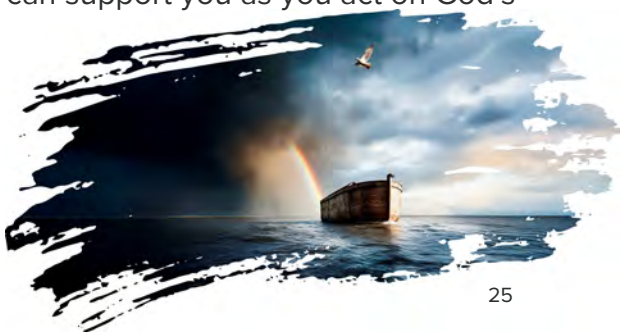
ACT

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Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God who **rescues** you?.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



COVENANT

Gen 9

PREPARE

After the flood the earth and everything in it has significantly changed. Adam's loving supremacy over the animals has now been replaced with fear and dread. Directions are now given with respect to taking Life. For the first time we have recorded God establishing a covenant – a formal, solemn, and binding agreement – with all humans and all of creation. The fulfillment of this covenant is not dependent on people's obedience but on God's faithfulness alone. Were it not so the peaks of our beloved 14ers might be covered tomorrow!

The world we now live in has been deeply affected by Adam and Eve's sin. Isaiah tells us there will be a return to the patterns of relating between man and animal when Jesus makes all things new again. (Isaiah 11:6-9) Until that day we join with creation's groaning as we wait eagerly to be set free from our bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. This is the Hope unto which we have been saved. (Romans 8:18-25)

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 9

and answer the following questions.

What does this chapter reveal about God's assurances?

Compare and contrast Gen 1:28-29 with 9:1-3, 7.

What will God demand an accounting for? Why?

What comfort does this bring? What warning? Does God say when or how the account is to be paid?

Read through Genesis 9 again.

Who is the covenant between? What does God promise to do? Does He ask the inhabitants of the earth to do anything?

What does it mean that God will remember His covenant each time it rains?

Why would the sign be especially helpful to Noah and his family?

and never again will a flood destroy all life

ATTEND

REFLECT

What is your main takeaway from this passage?

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What did you learn about the character of God?

How did this week's study affect your perspective on God, yourself, and/or your life?

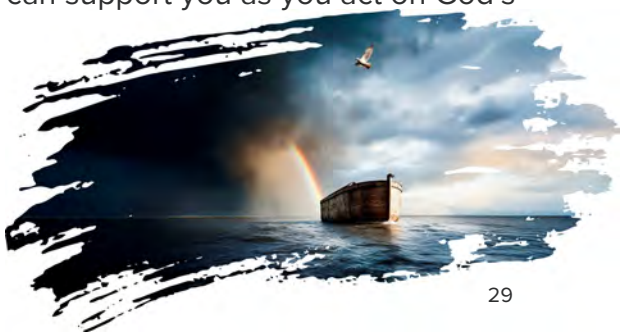
ACT

Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God as **Promise Keeper**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?





Gen 10-11

PREPARE

This chapter reveals once again how desperately we need God's intervention. We see here the people's; "Come, let us make; Come let us build..." contrasted with God's; "Come, let us go down and disperse...." Left alone we choose our own way, we seek to glorify ourselves, to stay put and establish our own mini kingdoms. Without the 'But Gods' of our lives we would not, could not, follow Him or obey His instructions to disperse, be fruitful, and multiply.

God's command from the very beginning has been to go into all the earth declaring the praises of Him who made us – that all the world would surrender to Jesus Christ as Lord. Come, let *us* deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow Jesus. For His name alone is worthy of all Praise.

Pray

asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's word.

Read Genesis 10-11

and answer the following questions.

What do these chapters reveal about God's consistency?

Name an interesting fact from chapter 10

What did the people want?

What did the people get?

Locate the 'but' in chapter 11 and summarize it. What is familiar about God's actions?

Read through Genesis 10-11 again.

What phrase is repeated in 11:10-26?

How does this compare to the phrase repeated in chapter 5?
Why do you think this is?

What do you learn about Terah and his family? (11:27-32)

but the Lord came down

ATTEND

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Note **one specific thing** you can do this week to put into practice what you learned from this passage?

Note **one specific person** you can share something you learned with.

Name **one specific change** you will make in how you relate more deeply to God who **intervenes**.

Who will you tell so they can support you as you act on God's word?



SUMMARY OF PART 1

Take a moment to reflect and note your main takeaways:

What aspect of God's character revealed in these first 11 chapters do you find most meaningful?

How has your perspective on God, yourself, your life, or this world changed?

What would you like to incorporate into your life of faith as a result?

Any additional thoughts?

God said...and it was so

