Plan of Salvation, Part One

Tuesday Night Adult Bible Study — October 20, 2026
Based on Pastor David's message: "The Realities of the Cross"

Purpose: Trace the message from creation through the Fall and God's covenant with Abraham, examining what the passages reveal about humanity's need for salvation and God's provision.

Read each main passage before discussing its questions. The **Bonus Scriptures** provide additional biblical context as time allows. Keep asking: **What does the passage explicitly say, and what are we drawing as an interpretation or application?**

1. Seeing the whole story

Pastor David compared individual topical messages to movie previews. Understanding the larger story helps us understand each part.

Read: Genesis 1:26–31; Genesis 3:1–15

- What changes between these two passages concerning humanity's relationship with God?
- Why must we understand both God's good creation and humanity's sin to explain the need for salvation?
- How could leaving out either part affect the way we present the gospel?

Bonus Scriptures: Romans 5:12–19. What connection does Paul make between Adam's disobedience and Christ's obedience?

2. Created in God's image

Read: Genesis 1:26–28; Genesis 2:7–9, 15–17

- What responsibilities did God give humanity? What boundaries accompanied those responsibilities?
- What had God already provided before giving Adam his work and command?
- How does the presence of work before the Fall help us distinguish purposeful work from the painful toil described afterward?

Bonus Scriptures: Genesis 3:17–19; Psalm 8:3–8.

Go deeper: What does being made in God's image teach us about human dignity and accountability?

3. God's speech and our words

Read: Genesis 1:3–5, 26–28

- What does this chapter reveal about the authority and effectiveness of God's speech?
- Does the passage explicitly say that being made in God's image gives human speech the same creative power as God's speech?
- How can we take responsibility for our words while recognizing our dependence on God?

Bonus Scriptures: Proverbs 18:20–21; James 3:3–10.

Go deeper: What effects of human speech do Proverbs and James actually describe? How do those passages help us apply the sermon's emphasis on words?

4. The serpent's attack on God's Word

Read: Genesis 2:16–17; Genesis 3:1–6

- Compare God's command with the serpent's question and Eve's response. What changed?
- How did the serpent challenge both the truth of God's warning and the goodness of His character?
- What made the forbidden fruit appealing to Eve? How did those desires influence her response?

Bonus Scriptures: James 1:13–16; Matthew 4:1–11.

Go deeper: The account records God giving the command to Adam before Eve's creation, but it does not describe every conversation afterward. Why should we avoid assuming more about Eve's knowledge than the text tells us?

5. Deception, disobedience, and responsibility

Read: Genesis 3:6–13

- What did Adam and Eve do immediately after eating? What do their actions reveal about the effects of sin?
- How did each respond when God questioned them?
- Where do we see the difference between explaining what happened and accepting responsibility?

Bonus Scriptures: 1 Timothy 2:13–14; Romans 5:12–19.

Go deeper: How do these supporting passages clarify Adam's responsibility? What does Paul emphasize about the consequences of his disobedience?

6. What changed—and who still rules?

Read: Genesis 1:26–28; Genesis 3:14–24

Pastor David described Adam's disobedience as "high treason" and a surrender of dominion.

- What consequences does Genesis explicitly identify?
- Does Genesis 3 explicitly describe a legal transfer of ownership of the earth to Satan?
- How can we discuss Satan's influence without overlooking God's continuing sovereignty?

Bonus Scriptures: Psalm 24:1; Luke 4:5–8; Colossians 1:13–14.

Go deeper: Read Satan's claim in Luke alongside Psalm 24. Why must we distinguish what Satan claims from what Scripture establishes about God's ownership?

7. Judgment and the first promise of victory

Read: Genesis 3:14–21

- What judgments does God pronounce, and to whom is each addressed?
- What conflict and eventual victory are described in verse 15?
- Where do you see God's care for Adam and Eve even as He confronts their sin?

Bonus Scriptures: Hebrews 2:14–15; 1 John 3:8.

Go deeper: How do these New Testament passages help us understand Christ's victory over the devil?

8. Abraham: believing the God who promises

Read: Genesis 15:1–18

- What concerns does Abram bring to God? How does God answer him?
- According to verse 6, what was credited to Abram as righteousness?
- Who passes between the pieces while Abram is in a deep sleep? What does this emphasize about God's commitment to His promise?

Bonus Scriptures: Romans 4:1–5, 16–22; Hebrews 6:13–18.

Go deeper: Pastor David described covenant as God's "legal access" to earth. Does Genesis 15 state that God previously lacked authority to act, or does it emphasize His promise and commitment to Abram? Which conclusion can we establish directly from the passage?

9. Covenant identity and obedience

Read: Genesis 17:1–14

- What does God promise Abraham, and what does He require of him?

- How do Abraham's new name and the covenant sign relate to God's promises?
- How do Genesis 15 and 17 together help us discuss faith and obedience?

Bonus Scriptures: Romans 4:9–12; Galatians 3:16, 26–29.

Go deeper: How does Paul connect the promise to Abraham with Christ and those who belong to Him?

10. "God will provide": Abraham and Isaac

Read: Genesis 22:1–14

- What does verse 1 tell the reader that Abraham does not yet know about the purpose of this command?
- What do Abraham's statements in verses 5 and 8 reveal about his trust in God?
- What does God ultimately provide, and how does that provision preserve Isaac's life?
- What parallels with Jesus can we observe? Which details are not established by this passage?

Bonus Scriptures: Hebrews 11:17–19; John 19:17; Romans 8:32; 2 Chronicles 3:1.

Leader note: Genesis 22 does not give Isaac's age. Second Chronicles connects Moriah with the temple site; these passages do not establish that Isaac's offering and Jesus' crucifixion occurred at the same exact location. Build the discussion around the clear themes of faith, obedience, and God's provision.

11. "Who told you?" Examining the voices we hear

Read: Genesis 3:9–13

- In its original setting, what is God exposing through His questions?
- How can this passage encourage honest examination of what we believe and whom we trust?
- Why is whether a thought feels pleasant or painful insufficient to determine its source?

Bonus Scriptures: Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 7:9–10; 1 John 4:1.

Go deeper: What distinguishes correction that leads to repentance from condemnation that drives us toward hopelessness? How can we test a thought against Scripture?

12. Explaining the need for a Savior

Read: Romans 5:6–11

- What condition were we in when Christ died for us?
- What does this passage say Christ's death accomplishes?

- Looking back over tonight's passages, how would you explain why humanity needs Jesus?

Bonus Scriptures: Ephesians 2:1–10; Romans 10:9–13.

Closing discussion: In two or three minutes, explain the story from creation to humanity's need for salvation. Use the passages we studied to support your explanation.

Personal application: What truth from tonight's study calls for a response of faith, repentance, obedience, or gratitude?

Closing prayer:
Father, give us understanding as we study Your Word. Help us recognize Your goodness, accept responsibility for our sin, and trust Your provision in Jesus Christ. Teach us to handle Scripture faithfully and explain the gospel clearly. In Jesus' name, amen.

Preparation for the next session: Read Genesis 15–22. Note what God promises, how Abraham responds, and what each chapter reveals about God's faithfulness.

Pastor David presented "The Plan of Salvation" (also referred to as "The Realities of the Cross"), a foundational narrative message originally assembled from Genesis to Revelation by your father and grandfather. This sermon marks only the second time you have shared this specific message, following an abbreviated version delivered the previous day. You emphasized that while topical preaching is valuable, understanding the overarching biblical narrative provides the necessary context for all other spiritual truths.

"The Plan of Salvation Narrative"

Creation | Genesis 1-2 | God speaks the universe into existence and places man in a garden of perfect provision.

The Fall | Genesis 3 | Adam commits high treason by obeying the serpent, legally surrendering earthly dominion to Satan.

The Covenant | Genesis 15-17 | God re-establishes legal access to Earth through a blood covenant with Abraham.

Prophetic Shadow | Genesis 22 | Abraham offers Isaac on Mount Moriah, foreshadowing the sacrifice of Christ.

Redemption | The Cross | Jesus Christ (the Seed of the woman) crushes the serpent's head and restores man.

Sermon Structure and Detailed Insights

Introduction: The Full Movie vs. Movie Previews

• The "Continuous Paper" Origin: You described how your father and grandfather typed out every scripture pertaining to this narrative on continuous typewriter paper. When finished, the scroll reached halfway down the church aisle. They eventually condensed this exhaustive study into the "Plan of Salvation" message.

• The Preview Analogy: You compared topical preaching—sermons focusing strictly on faith, love, heaven, or hell—to a high-action movie preview. In a preview, you might see a man with a gun jumping through a smashed window onto a speeding truck while being shot at, but you don't know the plot, the characters, or who the "good guy" is. The Plan of Salvation provides the "full movie," giving clarity and context to how all biblical themes fit together.

Creation and the Power of the Spoken Word (Genesis 1)

• Creative Authority: God created the entire universe by speaking words. Because humans are created in God's image and likeness, human words possess similar creative power. You warned that "death and life are in the power of the tongue," and a person's "universe" is often shaped by the trajectory of their speech.

• Divine Provision: Highlighting a point from Andrew Wommack, you noted that God created every provision (food, relationship, environment) before creating man, so that Adam could simply "show up and enjoy" rather than struggle to survive.

• The Distinction of Gender: You emphasized the biblical account of "male and female" as the requirement for being fruitful and multiplying, explicitly rejecting modern alternative terminologies.

The Fall: Deception and High Treason (Genesis 3)

• Revelation vs. Communicative Knowledge: You noted that God gave the command not to eat of the tree directly to Adam. Eve's knowledge was "communicative" (passed down from Adam), which led her to mistakenly add "neither shall we touch it" to the command. The serpent used this slight inaccuracy to facilitate his deception.

• The Act of High Treason: While Eve was deceived, Adam disobeyed with "eyes wide open." By obeying the devil rather than God, Adam legally transferred the dominion and authority God had given him over the earth to Satan.

• Passing the Buck: Sin immediately introduced a nature of blame. Adam blamed Eve and God ("the woman thou gavest me"), while Eve blamed the serpent.

The Covenant and the Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 15, 17, 22)

• Legal Access: Because God is not a "lawbreaker," He could not simply "shoot the devil" to fix the Fall. He required a legal way back into the earth, which He achieved through an ancient blood covenant with a righteous man, Abraham.

• Blood Covenant Mechanics: You explained that ancient covenants involved parties exchanging strengths to cover weaknesses (e.g., a tribe of fighters partnering with a tribe of bakers). In Genesis 15, God confirmed this covenant by passing through a "pathway of blood" as a smoking furnace while Abraham was in a deep sleep.

• The Mount Moriah Parallel: You highlighted the profound geographical and historical links in Genesis 22:

  • Carrying the Wood: Just as Isaac carried the wood for his own sacrifice up the hill, Jesus carried the wood of the cross.

  • The Location: Mount Moriah is the site of the current Temple Mount in Jerusalem, where Solomon built the temple 800 years later. You noted that Golgotha is situated in this same immediate area.

  • The Age Parallel: While the Bible doesn't explicitly state Isaac's age, you calculated (based on Sarah's age) that he was likely between 18 and 37 years old—placing him potentially at 33, the same age as Christ at the crucifixion.

Ministry Application and Corporate Response

Discerning the Source of Thoughts

You encouraged the congregation to use God's question to Adam—"Who told thee that thou wast naked?"—as a tool for spiritual discernment.

Identifying the Source of a Voice

Does the voice make you feel poor, sick, depressed, or "less than"?

• Yes => The Devil

This is condemnation intended to tear you down. Reject it.

• No (It brings correction with hope) => The Holy Spirit

This is conviction intended to restore you. "Come unto me, all who are weary."

Corporate Salvation and Future Study

• The Importance of Gospel Literacy: You stressed that believers must know the story from cover to cover so they can articulate their faith and explain the origins of death and sin without simply arguing.

• Salvation Call: You led a corporate prayer for anyone seeking to accept Jesus as their personal Savior, emphasizing that "today you can know" your eternal destination.

• Commitment to the Word: Citing John Osteen, you noted that "God will never allow His Word to not have an audience." You expressed a commitment to preaching the full Word without rushing, even if it takes years to get through a book.

Next Steps

• Congregation: Study Genesis chapters 15 through 22 in detail to prepare for the continued series.
• Weekly Bible Study: The "Plan of Salvation" study will continue during the Tuesday night Bible study on October 20, 2026.
• Upcoming Service: The Sunday sermon series will pick up where it left off on October 25, 2026.