Genesis

The Beginning of God's Plan of Salvation

Part 2

Abraham: Promise, Covenant, and Faith
(Genesis 12-25)

GCT

Fall 2026–Spring 2027

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Abraham: Promise, Covenant, and Faith

Part 2 - Genesis 12-25

November - January 2026 (Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings)

Nov 3 / 4	Lesson 8 - The Call of Abram
Nov 10 / 11	Lesson 9 - Abram with Lot and Melchizedek
Nov 17 / 18	Lesson 10 - God's Covenant with Abram
Nov 24 /25	**Thanksgiving Break**
Dec 1 /2	Lesson 11 - God Affirms His Covenant and Promise for Isaac
Dec 8 /9	Lesson 12 - Abraham Intercedes but Sodom is Destroyed
Dec 15 / 16	Lesson 13 - Abraham: Conflicts Surrounding Isaac's Birth
Christmas Break	
Jan 12 / 13	Lesson 14 - Abraham: Tested by God, Then Sarah's Death
Jan 19 / 20	Lesson 15 - God Provides Isaac's Wife, Rebekah

Doctrinal and Confessional Connections

These are referenced at the end of many of the lessons to provide theological foundation.

WCF - **Westminster Confession of Faith** - (https://epc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/WCF-Online-Version.pdf)

WSC - **Westminster Shorter Catechism** - (https://catechisma.com/westminster-shorter-catechism-modern)

HC - **Heidelberg Catechism** - (https://rcus.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Heidelberg-Catechism-450Annv.pdf)

AN OVERVIEW OF GENESIS

What Genesis Is About

Genesis means "beginnings." It is the first book of the Bible and the opening book of the Pentateuch, or Torah. Traditionally, Genesis has been understood as written and/or compiled by Moses under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It was given to God's people to teach them who God is, where the world came from, what went wrong through sin, and how God began His covenant plan to bring blessing to the nations through the promised offspring.

Overall Theme

Genesis reveals the God who creates, rules, judges sin, keeps covenant, and graciously preserves His promises. Though humanity repeatedly turns from God, the Lord faithfully works through His chosen line to fulfill His promise of blessing, land, offspring, and ultimately redemption.

A Four-Part Structure

1. **Creation, Fall, and the Nations (Genesis 1-11):** God creates all things good; humanity falls into sin; sin spreads through the world; God judges and shows mercy through the flood; and the nations are scattered at Babel. These chapters explain the world's beginning, humanity's rebellion, and our need for God's promised rescue.
2. **Abraham: The Promise Given (Genesis 12-25):** God calls Abram, makes covenant promises to him, and promises land, offspring, and blessing to all the families of the earth through him. Abraham's life teaches us to watch for faith, waiting, worship, weakness, and God's covenant faithfulness.
3. **Isaac and Jacob: The Promise Preserved (Genesis 25-36):** God continues His covenant promise through Isaac and then Jacob, often in surprising ways. The promised line is preserved not because of human strength or worthiness, but because God is faithful to His word.
4. **Joseph: The Promise Protected and Positioned (Genesis 37-50):** Through Joseph's suffering and rise in Egypt, God preserves Jacob's family during famine and positions Israel in Egypt for the next stage of redemptive history. What people intend for evil, God uses for good.

Key Repeated Phrases and Patterns to Watch For

- **"These are the generations of..."** This repeated phrase structures Genesis and moves the story forward from one generation to the next.
- **God speaks.** Pay attention to what God says, commands, promises, names, blesses, and judges.
- **Blessing and curse.** Notice where God gives blessing, where sin brings curse, and where mercy interrupts judgment.
- **Offspring or seed.** Watch the promised line and the repeated concern for children, barrenness, birth, inheritance, and descendants.
- **Land.** Notice Eden, exile, Canaan, sojourning, famine, and the promise of a place for God's people.
- **Covenant and promise.** God binds Himself by His word and keeps His promises even when His people are weak, fearful, sinful, or waiting.

- **Altars, worship, and calling on the name of the LORD.** Notice how God's people respond to Him.
- **Sin, judgment, and grace.** Genesis repeatedly shows human rebellion, God's righteous judgment, and God's surprising mercy.
- **Sibling conflict and family brokenness.** Cain and Abel, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, and Joseph and his brothers all show the spread of sin within families and God's ability to work through painful stories.
- **Providence.** Watch for God's hidden hand. He is not only working through miracles and direct speech, but also through waiting, weakness, famine, dreams, journeys, and ordinary decisions.

Questions to Keep Asking

- What does this passage reveal about God?
- How does this passage fit within God's covenant promises?
- How does this passage show the seriousness of sin and the mercy of God?
- How does this passage point forward to the need for Christ, the promised offspring who brings blessing to the nations?

As We Study

Genesis is not only the beginning of the Bible's story; it is the beginning of the story of God's promise and redemption. As we study it, we want to see the Lord as Creator, Judge, Covenant-Keeper, Provider, Preserver, and Redeemer, and to learn to trust His word, His timing, and His ways.

PART 1: In the Beginning: Creation, Fall, and Promise (Genesis 1-11)

Theme: God creates, man rebels, judgment comes, grace remains.
This section helps us to understand who God is, who we are, what has gone wrong with the world, and why we need a Savior.

Genesis begins with the God who creates all things good, makes mankind in His image, and rules over all He has made. Yet very quickly, sin enters the world, bringing brokenness, judgement, and death. Even so, God's grace is present from the beginning. In these chapters, we see the foundation for the whole Bible: creation, the fall, the first promise of redemption, the spread of sin, the flood, covenant mercy, and the scattering of the nations. This section helps us to understand who God is, who we are, what has gone wrong with the world, and why we need a Savior.

Part 2: Abraham: Promise, Covenant, and Faith (Genesis 12-25)

Theme: God calls one man through whom blessing will come to the nations.
These chapters teach us what it means to trust the promises of God, even when fulfillment seems impossible. We see that salvation rests not on human strength, but on the gracious initiative and covenant faithfulness of the Lord.

God calls Abraham, narrowing the story from the nations to one man and one family. God makes covenant promises to Abraham and declares that through his offspring all the nations of the earth will be blessed. Abraham's life is marked by faith, waiting, weakness, obedience, and God's unwavering faithfulness. These chapters teach us what it means to trust the promises of God, even when fulfillment seems impossible. We see that salvation rests not on human strength, but on the gracious initiative and covenant faithfulness of the Lord.

Part 3: Isaac and Jacob: Election, Struggle, Transformation (Genesis 26-36)

Theme: God's grace works through a messy, chosen family.

The story of Isaac, Jacob, Esau, Leah, Rachel, and Laban shows us the grace of God at work in a deeply imperfect family. These chapters are filled with rivalry, favoritism, deception, disappointment, fear, and striving. Yet through it all, God continues His covenant purposes. Jacob's life especially shows us that the Lord is patient, faithful, and powerful to transform those he has chosen. This section reminds us that God's promises do not depend on perfect people, and that His grace meets us in our weakness, wrestles with us, and changes us.

Part 4: Joseph: Providence, Suffering, and Preservation (Genesis 37-50)

Theme: What man means for evil, God means for good.

The final section of Genesis follows the story of Joseph and his brothers, showing the hidden hand of God at work through suffering, injustice, waiting, repentance, forgiveness, and restoration. What others meant for evil, God meant for good, Through Joseph's story, we see that God is sovereign over both the painful and the ordinary details of life, preserving His people and keeping His promises. Genesis ends with God's covenant family in Egypt, waiting for future redemption and pointing us forward to the greater Deliver to come.

Part 2: Abraham: Promise, Covenant, and Faith (Genesis 12-25)

Theme: God calls one man through whom blessing will come to the nations.

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Lesson 8 Questions — Genesis 11:10-12:20

ABRAHAM'S BEGINNING WITH GOD

"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you.' " – Genesis 12:1-2a

OPENING REVIEW:
Use this space to record how you have seen God's activity during the week. (How has He provided, answered, comforted, reconciled, guided, etc.?)

What from the group discussion or personal study of last week's lesson impacted you most in the past week?

What attributes of God did you note?

FIRST DAY: Read Genesis 11:10-32 with Acts 7:2-8; Joshua 24:2-3, 14-15; and Hebrews 11:8-19.
Family information from Shem to Abram was recorded.
1. List the repeated phrases in 11:10-26. What do they teach you about Shem's line?

2. What impresses you about the call of Abram from the scriptures listed above? What did Abram's fathers worship?

3. Terah's descendants are featured in the rest of Genesis. What facts about Terah's family are similar to your family (11:27-32)?

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 12:1-3.
God called Abram.
4a. Compare God's call and command to Abram with His promises.

4b. What does Acts 7:2-4 reveal about the place and timing?

5. What else does God's Word say about His call to live by faith in Him? (Share from Isaiah 41:8-10; Matthew 4:18-22; 19:28-30; Mark 8:34-36; John 14:15-20 or other verses.)

6a. What might God be calling you to do, leave or offer to Him?

6b. How do God's presence and promises strengthen you to answer His call?

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 12:4-9.
Abram moved into Canaan.
7. What do you notice about Abram's obedience to God? (See Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-10.)

8a. How do Abram's actions demonstrate his faith in God?

8b. What promises are you waiting on God to fulfill? How do you demonstrate your faith while waiting?

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 12:10-20.
Abram and Sarai went to Egypt.
9a. What decisions did Abram and Sarai make regarding Egypt, and why?

9b. What truths about God and His promises are easy to forget when you're stressed or afraid?

10. What do you learn about God in this passage? What do you learn about following God?

11. How might your current stressful situation be an opportunity to positively influence how those around you view God?

12. God in His mercy delivered Abram and Sarai, protecting His own. Yet Abram lost something by his unbelief. What did they bring out of Egypt with them which may cause them grief later?

FIFTH DAY: Review Genesis 11:10-12:20. Read Romans 4:13-25 and Galatians 3:6-9, 16, 29.

13. How would you explain new life through faith in God from this week's lesson?

14. What promises of God seem impossible to me?

15. What personal help do you receive from Abraham's example given in Romans 4:13-25?

16. From the Galatians 3 verses, how are "all nations" blessed through Abraham? How does verse 29 link every true believer with Abraham?

Principle: When God calls a believer, it is selective, undeserved, and challenging.
Lessons:

- When God calls, we must respond faithfully, obediently, and courageously.
- Faith is believing what we cannot see.
- God restores those who confess and repent.

Doctrinal and Confessional Connections:
Psalm 16:5-6, 11; Proverbs 4:18; 2 Timothy 2:13; Micah 7:8-9; Hebrews 11:14-16

Lesson 9 Questions — Genesis 13-14

THE SEPARATION OF ABRAHAM AND LOT

"Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." – Genesis 13:17

OPENING REVIEW:
Use this space to record how you have seen God's activity during the week. (How has He provided, answered, comforted, reconciled, guided, etc.?)

What from the group discussion or personal study of last week's lesson impacted you most in the past week?

What attributes of God did you note?

FIRST DAY: Read Genesis 13:1-13.
Abram and Lot separate.
1. What are some causes given for the need of Abram and Lot to separate?

2. What does the way Abram and Lot separate say about each man's character?

3. What can believers give up to put others first and to pursue peace?
(See Romans 14:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8; 9:19-23 and Ephesians 4:1-3, 4:31-5:2 for examples.)

4. Why is it hard to pursue peace in your relationships? How has God helped you with this?

5. What do you look for *first* in your present decisions and choices? Do you choose in view of what will bring you and your family closest to God by faith, recognizing your welfare and happiness is there? Or do you simply choose on the same basis as the world around you?

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 13:14-18. Other verses for reference- John 15:18-19; 17:15-16; Matthew 6:33; 10:34-39; 1 John 2:15-17; Luke 14:26-33; 12:21.
God confirmed His promise to Abram.
6. What emotional and physical losses did Abram experience because of his choice?

7. What do God's responses to Abram reaffirm about His character?

8. List promises in God's Word to Christians who generously give up much for Christ's sake?
(Share from Matthew 19:29-30; Romans 8:16-18 or other verses.)

9a. What do you need to remember when you make a choice like the one Abram or Lot made?
(See Matthew 6:19-21; 10:38-39; 19:21-22, 29; Luke 9:57-58.)

9b. What would it look like for you to respond in faith to God today?

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 14:1-16.
Abram rescued Lot from captivity.
Note: The history in 14:1-9 tells us that at least 14 years passed between Lot's move east and his capture in Sodom.

10. What was the kings' conflict, and how did they try to resolve their dispute?

11. How do you see grace at work through Abram in 14:13-16?

12a. Compare Abram to the king of Sodom in leadership qualities.

12b. What qualities define the kind of leader you are willing to follow or want to become?

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 14:17-24 and 15:1.
Abram met with Melchizedek and Sodom's king.
13. What differences stand out about Abram's dealings with the king of Salem and the king of Sodom?

14. What are ways the Bible later says Melchizedek prefigured the person and work of Jesus Christ?
(See Isaiah 2:3; 9:6-7; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-5:10; 6:18-7:28.)

15a. Which of God's qualities and deeds did Melchizedek publicly proclaim in blessing Abram?

15b. Whom can you thank for offering God's grace and blessing to you? How will you thank God for them?

FIFTH DAY: Review Genesis 13-14.
16a. There is both loss and gain in following Jesus. What does one lose? gain?

b. Will I choose to concentrate today on what Christ gives me rather than on what I give up?

17a. What did Abraham leave behind, and what did God promise Him?

b. What do I need to leave behind if I am to follow God completely?

18. With whom in my life do I need to make peace and extend grace to?

19. Do I give Him, every week, at least one tenth of all, starting with my own time?

20. Will my decisions be a blessing or devastate my descendants?

Principles:

- A walk with God means separation from the world.
- God's faithfulness assures.

Lessons:

- In humility, all glory and praise belong to God.
- Compromise with God's principles leads to disaster.
- God gives spiritual promises to those who walk by faith.

Peacemaker by Ken Sande, recommended reading.

Lesson 10 Questions — Genesis 15-16

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAM

"Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness." – Genesis 15:6

OPENING REVIEW:

Use this space to record how you have seen God's activity during the week. (How has He provided, answered, comforted, reconciled, guided, etc.?)

What from the group discussion or personal study of last week's lesson impacted you most in the past week?

What attributes of God did you note?

FIRST DAY: Read Genesis 15:1-6.

God reaffirmed his promise to give Abram descendants.

1. What do you know about shields and rewards that helps you understand God's promises in 15:1?
(For example - Philippians 3:8; Hebrews 11:25-26; Psalm 16:5-6, 11; Ps 37:3-5; 2 Timothy 1:7; Ephesians 6:16; John 16:33; John 14:27; etc)

2a. How did God's promise to be Abram's shield and great reward address Abram's fears?

2b. How has God been your shield and/or reward this week?

3a. What did Abram believe in 15:6?

3b. What was the connection between belief and righteousness for Abram and for today?
(Use Romans 4; John 8:56; and/or any Scripture references.)

4. How does God's interaction with Abram encourage, comfort or challenge you?

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 15:7-21.

God confirmed His promises with a covenant.

Note: Genesis 15:9-10, 17 describe the ceremonial rites that sealed a covenant.

5. What truths about God's character and Abram's faith are revealed?

6. List prophetic promises in 15:13-16 and say how each was fulfilled.
(Use Genesis 25:7-8; Exodus 6:11; 12:31-40; 24:7; Deuteronomy 27-28 and any other references.)

7. How do you reconcile God's affirmation of Abram's belief (15:6) with Abram's continued questions?

8. What means does God use to reassure His people of His promises today?
(See 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14; and other Scriptures for your answers.)

9. Compare Genesis 15:16 with Revelation 14:18. Why does God wait before He judges people?
(See also Romans 2:4-6.)

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 16:1-6.

Abram and Sarai sinned and conceived a child through Hagar.

Note: Society in Abram's time accepted polygamy, but God ordains marriage for one man and one woman. Therefore, polygamy is outside of God's will and is sin. (See Genesis 2:24.)

9a. How did Sarai and Abram show some faith and some unbelief in God's promise of Genesis 15:4-5?

9b. What do you learn about the relationship between what we believe and how we behave?

10a. What sins did Abram and Sarai commit in these verses? (Share Scripture references to support your answers.)

10b. What were the immediate and long-term results of trying to gain something good through sin? (See also Genesis 12:10-20.)

11. What have you learned in this passage or by personal experience about waiting for God to fulfill His promises in His perfect way and time?

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 16:7-16.

The angel of the Lord affirmed blessings for Hagar and Ishmael.

12. Describe Hagar's natural expectations for remaining in Sarai's charge or for running away.

13a. What promises did the angel of the Lord make to Hagar, and who did she believe the angel of the Lord to be?

13b. What do you learn about God through His care for Hagar and Ishmael?

14. How has God provided unimaginable good to you through a seemingly impossible situation?

FIFTH DAY: Review Genesis 15-16.

15. How does God take upon Himself the responsibility to fulfill the covenant promises to Abram in Genesis 15? What comfort should that give God's people today?

16. How does Sarah's plan to obtain a child illustrate the principle of justification by works? Read Galatians 4:21-31 and list the characteristics of the two groups Paul discusses. Which group describes your life?

17. What have you learned about how God provides for His people that encourages your faith?

18. Where do I need simply to wait until God fulfills His promise to me in His own way?

19. Is it possible to have faith and still have questions for God?

Principle: God always keeps His promises.
Lessons:

- God's faithful assurances can come at any time, from any way, and any place.
- Faith in God is counted as righteousness.
- God is a shield and a reward to those who trust Him.

Doctrinal and Confessional Connections:
*WSC 33, 86, 87; HC 21, 59, 60: faith (Gen 15:6)**

Lesson 11 Questions — Genesis 17:1-18:15

GOD AFFIRMS HIS COVENANT AND PROMISE FOR ISAAC

"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you." – Genesis 17:7

OPENING REVIEW:

Use this space to record how you have seen God's activity during the week. (How has He provided, answered, comforted, reconciled, guided, etc.?)

What from the group discussion or personal study of last week's lesson impacted you most in the past week?

What attributes of God did you note?

FIRST DAY: Read Genesis 17:1-8.

God appeared before Abraham to confirm His covenant.

1. What do the details of the Lord's appearance to Abraham and Abraham's response tell about their relationship?

2a. What does it mean to "be blameless" (17:1)? (Use a Bible dictionary for help. Colossians 1:21-22.)

2b. According to Genesis 17:1, how would Abraham accomplish God's command to "be blameless"?
(See Matthew 5:48; Philippians 2:13-16; 3:12, 15; Colossians 1:26-29 for insights.)

3. In verses 4-8, what does God promise to do that confirms His power to carry out His will?

4. What promises in the Bible apply to you, and do you trust God to keep them? Why or why not? (Share the verses to help your group learn more about God.)

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 17:9-14; 23-27.

God commanded circumcision, and Abraham obeyed.

Note: Circumcision is a physical sign of the old covenant. It set apart the descendants of Abraham, with whom God had made His covenant, from the people of that day who did not know God. Circumcision is also a spiritual sign that sin is cut off, symbolizing a life of purity and integrity.

5. What is the purpose of the covenant in Genesis 17? How is circumcision related to God's covenant? Make a list of what circumcision means as a sign of the covenant.

6. What does Abraham's response in verses 23-27 suggest about him and his household?

7. What does Abraham show us about the right relationship between faith and works?
(See Hebrews 11:8-12 and James 2:14-26.)

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 17:15-22.

God promised Sarah she would bear Isaac within the year.

8. What similar words does God repeat about Sarah in this passage and about Abraham in 17:5-8?

9a. How do God's words show He wanted to prevent Abraham and Sarah from misinterpreting His meaning?

9b. How does God distinguish between Isaac and Ishmael that prevents misunderstanding His will?

10. What steps do you take to avoid misinterpreting God's Word or misunderstanding His will?

11. Which verse sets the approximate "time" for the birth of Isaac? Why might the phrase "by this time next year" have changed things for Abraham and Sarah?

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 18:1-15.
The Lord appeared and reaffirmed His promise of Isaac's birth.
12. In which verse does God confirm His original promises and give a definite timeframe?

13. Who are the visitors? What verse(s) does that come from?

14a. How might Abraham and Sarah's hospitality have differed in verses 1-8 if they were not sincerely grateful to serve?

14b. What differences do you experience when you "have to" serve instead of when you "get to" serve?

15. When did you last exercise hospitality which was *not* returning the hospitality of someone else and was *not* to special friends (Matthew 5:46-47)?

16. How do the visitors' actions in verses 9-15 show the purpose for their arrival?

17a. Did Sarah finally believe?

17b. What did Sarah have to believe? How is this the same for every believer today?
(See Luke 1:45; Hebrews 11:6, 11.)

FIFTH DAY: Review Genesis 17:1-18:15.

18. How would you connect Genesis 18:14 with Mark 10:26-27; Luke 1:37-38; and John 3:4-5?

19. How did this week's verses impact your thinking about trusting God's promises in what seems impossible?

Principles:
- When we know the character of the Lord, we will see Him for who He is, not for who we want Him to be.
- Submission to God results in promises and blessing.

Lessons:
- Faith in God is counted as righteousness.

- God fulfills His promises in His time.
- The cross of Christ has power to cut off sin in a believer's life.

Doctrinal and Confessional Connections:
*WCF 27.1,27.5: circumcision as a sacrament; WLC 30-34: covenant**

Lesson 12 Questions — Genesis 18:16-19:38

ABRAHAM INTERCEDES BUT SODOM IS DESTROYED

"So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived." – Genesis 19:29

OPENING REVIEW:

Use this space to record how you have seen God's activity during the week. (How has He provided, answered, comforted, reconciled, guided, etc.?)

What from the group discussion or personal study of last week's lesson impacted you most in the past week?

What attributes of God did you note?

FIRST DAY: Read Genesis 18:16-33 and John 15:11-16.

Abraham interceded with God for Sodom and Gomorrah.

1. What was reconfirmed about God, Abraham and their relationship in verses 16-21? Why did God tell Abraham about Sodom?

1b. What verse in John 15 tells why God explains His actions to His people? Also, Isaiah 41:8-9 and James 2:23.

2. What principles of God's judgment do you see in Genesis 18?

3. Why would Abraham appeal for Sodom to be spared? What do you learn from Abraham's prayers and God's responses (18:23-33)?

4. What did Abraham's prayers reveal about his belief about God?

5a. Was Abraham's prayer answered at all? (Genesis 19)

5b. Since God already knew the number of righteous men in Sodom, why do you think He let Abraham continue in his prayers?

5c. Should Abraham have stopped praying when he did?

5d. How does the Holy Spirit influence our prayers? (Romans 8:26-27)

5e. How might this story affect the content of your prayers?

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 19:1-14; Ezekiel 16:49-50; 2 Peter 2:5-11.

God's angels visited Sodom and told Lot of coming destruction.

Note: Lot was Abraham's nephew who came with him to Canaan. He parted from Abraham and lived in Sodom. He had returned to Sodom after Abraham rescued his family from danger due to living there. (See Genesis 12-14.)

5. What evidence do you find that Lot was deeply influenced by his culture and surroundings instead of deeply influencing his culture? What lesson can you learn from it?

6a. What do you learn about the depth of wickedness in the city?

6b. What do you learn about God?

7. Genesis 3 teaches every person will experience the impact of sin and wickedness, and it promises God will ultimately judge every sin. What challenges or comforts do you find in these two truths personally or as they relate to our society today?

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 19:15-29.
God's angels delivered Lot and his family from Sodom's destruction.
8. How does Scripture describe Lot's family's departure from Sodom and Gomorrah? Why would Lot hesitate to leave?

9. What do you learn about judgment from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah?

10a. What did Lot and his family lose because Lot chose to be bound up with Sodomites for his close friends?

10b. What are you holding onto or longing for that may be destructive for you or your family?

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 19:30-38.
The sins of Lot's family bore consequences for generations.
11. What was Lot's daughters' response to their new circumstances? Why?

12. What kinds of justification do people make for their choices today? What are your go-to justifications?

13. Which nations descended from Lot? What relationship did they have to God's plan for Israel? Did their future actions include or exclude them from God's promised line of blessing?
(See Numbers 25:1; Ruth 1:4; 4:13-17; Jeremiah 48:46-47; Zephaniah 2:9 and Matthew 1:5-6.)
(Extra references: Judges 3:28-30; Nehemiah 13:1-2; Ezekiel 25:3-7.)

14. What lessons from this passage are applicable to your life?

FIFTH DAY: Review Genesis 18:16-19:38.

15. Evaluate the character of Lot from 2 Peter 2:6-10 on the basis of the story in Genesis 19. How was Lot different from the people in Sodom? How had the worldview of the people in Sodom affected Lot and his family? What danger signs are there in this story for God's people today?

16. How has the power of Christ helped you to get rid of a sin in your life?

17. How is God rewarding you for changes made in obedience to His Word?

18. What attribute of God resonated most from your study of this week's passage, and how do you see that attribute displayed in the world today?

Principle: God rewards faith and judges ungodliness.
Lessons:
- God, the Judge of all the earth, does right. God spares the righteous. God judges the ungodly.
- As mature believers, we should joyfully and intentionally accept God's invitation to be in prayer for others.

Doctrinal and Confessional Connections: WSC 83-87; HC 10-11, God's judgement and wrath

Lesson 13 Questions — Genesis 20-21

ABRAHAM: CONFLICTS SURROUNDING ISAAC'S BIRTH

"At that time Abimelek and Phicol the commander of his forces said to Abraham, 'God is with you in everything you do.'" – Genesis 21:22

OPENING REVIEW:

Use this space to record how you have seen God's activity during the week. (How has He provided, answered, comforted, reconciled, guided, etc.?)

What from the group discussion or personal study of last week's lesson impacted you most in the past week?

What attributes of God did you note?

FIRST DAY: Read Genesis 20 with Genesis 21:22-34 and Hebrews 10:35-38.

Abraham and Sarah deceived Abimelek, but God protected them all.

1a. How are events in Genesis 20 similar to those in Genesis 12:10-20?

1b. How are events different?

1c. How can you identify with Abraham?

1d. What sinful acts are in danger of becoming sinful patterns in your life?

2a. Why do you think Abraham acted in the way he did in Genesis 20?

2b. In what way could Abraham's actions have endangered the fulfillment of God's promise to him regarding Isaac's birth?

3. How did God work through the situation?

4. In what situation is God asking you to trust Him instead of engineering your own solutions?

5a. Give some phrases from Psalm 103 which speak of God's mercy.

5b. How do we you see God's mercy in Genesis 20?

5c. How has God been merciful with you this week?

6a. How did Abraham suffer because of his sin?

6b. How might we suffer from non-Christians when we act outside of God's will?

6c. What proof do we have that Abraham and Abimelech eventually had a good relationship? How should this encourage us today?

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 21:1-13 with Romans 4:17-25.

Isaac's birth results in conflict with Hagar's son, Ishmael.

Note: Ishmael was born to Hagar, Sarah's Egyptian slave, 13 years before Isaac was born to Sarah.

7. What words or phrases reveal God's faithfulness and tell us that we can trust God's Word?

8. How was Abraham able to produce Isaac, according to Romans 4:18-21?

9. Give reasons God told Abraham to send away Hagar and Ishmael. (See also Galatians 4:22-31.) (This worked out for Ishmael's good and Isaac's good and proved to be the only way by which God's purpose for *both lives* could be fulfilled.)

10. How did God encourage faith in Abraham and guide him to pursue peace among the people involved?

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 21:9-21.
Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away under God's protection.
11. How did Ishmael sin in the same ways his mother, Hagar, had sinned? In what ways did Ishmael himself make it impossible to continue living in Abraham's home?

12. What proof does Scripture give of: Abraham's provision for Hagar and Ishmael? of God's continued care for them? of God's provision for Ishmael's future according to the already revealed traits of his personaity?

13. How do God's responses to Hagar and Ishmael help you think differently about God's grace?

Note: Remember that God ordains to which family each of us is separately born, also that our personality will only be fulfilled as we discover His best purpose for us and cooperate with it.
14a. How does the position of Ishmael in Abraham's home illustrate the activity of the "old man" or "former nature" within a Chrisitan's heart? (See Romans 7:18; 8:8; Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 3:9.)

14b. How does Isaac represent the "new man," according to Ephesians 4:24 and 2 Corinthians 5:17?

14c. How does Ishmael's persecution of Isaac illustrate how the "old man," born of the flesh, also persecutes the "new man," born of the Spirit, within the heart of a Christian today? Give examples from everyday life.

15. What did Abraham have to do in regard to Ishmael to have peace in his home? What phrases in Romans 6:11 and Galatians 5:24 relate a spiritual reality with this?

16. In Genesis 21:9-21 Isaac is given his rightful place in Abraham's home. Romans 8:14 and Galatians 5:16, 25 speak of giving the control of the human heart to the "new man" created within us when we experience new birth in Christ. Your obedience to God may cause someone else to suffer. How does Genesis 21:14-21 assure you that you will not lose out but God will undertake for you as you yield to His will?

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 21:22-34.
Abraham made a peace treaty and stayed in Beersheba.

10a. How was peace within Abraham's home followed by his neighbor's recognition of God's presence? What do you learn from this?

10b. How do their words to Abraham encourage or challenge you?

11. In what ways did Abraham honor God in this situation?

12. What can you do this week to honor God, seek peace and show others you can be trusted?

FIFTH DAY: Review Genesis 20-21.

13. Use phrases found in these chapters to write a prayer to God. How will you worship His character, confess your sins, seek forgiveness and ask for wisdom and provisions only He can supply to grow your faith in Him?

14. How is God sanctifying me through a relational challenge in my life?

15. How has accepting God's forgiveness brought me joy recently?

Principles: God accomplishes His sovereign plan.
Despite our sin and shortcomings, God shows extreme patience with us.

Lessons:

- God restores the repentant sinner.
- God patiently shows mercy on sinners.
- God patiently fulfills His promises to sinners.
- God patiently empowers sinners to be peacemakers.

*Doctrinal and Confessional Connections: HC 28: God's providence**

APPENDIX A

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Attentive: God hears and responds to the needs of His children.

Compassionate: God cares for His children and acts on their behalf.

Creator: God made everything. He is uncreated.

Deliverer: God rescues and saves His children.

Eternal: God is not limited by and exists outside of time.

Faithful: God always keeps His promises.

Generous: God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

Glorious: God displays His greatness and worth.

Good: God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

Holy: God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

Incomprehensible: God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

Infinite: God has no limits in His person or on His power.

Immutable/Unchanging: God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Jealous: God will not share His glory with another. All glory rightfully belongs to Him.

Just: God is fair in all His actions and judgments. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

Loving: God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward His children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

Merciful: God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

Omnipotent/Almighty: God holds all power. Nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

Omnipresent: God is fully present everywhere.

Omniscient: God knows everything, past, present, and future, all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

Patient/Long-suffering: God is untiring and bears with His children.

Provider: God meets the needs of His children.

Refuge: God is a place of safety and protection for His children.

Righteous: God is always good and right.

Self-existent: God depends on nothing and no one to give Him life or existence.

Self-sufficient: God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

Sovereign: God does everything according to His plan and pleasure. He controls all things.

Transcendent: God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

Truthful: Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

Wrathful: God hates all unrighteousness.

Wise: God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

Worthy: God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

The Covenant Thread in Genesis

From Adam to Noah, Abraham, and Christ

Covenant is one of the central Genesis-to-Revelation threads. It first appears structurally in Genesis 2:16–17, although the word covenant is not used there. In classic Reformed theology, God's arrangement with Adam is understood as the covenant of works. The first time Genesis explicitly uses the word covenant is Genesis 6:18, when God tells Noah, "I will establish my covenant with you." The Westminster Confession identifies God's first covenant with humanity as the covenant of works and the post-fall saving covenant as the covenant of grace.

First structural appearance	Genesis 2:16–17
First grace-promise announcement	Genesis 3:15
First explicitly named covenant	Genesis 6:18
Central fulfillment	Jesus Christ and the new covenant

Covenant and Promise

First appearance: Genesis 2:16–17
First explicitly named covenant: Genesis 6:18
Classification: A foundational biblical structure containing both commands and promises. It includes an original covenant arrangement with Adam and the unfolding covenant of grace after the fall.

1. The Covenant with Adam — the Covenant of Works

God places Adam in the garden, gives him abundant provision, commands his obedience, and warns that disobedience will bring death.

"You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat."

The Westminster Confession teaches that life was promised to Adam and his descendants on the condition of perfect and personal obedience. Adam broke this covenant, bringing sin and death upon those he represented.

Key passages: Genesis 2:16–17; 3:1–19; Hosea 6:7; Romans 5:12–21; 1 Corinthians 15:21–22, 45–49.

2. The Covenant of Grace Announced

Beginning: Genesis 3:15

After Adam breaks the covenant, God does not leave humanity without hope. He promises the offspring of the woman who will defeat the serpent. Reformed theology understands this as the first announcement of the covenant of grace—God's promise to save sinners through a Redeemer.

Promise: God will provide the Redeemer who will rescue his people from sin, Satan, death, and the curse.

Key passages: Genesis 3:15, 21; Romans 5:15–21; Galatians 3:16; Hebrews 2:14–17.

3. The Covenant with Noah

First explicitly called a covenant: Genesis 6:18

Confirmed and expanded: Genesis 8:20–9:17

God promises to preserve Noah through the flood and afterward covenants with Noah, his descendants, and every living creature. He promises never again to destroy all earthly life by a flood and gives the rainbow as the covenant sign.

> *Promise: God will preserve the created order—seedtime and harvest, seasons, day and night—while his redemptive purposes unfold.*

Key passages: Genesis 6:18; 8:20–22; 9:1–17; Isaiah 54:9–10; 2 Peter 3:5–13.

The Noahic covenant preserves the world in which the promised Seed will come. It does not itself remove sin, but it provides historical stability for God's saving plan.

4. The Covenant with Abraham

Promise introduced: Genesis 12:1–3

Covenant formally ratified: Genesis 15

Covenant sign given: Genesis 17

God promises Abraham:

- a land
- a great nation
- an offspring
- a great name
- God's own presence and relationship
- blessing extending to all nations

At the heart of this covenant is God's promise:

> *"I will be God to you and to your offspring after you."*

The Abrahamic covenant develops the Genesis 3:15 promise by identifying the family through whom the victorious Seed and worldwide blessing will come.

Key passages: Genesis 12:1–3; 15:1–21; 17:1–14; 22:15–18; Romans 4; Galatians 3:6–29; Hebrews 6:13–20.

5. The Covenant Promises Continued Through Isaac and Jacob

God confirms the promises made to Abraham with Isaac and Jacob.

Key passages: Genesis 17:19–21; 26:2–5, 23–24; 28:10–17; 35:9–12; 46:1–4.

The covenant line is therefore: Adam → promise after the fall → Noah → Abraham → Isaac → Jacob → Israel → David → Christ and the new covenant

6. Fulfillment in Christ and the New Covenant

Jesus is the obedient last Adam, the promised Seed, the true Israel, the son of Abraham and David, and the Mediator of the new covenant. He fulfills the obedience Adam failed to render and bears the covenant curse for his people.

Key passages: Matthew 1:1; Luke 22:20; Romans 5:12–21; Galatians 3:13–16; Hebrews 8–10; Revelation 21:3, 7.

Covenant-thread summary:

God binds himself to his people by promise, preserves the world for redemption, identifies the promised family and Seed, and finally brings his people into everlasting covenant communion with himself through Christ.

APPENDIX C

Genesis Themes and Promises

Simplified tracing guide - ordered by where each theme or promise first appears in Genesis

*** Central Gospel Thread**

#	Theme / Promise	Begins in Genesis	One-line Summary	Scripture Trace
1	**Creation & New Creation**	Gen. 1:1-2:3	God creates a good world; sin damages it, but God will renew creation in Christ.	Gen. 1-2 -> Isa. 65:17-25 -> Rom. 8:18-25 -> 2 Cor. 5:17 -> Rev. 21:1-5; 22:1-5
2	**Image of God & New Humanity**	Gen. 1:26-28	Humanity is created in God's image; Christ is the perfect image, and His people are renewed into His likeness.	Gen. 1:26-28; 5:1-3 -> Ps. 8 -> Rom. 8:29 -> Col. 1:15; 3:10 -> Rev. 22:3-5
3	**Kingdom, Dominion & the True King**	Gen. 1:26-28	Humanity is commissioned to rule under God; that royal calling is ultimately fulfilled in Christ the King.	Gen. 1:26-28 -> Gen. 49:10 -> 2 Sam. 7:12-16 -> Dan. 7:13-14 -> Matt. 28:18-20 -> Rev. 11:15
4	**Sabbath, Rest & Inheritance**	Gen. 2:2-3	God's creation rest begins a pattern that leads to rest in Christ and final rest in the new creation.	Gen. 2:2-3 -> Ex. 20:8-11 -> Ps. 95:7-11 -> Matt. 11:28-30 -> Heb. 3-4 -> Rev. 21-22
5	**Garden, Land, Wilderness, Exile & Homecoming**	Gen. 2:8-15; 3:23-24	Eden is humanity's first home; sin brings exile, and God works throughout Scripture to bring His people home to Himself.	Gen. 2-3 -> Gen. 12:1-7 -> Deut. 30:1-10 -> Isa. 35 -> Heb. 11:13-16 -> Rev. 21-22
6	**God's Presence & Dwelling Place**	Gen. 2:8-15; 3:8	Humanity loses life in God's presence through sin, but God progressively restores His dwelling with His people.	Gen. 2-3 -> Ex. 25:8 -> 1 Kings 8 -> John 1:14; 2:19-21 -> Eph. 2:19-22 -> Rev. 21:3; 22:3-4
7	*** The Savior and Life: Tree of Life & Restored Eternal Life**	Gen. 2:9; 3:22-24	Sin bars humanity from the tree of life; Christ conquers death and restores eternal life with God.	Gen. 2:9; 3:22-24 -> Ezek. 47:12 -> John 11:25-26 -> 1 Cor. 15:20-23 -> Rev. 2:7; 22:1-5
8	**Covenant & Promise**	Gen. 2:16-17; explicit "covenant" in 6:18	God binds Himself to His people by covenant, culminating in the new covenant established through Christ.	Gen. 2:16-17; 6:18; 9:8-17 -> Gen. 12; 15; 17 -> 2 Sam. 7 -> Jer. 31:31-34 -> Luke 22:20 -> Heb. 8-10
9	**Marriage, Bride & Bridegroom**	Gen. 2:18-25	God institutes marriage, which becomes a biblical picture of His covenant love and ultimately Christ and His bride.	Gen. 2:18-25 -> Isa. 54:5-8 -> Hos. 2:19-20 -> Eph. 5:25-32 -> Rev. 19:6-9; 21:2
10	**Judgment & Salvation Through Judgment**	Gen. 3:14-24	God judges evil while graciously preserving and saving His people-a pattern fulfilled supremely at the cross.	Gen. 3:14-24 -> Gen. 6-9 -> Ex. 12-14 -> Isa. 53 -> Rom. 3:25-26 -> Col. 2:13-15 -> Rev. 20-21
11	*** The Promised Seed**	Gen. 3:15	God promises the offspring who will defeat the serpent; the promised line ultimately leads to Jesus Christ.	Gen. 3:15 -> Gen. 12:1-3; 22:18 -> Gen. 49:10 -> 2 Sam. 7:12-16 -> Gal. 3:16 -> Heb. 2:14 -> Rev. 20:10
12	*** God-Provided Sacrifice, Covering & Righteousness**	Gen. 3:21	God provides the covering sinners cannot provide for themselves, anticipating substitution and righteousness fulfilled in Christ.	Gen. 3:21 -> Gen. 4:4; 22:8-14 -> Ex. 12 -> Lev. 16 -> Isa. 53 -> John 1:29 -> Heb. 9-10 -> Rev. 7:9-14
13	**The Two Cities**	Gen. 4:17; developed in 11:1-9	Scripture contrasts humanity's rebellious city of self-glory with God's everlasting city and the New Jerusalem.	Gen. 4:17; 11:1-9 -> Ps. 46; 48 -> Heb. 11:10,16; 12:22-24 -> Rev. 17-18 -> Rev. 21-22
14	**Blessing to All Nations**	Gen. 1:28; explicit promise Gen. 12:1-3	God promises that through Abraham's offspring His blessing will reach all nations, fulfilled through Christ and His worldwide people.	Gen. 1:28; 12:1-3 -> Gen. 22:18 -> Ps. 67 -> Isa. 49:6 -> Gal. 3:8,16 -> Matt. 28:18-20 -> Rev. 7:9-10

How to use this list: You do not need to find every theme in every passage. Ask whether one of these threads is beginning, narrowing, repeating, or developing in the text you are studying.