



CrossConnect
MINISTRIES

GOD'S PLAN OUR CHOICE

JACKIE OESCH

GENESIS 1-11

LESSON 1: CREATION - *CREATION BY GOD'S DESIGN*

LESSON 2: THE FALL – *WHAT WENT WRONG?*

LESSON 3: CAIN AND ABEL – *AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER*

LESSON 4: THE FLOOD – *NEVER AGAIN!*

LESSON 5: THE TOWER OF BABEL – *FROM NOAH TO ABRAM*

“...I HAVE PUT MY HOPE IN YOUR WORD.”

PSALM 119:74

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved

GETTING STARTED

You are embarking on an adventure that will shape the rest of your life. Your journey will be unique to you and will be determined in part by your eager and enthusiastic desire to grow in your understanding of the Book called The Holy Bible. Your commitment to the study promises to enrich your life as God speaks to you through His Word.

As you study you are encouraged to have some recommended supplies on hand:

1. This Bible Study unit: *God's Plan, Our Choice*
2. New International Version of the Holy Bible (NIV). Note: If you are making a new purchase, look for a Bible, if possible, that has:
 - a. a cross-reference column preferably down the center of each page,
 - b. a Concordance usually found in the back of the Bible, and
 - c. a few basic maps also found in the back.
3. Pen or pencil
4. 3x5 or 4x6 index cards

With the three features listed in #2 you will be adequately supplied for your study and be ready to successfully navigate through these lessons. If, however, this is your first exposure to the Bible, you may want to consider beginning with the study entitled *Navigating the Bible*. This study provides navigational tools designed to help you develop skills and make you a more confident Bible student. *Navigating the Bible* may be downloaded at no cost or obligation on the CrossConnect website at www.CrossCM.org. Although this study is recommended, it is not essential for success in studying *God's Plan, Our Choice*.

Do not hesitate to mark up your Bible. It's your Bible to study. Make it your own with your notes, your underlining, highlighting, circling and arrows! You may choose to use a notebook or tablet for recording thoughts, questions, and tracking your journey through the study.

The study material is written so that you are able to learn on your own. With a degree of self-discipline you will cover the material with little or no difficulty. At the same time, you will acquire new information, share new insights, and ask some challenging questions that will beg for answers. Anticipating this response you are encouraged to seriously consider inviting a couple of friends to study with you.

May you find joy in your study. May your heart be receptive as God speaks to you through His Word. May these Bible stories reassure you of His great love given to you through His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

LESSON ONE

CREATION, BY GOD'S DESIGN

GENESIS 1-2 – THE STORY OF CREATION

OVERVIEW OF LESSON 1

Overview: Genesis 1-2	3
Introduction	4
Lesson 1: Genesis 1-2	
• Creator God	5
• Genesis Account of Creation	7
• The Sabbath Day Established	8
• Creation of Man and Woman	10
• Marriage	12
• The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil	13
• Application	14

INTRODUCTION

Genesis is a book of beginnings. Genesis means beginning. This first book gives the Biblical account of creation and opens with the words, "In the beginning." In the first two chapters we read the Biblical account of creation. He made everything in heaven and on earth. All of God's creation was good; it was very good! Genesis 1 and 2 give an account of the creation of the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve. God created them in His image and gave them purpose as He placed them in the Garden of Eden with the instruction to work and take care of it.

The beginnings of Genesis are not necessarily concluded in Genesis. One rather subtle beginning is told in Genesis 2:10. In this particular case, the beginning is a river. Verse 10 begins, "A river watering the garden flowed from Eden." The river separated into four headwaters. This verse can easily be overlooked as having little, if any, relevance to the story of creation.

We know that every river has a beginning. The Yangtze River's source is the glaciers of the Quighai-Tibetian Plateau and the Han River of South Korea has its origin with the confluence of the Namhan and Bukham Rivers. The mighty Amazon originates in the Andes Mountains and the longest river, the Nile, has its primary source with the Blue Nile of Ethiopia. All have their beginning regardless of how small.

The river that flowed from the Garden of Eden in a picturesque fashion makes its beginning in the second chapter in the first book of the entire Bible and weaves its way throughout Biblical history to the present day and continues on into eternity. We can briefly follow this river throughout Scripture. This river with its four headwaters is both a real river in time and space and also metaphorically a river that connects people throughout history to the One who is the source of all life.

Genesis is the book that is like the headwaters of this great river. You will delight in exploring the beginnings found here as it feeds into all you will learn whenever you study God's Word. Enjoy the experience. May this study become a stream of living water satisfying the thirst of your own soul (John 4:10).

It's time to let the adventure begin! Open your Bible to Genesis 1. Let's start with the first verse of chapter one. Write down the first three words:

Part 1

INTRODUCTION: This lesson will give you the opportunity to look closely at the Biblical account of creation. The intent of the lesson is not to debate or argue but rather to pose questions that will lead you through the material giving you information regarding what God's Word says about the creation of the heavens and the earth. Enjoy your study!

ASSIGNMENT: Read the first two chapters of Genesis, Genesis 1 and 2.

EXERCISE:

1. What does Genesis 1:1 tell us?

- a. _____
- b. _____

We are told that God is the Creator and the heavens and the earth are the created. Let's first give our attention to the fact that God is the Creator.

2. Listed are three additional references that restate the fact that it was God who created:

- a. Psalm 102:25 speaks of God and says, " _____
_____ "
- b. Psalm 115:15 also confirms that the Lord is " _____
_____ "
- c. Psalm 148:5b says, "He _____ and they were
_____ "

REFLECTION: Begin to record some of your thoughts.

- 1. What does it mean to me that God is the Creator? _____

- 2. Consider for a moment something that you have created, maybe something with some fabric or a piece wood. As the one who was creating you gave much thought and care to the project. Take a moment and envision God at work, ready to begin His project of creating the heavens and the earth. What are some of your thoughts as you imagine Him carefully planning His work?

Part 2

ASSIGNMENT: Reread Genesis 1:1-2.

EXERCISE:

1. What does the Bible say the earth was like in the beginning before God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:2)?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Formless, empty and darkness over it all... These words sound a little eerie, don't they? It's not difficult to understand empty and dark but what is formless? Some Bible translations speak of the beginning as a time of chaos and emptiness, without form and void. One gets the feeling that it was a muddled mess. It's interesting to note that at a time of chaos, lack of order, and emptiness God decided to act.

2. What words in Genesis 1:2 give the reader a sense of the divine presence of God in the beginning? _____

The Spirit of God was present. We are told that God's Spirit was "hovering over" the waters. There's a sense that something significant is about to happen. The picture is something like a parent's presence as he/she hovers over a young child.

3. What are some other picture images or words you might use to describe this hovering presence of the Spirit of God? Deuteronomy and Isaiah may help. Take a look!

- a. Deuteronomy 32:11 - _____
- b. Isaiah 31:5 - _____

REFLECTION: God was hovering over something that was formless, empty, and dark. When does my life feel that way...formless, empty, and dark? _____

What difference would it make at those times to acknowledge that God's caring presence is always hovering over me? _____

PRAYER: Lord, I thank You for Your divine presence even before creation began. You continue to hover over all that You have made. Thank You for caring for Your creation, the work of Your hands. Thank You for caring for me and those I love. _____

Part 3

ASSIGNMENT: Now reread all of Genesis 1.

EXERCISE: In this chapter we notice that God as the Creator spoke and creation came into being. Genesis 1:3 is an example. In Psalm 148:5 we read "...for He _____ and they were _____."

1. List all the things that God created at His command.
 - a. Day 1: Genesis 1:3-5 _____

 - b. Day 2: Genesis 1:6-8 _____

 - c. Day 3: Genesis 1:9-13 _____

 - d. Day 4: Genesis 1:14-19 _____

 - e. Day 5: Genesis 1:20-23 _____

 - f. Day 6: Genesis 1:24-27 _____

2. Note some of the different directives and blessings He gave to that which He created. For example, in verse 3 He "separates" the light and darkness. In verse 9 He "gathers" the water to one place. In verse 20 He blesses the creatures and tells them to "be fruitful and increase in number."
3. Three phrases reoccur in chapter 1. Find these phrases and note how many times each phrase is used.
 - a. "And (Then) God said..." _____ times
 - b. "And it was so." _____ times
 - c. "And God saw that it was (very) good." _____ times
4. What do we learn about God from these repetitive phrases?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

God is the Creator. He spoke. Creation came into being. Everything He created was good, even *very* good (Gen. 1:31).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. When I consider that God is the Creator, when and where might I see Him at work creating and sustaining all that He has created? _____
2. Do I sometimes think that He has “dropped the ball” and abandoned what He created? What do I learn about Him as the One who maintains creation?
 - a. Colossians 1:16, 17 _____
 - b. Matthew 6:25-34 _____

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. God existed before the beginning. He was not created. He is eternal. He always was and will always be. In Revelation 1:8 He is referred to as the _____ and the _____. In Revelation 21:6 God is also referred to as the _____ and the _____.
2. Because humankind is captured by time everything has a beginning. Think of some of those things that have been beginnings for you. Maybe you recall a time of a child’s birth, or the first day of school, or the initial moment of a creative thought. God existed *before* the beginning. He always was.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What thoughts *challenge* you as you consider that God is eternal, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End? _____

2. What thoughts *comfort* you as you consider that God is eternal? _____

PRAYER: Lord, today I thank You that You are the Creator of all creation. In the beginning You chose to create the heavens and the earth. Everything You created was very good. Thank You! _____

Part 4

ASSIGNMENT: Genesis 2:1 says that creation was completed. And then, we read verses 2 and 3. Write out these verses: _____

EXERCISE: In your own words, what happened on Day 7 (Genesis 2:2, 3)? _____

TEACHING: The way God chose to bless the day, the seventh day, and make it holy was to rest from His work. He *sanctified* the day. He chose to set the day apart for a special purpose; the purpose was for rest.

- **DEFINITION:** *Sanctify* means to make holy or to make sacred.
- **DEFINITION:** *Sabbath Day*, the day of worship and rest. Note: For the Jewish community Saturday has been the designated Sabbath Day, however, the early believers chose Sunday in order to commemorate Jesus' resurrection. The importance is not which day of the week but that the rhythm of every week includes a Sabbath Day, a day of rest.

God gave order to created life. Did God need a day of rest? Was God tired and worn out? As a relational God He chose to rest and enjoy life with His creation. One gets the sense that He simply wanted to celebrate. Genesis 1:31 says that He saw it all and acknowledged that it was all very good. One wonders if He looked at the trees or the animals or Adam and Eve and said something like, "I did such a good job when I made you!"

For six days people have the privilege of working but on the seventh day, however, they have been given the privilege of resting from their work. It's a day for us to enjoy His creation and give attention to relationships. This is the day set aside for *worship* as we give attention to our relationship with God. God knew that we needed a time to worship Him in order to keep the relationship between the Creator and the created in proper perspective. He also knew that we needed a day of *rest* for our bodies and minds in order that we function well the other six days. And God knew that we needed to have time for rest with family and friends, those who are a part of our community life. Finally, He wanted us to enjoy the relationship He provided with nature and all He had made.

EXERCISE: God's Word speaks about the Sabbath Day. Let's take some time to learn what He says in the following passages:

- a. Exodus 16:23 _____
- b. Deuteronomy 5:12-15 _____
- c. Isaiah 58:13-14 _____

APPLICATION:

1. With an awareness of our need for rest and worship, what might a typical Sabbath Day, day of rest, look like in your life? _____

2. As you consider your relationships, identify one or two changes you would like to make to sanctify the day.
 - a. As I consider my relationship with my Creator, I would like to make the following change: _____
 - b. As I consider that my body and mind are also His creation, I would like to make the following change: _____
 - c. As I consider my relationship with my social community, especially my family and friends, and with nature I would like to make the following change: _____

PRAYER: O God, You are my Creator. I thank You for the gift of rest. All too often I find myself working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Your Word reminds me that I need a day for rest when I can worship You and nurture the relationships I have with others, including myself. Help me to receive these relationships as gifts of love from You and help me pursue them with a grateful heart. May I find my rest in You. _____

Part 5

TEACHING: In Genesis 1:26 God said, “Let us make man in our image...” Scripture goes to great lengths to recount the story of the creation of Adam and Eve. Chapters 1 and 2 give different details because these two accounts were written with different intent and purpose. Let’s begin by noting some of the information regarding the creation of the man and the woman.

EXERCISE:

1. What do you discover about the creation of mankind from each of these verses? Attempt to identify what is the truth that is revealed regarding the creation of man and woman.

From Genesis 1: “Man” refers to both _____ and _____. (“them”—verse 27).

- a. Verse 26 - _____

- b. Verse 27 - _____
- c. Verse 28 - _____
- d. Verse 29 - _____

From Genesis 2: Again, attempt to discover the truth revealed regarding the creation of man and woman from this chapter. What is the man's name? _____ (Genesis 2:20) What is the woman's name? _____ (Genesis 3:20)

- a. Verse 5 - _____
- b. Verse 7 - _____
- c. Verse 18 - _____
- d. Verse 20 - _____
- e. Verse 21 - _____
- f. Verse 22 - _____
- g. Verse 23 - _____

TEACHING: Genesis 1:27 says that both the man and the woman are created in the image of God. This poses a powerful picture for us as God's creation. God gives to us the responsibility of reflecting His image to creation. A mirror reflects the image of a face. God's plan was for mankind to be a reflection of Him to the world. Humankind bears His image and we reflect that image when we create, socialize, make choices, love, worship, and live in a relationship with Him. God gave to human beings purpose and meaning for their lives by calling them and giving to them the responsibility of reflecting Him.

QUESTION: What was the blessing God gave to them in Genesis 1:28?

1. Be _____ and _____
2. _____ the earth and _____ it.
3. _____ the fish, the birds, and every living creature.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What or who is it that has given purpose and meaning to your life? _____
2. As you reflect on Genesis 1:27-28, what value do you believe God has placed on your life? _____

3. When is a time you recognize yourself (the created) in partnership with God, acting alongside Him (the Creator)? _____
4. What difference does it make for your life to know that God has blessed you and called you to reflect Him to the world in which you live? _____

DIGGING DEEPER: In the following references observe the intimate care God gives to His creation of humankind whom He has blessed and called to reflect Him.

- Take a moment to read Psalm 139. Give particular attention to verses 13-16. What insights do these verses give to the relationship God has with His creation even before birth? _____

- What does Psalm 8:3-9 tell us about our value to Him? _____

- What insight does 1 Chronicles 29:14 give when we consider all that we claim to be ours? _____

PRAYER: O God, You have not only created me but You have blessed my life with purpose and meaning. You have called me into a partner relationship with You and have given me the responsibility of reflecting You to all that You have made. I thank You that Your power is at work in me.

Part 6

TEACHING: Genesis 2:24 introduces us to marriage. From the very beginning God took the initiative to institute marriage. Marriage was the reason for a man to leave his father and mother and become united as one flesh to his wife.

In this passage we read that marriage is the two becoming one flesh. A wedding ceremony does not cause an instant oneness of two distinct individuals. It is a *process* of becoming one and the process will continue throughout a lifetime together. The process of physically becoming one flesh is culminated in the act of intercourse. Verse 25 speaks of the man and his wife as both being naked and yet not feeling shame. The nakedness shared by man and woman was God's good and gracious intent when He created the woman and presented her to the man as his wife.

EXERCISE:

1. Another Biblical reference to marriage is taken from the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:6. Locate the passage and write it out: _____

2. What was God's intent for marriage according to this verse? _____

DIGGING DEEPER: Many passages in the Bible make reference to marriage and God's intent for a man and a woman joined in marriage. Should you be interested in further study, a few references may be helpful for getting started. The use of cross-references noted in the individual verses will lead you to additional sections for consideration. Note the responsibilities of both husband and wife:

- Ephesians 5:21-33
- 1 Corinthians 13 (often referred to as the Love Chapter)
- 1 Peter 3:1-7

REVIEW: In this lesson we have looked at God as the Creator of the heavens and the earth and acknowledged Him to be eternal, never created and existing before time began. We noted the days of creation which are climaxed with the holy, sanctified day, the day set apart for rest. We looked in detail at the creation of human beings and God's expressed purpose for them to reflect Him to the world. And we looked at marriage and God's intent that the man and the woman become one flesh.

God created and declared everything to be very good. Everything was in place. All was designed by Him to give Him glory and honor. There's just one more thing...

EXERCISE:

1. Genesis 2:8-9 says that God created the garden called _____. Two trees were planted in the middle of the garden. They were called:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
2. In verse 15 God introduced the man to the Garden of Eden. What was His instruction?

3. What was God's one command to the man? Write out verses 16 and 17: _____

4. What did God say would be the consequence of disobedience? _____

REFLECTION: At first it may seem to be unfair that God would put the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” in the Garden. It seems like the tree was forbidden and existed as a temptation for Adam and Eve. But, God had created humankind with a will that enabled them to choose whether or not to obey His Word. By their obedience they expressed their love for Him. The trees were in the middle of the Garden. All of life was lived around them. God wants our lives centered on His good and loving Word. What does it mean for you to live with God’s Word at the center of your life? _____

In addition, God never demanded that they love Him. Love is a choice and the tree was the one choice they could make that would allow them to demonstrate their love for Him. Isn’t it interesting that with all that God created, with all that God gave them to enjoy, with all that God had placed in the garden for them to eat, with all that was given to them out of God’s generosity only this one tree was forbidden? What are some of your thoughts? _____

APPLICATION:

1. You have read the creation story in Genesis 1 and 2. What insights are expanding your thoughts?

2. What new action will you choose to take that demonstrates your care for creation?

In what ways might recycling or planting a garden demonstrate honor to God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth? _____

3. What may be new thoughts for you as you consider that you are “fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139)?” _____

4. In what way may your life begin to reflect God to the world as you choose to focus your thoughts and actions on God’s Word? _____

PRAYER: Write a sentence prayer sharing your desire to reflect God to those in your life.

The story continues in Genesis 3 with a conversation at the base of the tree...

LESSON TWO

WHAT WENT WRONG?

GENESIS 3 – THE FALL OF HUMANKIND

OVERVIEW OF LESSON 2

Overview: Lesson 2	15
Introduction	16
Lesson 2: Genesis 3	
• The Serpent	17
• The Encounter	18
• Act of Disobedience	21
• Desires of Sin	23
• Definitions: Justified, Grace, Redemption	25
• Result of Sin	26
• The Battle Begins	28
• God’s Promise	29
• Consequences of Sin	30
• God’s Care for the Man and the Woman	31
• Closing Comments	32

INTRODUCTION

The Book of Genesis has another beginning. We are told the story in Genesis 3. God's command was that every tree in the Garden was given for them to eat. His instruction, however, was that the tree in the middle of the Garden was not to be eaten. The man and the woman were told that if they ate the fruit from this tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they would die.

Then one day the woman encountered the deceit of the serpent and his alluring temptation of knowing good *and* evil and she ate from the tree. She gave some of the fruit to her husband and he also ate. Thus, for the first time, death was now a part of the human experience. Sin permeated all that God had made. The perfect relationship between God and humankind was destroyed. The relationship between the man and the woman was devastated. Everything that God had made was defiled by sin. All of this happened because of the disobedience of the man and the woman.

This predicament causes us to ask many questions: What would cause Adam and Eve to disobey God's command? Why would they listen to the deceit of evil rather than to abide by the truth of God's Word? What was so attractive about the temptations that they would abandon the will of God? Why would God create the tree in the first place and then forbid them to eat from it? Why did He pronounce the harsh punishment of death if they disobeyed? Was the reason they sinned God's fault?

In spite of all that went wrong God continued to love all that He had made. It's a new beginning. Genesis begins the story that continues throughout Scripture. It's the battle for the souls of humankind. God's Champion in the battle would be His own Son who would live the life that His people could not live. His Son would keep the law perfectly and yet His Son would be the one who would ultimately suffer and die in order that those who believed on Him as their Savior from sin and death would receive eternal life. The indescribable love of God the Father is powerful. It's the power of His love for humankind that raised His Son from death. It's His resurrection on Easter that gives us hope. The evil one and all of his deceit and cunning ways are no match for the obedience of the perfect Son of God. And, the work of God's Spirit is going on right now within the hearts and minds of all who would believe God's promise that they will never perish but they will have everlasting life.

Part 1

REVIEW: On the sixth day God created the man and the woman. All that He had made He declared to be good. Everything He had made He had prepared for them, had presented to them, and had used to provide for them. All the fruit of all the trees was “pleasing to the eye and good for food” (Genesis 2:9) and God told them it was all for them to eat (Genesis 2:16).

In the middle of the garden, however, God had also planted the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. His instruction to the man and the woman was that they were not to eat from this tree (Genesis 2:17). God told them that if they were disobedient to this command they would die. This certainly seems reasonable. All of the trees in the garden were theirs to eat and enjoy. This was the only forbidden tree. That’s fair enough. God had generously provided for their well-being.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Genesis 3. What character is introduced in verse 1? _____

EXERCISE:

- To get a broader understanding of the serpent look up the following references and write down the words used to describe this creature.

Reference	Description
Genesis 3:1	
Luke 4:2	
John 8:44	
2 Corinthians 11:3	
Ephesians 6:11	
1 Peter 5:8	
Revelation 12:9	

MEMORIZATION: Notice the contrast in John 10:10. The devil is described as a _____ who comes only to _____, _____ and _____
On the other hand, Jesus comes that _____

The words of John 10:10 are good to memorize.

REFLECTIVE QUESTION: Take some time to reflect on these words. Consider where you see evidence of God blessing you with an abundant life, a life full of meaning and purpose: _____

PRAYER: Thank the Lord for opening your heart and mind to see His blessings on your life. Thank Him for being the one who has given you the abundant life as you live in a purposeful relationship with Him: Dear Lord Jesus, _____

Part 2

TEACHING: Temptation attacks and challenges the essence of who God created us to be. These enticing and deceptive temptations appear as another word to obey and to use for the decisions we make in our lives. They are appealing because they deceptively offer another reality to consider that is often a subtle contradiction to the one true Word of God. Temptations are all around us in the world in which we live. Being tempted is not wrong in and of itself but yielding to temptation is. The difficulty is recognizing the sly, cunning nature of temptations and the power they have to con us with a deceptive sense of right and wrong. Temptations are lies. Once we cave in and swallow the lure of lies we are consumed by guilt and shame. These consequences rob us of the joy of living life full and free as Jesus said and as we read in John 10:10.

ASSIGNMENT: The narrative begins. Reread Genesis 3:1-7.

EXERCISE:

1. The serpent and the woman encounter each other. The serpent poses the challenge. What is the serpent's first word to the woman? _____

2. What was God's actual word in Genesis 2:16? _____

3. What was her response in verse 2? _____

4. What was God's actual word in Genesis 2:17a? _____

5. In verse 4 the tempter's strategy intensifies. What is the serpent's lie? _____

6. What did God actually say in Genesis 2:17b? _____

7. The serpent has distorted the truth of God’s Word with lies. What are the words of the serpent in verse 5 that were the ultimate enticement? “...your eyes will be _____, and you will _____, knowing _____.”

REFLECTION: The encounter with the serpent raises the ultimate *question* that each person needs to address: Whose word will be the guide I will follow as I live my life? Who am I going to believe, the truth of the Word of God or the lying word of the serpent, deceptive words that distort what God says? The ultimate *challenge* becomes: Who is going to be the one on whom my life is centered?

DIGGING DEEPER: The questions in these first five verses of Genesis 3 challenge the very truth of God’s Word. Can’t you almost hear the devious voice of temptation in your own head hissing out the question, “Did God *really* say...? And then the second question becomes an even more insidious challenge: “Did God *really* mean what He said?” This challenge attempts to make a liar out of God!

Is God’s Word true? Is it really the only truth? Truth is often considered to be whatever an individual chooses it to be. Does God really speak to us through His Word? And, if He does speak to us, does He really mean what He says? Let’s look at what God says through the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 45:18-19.

1. Who does God say that He is (verse 18)? _____

2. What does He say about the Word He speaks? Note the end of verse 19. _____

APPLICATION: You may find yourself questioning certain things. For example, you may ask: Is there only one God? Is the One who created the heavens and the earth really God? Is there no other God? If He speaks the truth like He says He does in this passage from Isaiah 45, what does this say about the many different ideologies represented in our culture today that profess conflicting beliefs? Who can I trust to speak truth when so many seem to have their own opinions about what is truth?

With all the different questions that may come to mind, what can we know for certain? Sometimes the things that God says seem just too good to be true. For example,

1. In Jeremiah 31:3 He says, “I have loved _____.”
_____”
I cannot help but consider those times when I’ve blown it with a friend or loved one and yet God says to *me* that He loves *me* with an everlasting love.
2. In Jeremiah 31:34 He says, “I will forgive _____.”
_____.”

Not only does God forgive me but He reminds me that He forgets my sins. He remembers them no more.

3. Again in Romans 8:38-39 He tells me that “neither death nor life _____

_____.”

Nothing can separate me from God’s love. Can it be true that nothing can separate me from His love even when I consider all that has separated me from others in my life—things like death, divorce, misunderstandings, and all kinds of fights and arguments?

REFLECTION: The questions posed by the serpent in the Garden have continued down through the ages and they are asked of me today.

1. In the light of Jeremiah 31:34 write out the two questions:
 - a. Did God really say _____
 - b. Did He really mean _____
2. In the light of Romans 8:38-39 write out the two questions:
 - a. Did God really say _____
 - b. Did He really mean _____

PRAYER: Lord, I struggle to know the truth. I want to learn more about what You have to say to me. Help me to know, understand and accept that Your Word is truth. Open my heart to believe that You speak the truth and declare what is right (Isaiah 45:19). _____

Part 3

TEACHING: If we turn back to Genesis 3, a question still remains: Why did God create the tree and then command that that particular tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, be forbidden to be eaten? On top of that, death was the sentence for disobedience to that command. At first glance this seems like an unfair demand and a harsh punishment. For God to say that He is a God of love and then to give this command with such a severe penalty doesn’t seem to make sense.

Let’s consider a couple of things. First, we need to understand that God is a relational God. He is the One who creates and the One who remains intimately involved with all that He has made. In a way, it is like an ideal relationship between a parent and a child. God designed that a parent be involved in the creation of a child. He also intended that the parent remain closely involved in the life of the child and

designed for the parent to care for the child. God perfectly cares for His creation and sustains it. He never abandons it or those He has created (Isaiah 49:15-16).

At the same time, it is important to understand the true nature of love as God intended. Love is a choice, an act of the will. It is not primarily a feeling. One makes the choice to love. No one can make you love or not love another person. Obedience is an expression of the choice to love. A parent loves the child and the child responds to that love by choosing to obey. The boundaries that parents establish within the home give families the environment in which to demonstrate love for one another. A child, spouse, and even a parent are given the opportunity to love by respecting and honoring those boundaries.

We also need to remember that God is the Creator and that the man and the woman were the created. The man and the woman needed to understand and live in that Creator-created relationship. The tree was forbidden not so that God could watch them disobey as he knew they would, but rather, the tree was forbidden in order to give both the man and the woman the opportunity to acknowledge God to be who He was, namely God. This was an opportunity for them to acknowledge their position as His precious creation and out of love for Him obey Him by submitting to His authority over them.

In Genesis 3:5 the serpent's ultimate question is the question of who is going to be God! Until a child becomes an adult, the question remains: Who is going to be the parent? God wanted His creation to rest secure in the knowledge of their relationship with Him. He was God, their Creator, and they were His created ones. He wanted them to only know His goodness. He had displayed it in all that He had made. He wanted them to enjoy their relationship of love with Him and each other. He wanted to bear the burden of responsibility of knowing the evil and wanted to protect them from its influence and power. His love for all that He had made, especially for the relationship of love that He wanted with people, was at stake. He willingly took the risk, however, and gave them the opportunity to demonstrate their love for Him by trusting His Word and living in obedience to Him. As a result, their lives would be centered on Him and His Word.

With this in mind write out Genesis 3:6 contemplating the significance of each word.

“She took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband...and he ate it.”

REFLECTION:

1. Take a few moments for quiet reflection. What are some of your thoughts about what has just happened? What might it have been like to have only known God's goodness and generosity and

now to have believed the lie that there was more? Genesis 3:7 says, “Then the _____ of both of them were _____ ...” What is so devastating about succumbing to the lies and deceit? _____

2. How might Eve have rationalized disobedience by eating from the forbidden tree? What are the acts of disobedience or sins you rationalize? What are some of the lies you tell yourself?

APPLICATION: Your reflection may lead you to a time of personal conviction.

1. Recall a time when you yielded to temptation, rebelled, and disobeyed. What was the situation?
2. Remember a time when you experienced God’s love and forgiveness through the words and actions of another individual. Who was the person and what were his/her words and actions that brought God’s love and forgiveness to you?

Note: Sin is a disease that has permeated all of life, including yours and mine. Forgiveness is what God offers. Forgiveness of our sins heals the damage caused by sin, damage that has separated us from Him. Forgiveness restores the relationship and brings peace. When we offer forgiveness to others who have offended us, the healing process begins which restores the relationship. As God forgives us we forgive one another. In the Lord’s Prayer (sometimes referred to as the “Our Father”) we pray “and forgive us our trespasses (debts) as we forgive those who trespass against us (our debtors).”

3. When have you had the opportunity to offer God’s love and forgiveness to someone because you experienced the power of God’s love and forgiveness in your own life? Who was the person and how did God use you to bring His love and forgiveness to him/her?

PRAYER: Creator God, I can only confess to You my own disobedience. I have rebelled against You in so many ways by the things I have chosen to do, chosen to say, and chosen to think. I ask You to forgive me and keep me mindful that You created me in love and desire for me to have a life that is full and forgiven through Jesus, my Savior.

Part 4

TEACHING: Let's look again at what just happened in Genesis 3:6. Adam and Eve gave in to temptation and then their eyes were opened. It is easy to point the finger at them and say, "Boy, did you blow it! The rest of us don't have a chance." It is easy to think that we're off the hook because we have them to blame. Let's look a little closer.

A place to begin is to look at the appetites that are exposed. Maybe the fruit that appears in Genesis 3 is just as familiar as "fruit" found in our own lives. What words are used to describe the fruit in Genesis 3:6?

- the fruit of the tree was _____
- the fruit of the tree was _____
- the fruit of the tree was...also _____

The fruit was good for food, pleasing to look at, and desirable for wisdom.

The first appetite is to have our desires run our lives, to be our god. It's clearly seen in the desire for *more*. We never seem to have enough. Our appetite for wanting more is insatiable. When we have a few dollars we want more dollars. When we have more dollars we want even more dollars. When we have little recognition we want more. When we have more recognition we want even more. When we live with a spirit of discontentment and dissatisfaction our lives fail to reflect thanksgiving and appreciation. The temptation is to have our lives centered on our desires, such as getting and having more, more, more!

REFLECTION: Think of a time when you observed, or maybe even experienced your desires in such a powerful way that the desires controlled what you did...

1. What was the situation? _____
2. Was it experienced as an insatiable appetite that longed for more? _____
3. What was the outcome? _____

The second appetite is the desire for *pleasure*. If it meets my needs, I want it. If it feels good, tastes good, looks good, then I want it. The appetite for pleasure is also insatiable. Pleasure has a way of intensifying its demands. Pleasures can become habits and then addictions. Pleasure can squelch rational thinking, healthy decisions, and thoughts that go beyond one's own self-centered world. Ultimately, pleasures can put relationships at risk. What can happen to a person's relationship with God if he/she makes obtaining pleasures the center of life? _____

REFLECTION: Consider a time when your appetite for pleasure put at risk your relationship with someone, maybe even your relationship with God Himself.

1. What made the pleasure worth the risk of damaging or even losing the relationship? _____

2. As you reflect on the situation, ask yourself, how could I have equipped myself for the battle that ensued? _____

The third appetite is the desire for gaining *wisdom*. Knowledge is *power*. When we know more we can control our actions toward others; we can intimidate to make ourselves look good. Power enables us to have control. The world is mine and I'm out to conquer it. Power and control lead us to believe that we don't need anyone and can live our lives proud and independent, not with a dependency upon God as the Creator. Again, consider what happens if a person allows the quest for power to be the center of his/her existence. _____

REFLECTION: Consider a situation in which the need for power and control created a difficult situation...

1. What created the need for the independent lifestyle? _____
2. What made knowledge, power, and control so attractive? _____

3. What happens if power becomes the center of existence? _____

In Isaiah 14:13-14 God through the prophet Isaiah reveals the heart of mankind. What does the created person say? List the five "I wills..."

1. I will _____
2. I will _____
3. I will _____
4. I will _____
5. I will _____

Self-deification is the ultimate end. This is the temptation and this is what the woman chose. Lest we overlook the obvious let's press on. The woman was the first to eat. Her husband was with her. Apparently he was also captivated by the option of listening to a different word than God's that the serpent presented for "she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

MEMORIZATION: In the quiet of the moment we can only look to the God who loves us and acknowledge to Him our condition. Turn to Romans 3:23-24. The very last phrase in verse 22 reads, “There is no difference.” Beginning with these words write out verses 23 and 24: “There is no difference... _____

You are encouraged to memorize these two verses. Begin to add them to your memory library. These words remind us that the one thing all humanity shares is that all have sinned and have failed to reflect to His creation the true image of God as He intended (Genesis 1:27). But at the same time, these verses remind us that we are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Jesus.

DEFINITIONS:

1. **Justified** – God does not hold my sin against me. I no longer need to face the charges against me because of my disobedience. The opposite of justified is condemned. I am declared by God to be not guilty. He says to me that the relationship has been restored. The life of Jesus, including His suffering and death, was done for me. He has made me right with God.
2. **Grace** – God gives to me His love that I cannot earn and certainly do not deserve. I have done so much to hurt Him. The sentence for my disobedience is death. This is what I deserve because of my sin. See Genesis 2:17 and Romans 6:23. Through the punishment and death of Jesus, however, I receive God’s undeserved love, His grace, and that love of God sets me free to live with Him eternally.
3. **Redemption** – God wanted to buy back, or redeem, all that was lost because of sin. My innocence was lost. My relationship with Him was lost. It is as if I became a slave to sin, to death, and to Satan. The price to buy me back from my “slavery” was the life of His Son, Jesus. Redemption is the act of God buying me back and rescuing me from the oppression, from the death sentence brought upon me because of my sin. He did this by means of the holy life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, my Redeemer.

Note: These terms will be revisited throughout the study series. At this point you are encouraged to familiarize yourself with the words as applied in this passage (Romans 3:23-24). Add these definitions with others to your note cards, or for future reference, add these to the list of definitions in your notebook.

PRAYER: Consider again Romans 3:23-24... Lord, I know that I have sinned and deserve nothing but eternal death. Thank You for Jesus who has justified me, who has bought me with His blood and made me Your child again. Thank You for not holding my sin against me, for pardoning me, for declaring me

not guilty. Thank You for Your grace, for Your love that I do not deserve. Thank You for Jesus, my Redeemer, who has set me free to live and has made me Yours through the forgiveness of sins. _____

Part 5

ASSIGNMENT: Genesis 3:7-13

INTRODUCTION: Sin has entered the world. Genesis 3:7 describes what happens next. “Then...

- Their eyes _____
- And they _____
- So they _____
- Made _____.”

Disobedience has consequences. When a traffic law is violated the consequence is a ticket with a fine that must be paid. When a child willfully disobeys a parent or someone in authority, the child is punished. Consequences for Adam and Eve’s disobedience also went into effect immediately after they disobeyed God’s command not to eat of the fruit of the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” They experienced the very things that God had never intended for them.

Let’s take a look. Reread verses 7-13 at this time.

RESULT #1:

The immediate result of sin is *shame*. “They realized they were _____.” (Genesis 3:7). They knew good but now they also knew evil. So, the great cover-up begins. The first thing they do is sew _____ together and make _____ for themselves. Their shame caused them to separate themselves from one another so they made coverings. The intimacy they once shared was over. Now they needed to deal with all that would come between them.

RESULT #2:

Read verses 8-10. The next observable result of sin is *guilt*. Guilt makes us want to hide. Verse 8 says, “...and they _____ from the _____ among the _____ of the garden.” What God had created for them, they now used to cover-up and hide from the One who had created and enjoyed them as friends. With Him they had nothing to fear. Now they are hiding from Him.

- “But the Lord God called to the man, “_____?”

- And, the man answered, “_____.”

At their creation they didn't know that they were naked. Being naked was a sign or symbol that nothing existed that separated them from God or from each other. That's the way God intended for them to live as husband and wife and with Him. Who told you? Shame and guilt exposed their sin. Because of shame they knew they were naked and because of their guilt they were afraid and were hiding. Innocence was gone.

QUESTIONS: Maybe we're not that different. What is our response to someone when we've been found out? Isn't it: "Who told you?"? Busted! We immediately want to go into hiding. We might not use trees as our hiding place but we do hide.

1. Do you find it difficult to acknowledge your shame and guilt about past wrongs you have done?

2. What are the "coverings" you've created in order to attempt to hide from God and from others?

3. Where do you go in order to hide, or how do you cope, when you fear being found out for who you really are and for what you've done? _____

RESULT #3:

The third observable result of sin is the need to place the *blame* on someone or something else. In verse 11 God asks, "Have you _____."

- And, what is the man's response? _____
_____ and I ate it. Not only did Adam attempt to place the blame on the woman but also on God! "The woman _____ put here with me..." Then God spoke to the woman and asks, " _____?"
- The woman is also seeking to place blame so she says, " _____"
_____."

Blame needs a place to rest. But, what does blame do to relationships? Blame separates the man not only from his wife as we learned in verse 7, but blame also separates him from God, the One who loved what He had created and who only wanted His best for all that He had made.

REFLECTION:

1. Take a minute to reflect on things for which God gets the blame. _____

2. Consider the times when you've been the one to pass the blame. _____

3. Sin causes us to refuse to take responsibility for our own thoughts and actions. It's always someone or something other than ourselves that we want to blame. What difference would it make if people took responsibility and no longer looked for someone else to blame, including God? _____
4. Do you feel you need to take responsibility and no longer choose to pass blame? If so, what change might you choose to make? _____

PRAYER: Lord God, I am a sinner. I am convicted by my shame, my guilt, and my failure to take responsibility for the choices I have made in my own life. Forgive me for the things I have said and done that have caused separation between me and those I love. Forgive me for the things that I have done to separate myself from You. I trust and believe by faith that I am Your child because I have been justified, received Your free grace and have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus. For this I give You my thanks and praise. _____

Part 6

INTRODUCTION: We dare not stop at this point in the creation story, having only the conviction of our shame, guilt, and our failure to take responsibility for our own thoughts and actions. Remember the words from Jeremiah 31:3, "I have loved you with an everlasting love..." One of the most misunderstood concepts about God at this point in the Genesis 3 story is that God was fed up, imposed His curse upon creation, threw up His hands in disgust and tore out of the garden never to be seen or heard from again. It's the idea that God was angry, lost His temper, demonstrated disgust, and then acted spitefully toward the man and the woman and all that He had made.

Let's pick up the story again at verse 14. First, God addresses the serpent. He says, "Because _____
_____..."

The battle has begun! The war is on. Sides have been chosen and are clearly identified. The battle is between good and evil. Each team has its champion. Who are they?

1. Who does Psalm 106:1 tell us is the Champion for good? _____
1 Corinthians 15:57 specifically names God's victorious Champion! "He _____ us
the _____ through our _____."

2. Ephesians 6:11-13 uses the picture of dressing for battle and wearing armor. Who is the champion for evil? _____ Underline in your Bible the words from these verses that describe the “dark world” team (verse 12).

TEACHING: All of Scripture is about this battle and it rages on to this present day. The Bible is a book about war and the passion of love that fuels the offense. All of the Books of the Bible are based around this central theme. Characters are described. Strategies are revealed and plots are uncovered. The champions face off. The saga begins in Genesis 3 with the words that God spoke to the serpent, “Because you have done this.” Ultimately, this curse spoken by God in the next verses, verses 14 and 15, declared exactly what was going to happen to the champion for evil. In fact, Revelation 12:9 tells us the end of the story for him and his team of evil, his “dark world” team. Write out this verse: _____

So, what’s all the fighting about? God is good and everything that He created He declared to be good, very good (Genesis 1:31). His intent was that the people He created only knew good and live only in a relationship with Him, responding only to His Word, the Word of the One who is Good. But, remember, the temptation posed by the serpent was that they know good *and* evil. Satan wanted them to know him, the evil one. He wanted them on his side. He wanted them to obey his word. His temptation went to the crux of their existence. They would have to answer the question: Who would rule and reign in their hearts and lives? The battle now rages for the souls of mankind. Would God win or would Satan? God had no intention of the ever having to answer that question. He just wanted them to love Him and to let Him reign in their hearts as their loving Creator, the One who would be the center of their lives.

In verses 14 and 15 God’s wrath is poured out on the serpent, on evil. He places a curse on the serpent, the devil. All are terms used for Satan who is sometimes referred to as the fallen angel. Verses 14 and 15 speak of his demise.

- He is _____ by God (verse 14).
- He will _____ on his belly the rest of his life (verse 14).
- His head will be _____ (verse 15).

DIGGING DEEPER: Verses 14 and 15 are difficult verses to understand but it is important to know that verse 15 is the first verse in the Bible that speaks of God’s promise to redeem mankind. (Note: Be sure to review the definitions in this lesson.) This verse promises that God will restore the broken relationship that now exists, that separates God and all human beings, in fact, separates God from all of

creation. And, what will be the result of this enmity that exists between the serpent and the offspring of the woman?

1. “He will crush your head” speaks of the victory that is ours through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus which we will study in greater detail in a future lesson on the four New Testament Gospel books. However, for those interest in reading ahead to learn about this crushing blow, read 1Corinthians 15:20-28, 54-57.
2. “...and you will strike his heel” makes reference to Jesus’ death. The strike is His death to be sure but His resurrection is the victory over the evil one, the “crush” of his head.

MEMORIZATION: Acknowledging that Genesis 3:15 is a difficult passage, nevertheless, you are encouraged to begin to put it to memory. This verse along with other references you will accumulate throughout your study will give you knowledge to draw on as God unfolds the story of redemption to you through His Word. Write out Genesis 3:15 on an index card and memorize this verse. You may choose to write “Promise of God” on the card to remind you of God’s first promise to redeem you and me and thus make us His own precious children again.

EXERCISE: The consequences of sin permeate all of creation.

1. This is first seen in God’s Word to Eve in verse 16. Two results of sin are evident for the woman. What did God say would be the consequences?
 - a. I will greatly _____
 - b. Your desire _____
2. The man also disobeyed. Adam’s life was also affected by the curse of sin. Because of sin what did God say would happen?
 - a. Cursed is the _____
 - b. ...through painful _____
 - c. It will produce _____
 - d. ...and you will _____
 - e. ...until you _____

Part 7

TEACHING: Sin has been committed. The evil one has been exposed for who he is. The man and the woman have their eyes wide open to the reality in which they now live. Sin is not a one-time occurrence but sin has permeated all of life and will be a part of the human existence for all time. What must it have been like? Maybe the closest we can come to understand this new reality is to consider a time when we

have said, “I would never...” and then found ourselves woefully confessing our own willful act of disobedience.

A picture that comes to mind is that of a parent painfully observing his/her child suffering the consequences of a disobedient action. The disciplinary action may be a privilege taken away, or a request denied, or some other punishment that is given as a consequence for an act of rebellion or disobedience. We’ve heard it said that “this hurts me as much or more than it hurts you.” The parent also bears the weight of the consequence delivered to the child.

EXERCISE: But God refuses to abandon Adam and Eve even at such a time as this. Instead He seems to be picking up the pieces, caring for those whom He loves, as He now watches them endure the consequences of sin. Three things happen immediately and each of them is initiated by God.

1. Recall in verse 7 that in order to cover up their nakedness they sewed together fig leaves for coverings. What was the first thing God did in verse 21? _____

In order for garments to be made that would last any period of time the blood of an animal had to be shed. For future reference it is good to note, once again, that very early in the Bible narrative God brings to our attention that the covering for sin demands a sacrifice, the shedding of blood. Thus, Hebrews 9:22 reminds us that “without the shedding of _____
_____.”

2. What was the problem (Genesis 3:22)? _____
Why did God need to protect them from the tree of life? _____
What did He need to do? _____
3. What did God place on the east side of the Garden? _____
Why was the angel, or cherubim, placed there? _____

DIGGING DEEPER: Take a moment to consider how God demonstrated His love to the man and the woman through these three initiatives. Write your reflections.

1. Was there any good in the fact that the man and the woman attempted to cover themselves from their shame?
2. What would have happened if they had eaten of the tree of life and lived forever in their sinful condition without any hope of a restored relationship with God?
3. Knowing their propensity to sin, consider God’s love demonstrated by means of the guard He placed at the entrance to the Garden.

PRAYER: O Lord God, in spite of our sin You still choose to love us. Even though we disobey and rebel against Your will and Your way You continue to demonstrate Your love and care for us and for all of creation. Your Word is truth. You say in Romans 8:39 that “nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Thank You for this Good News of Your grace. _____

CLOSING COMMENTS: At this point in your study of Genesis 3 we have covered material that may raise many questions in your mind. Needless to say, not everything can be covered in great detail in just a few short pages. However, an important truth for you is to begin knowing God both as a God of love who loves you with “an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3) and as a holy God who says, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48).” As a holy God, He cannot coexist with sin nor can He excuse sin by simply ignoring it. As a result, He sets out in love to save humankind 1) by destroying the *sin* that separates Him from those He loves, 2) from *death* that would separate us eternally from Him, and 3) from the *devil*, the champion and perpetrator of sin. The Bible is the story of how God chose to redeem His people and bring them into a loving relationship with Him once more. He doesn’t act alone, however, but chooses to use people, historical events, and circumstances to fulfill the promise He made to Adam and Eve in the Garden to crush the enemy and bring all of creation back into a restored relationship with Him again. His desire is for each of us to know Him intimately as the One who loves us and wants us to come into a personal relationship with Him through His Son Jesus Christ who is our Lord and Savior.

LESSON THREE

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

GENESIS 4-5 – THE STORY OF CAIN AND ABEL

OVERVIEW OF LESSON 3

Table of Contents:	33
Introduction	34
Lesson 3: Genesis 4-5	
• New Characters Introduced	35
• Offerings Made	36
• Cain Kills Abel	37
• Consequences of Cain's Action	38
• Cain's Ancestry	38
• Abel, Man of Faith	39
• Application	40
• Genealogy	40

INTRODUCTION

Sin permeated creation and now perfect harmony with all that God had made was over. Disobedience introduced strife and even death into the world of God's perfect creation. What a contrast! Life and death! In Genesis 4 God shows us the harsh reality as Adam and Eve's lives were forever shaken by sin. God blessed them by giving them two sons—Cain, the older son and Abel, his brother. Their occupations were different. One farmed the soil and the other kept flocks. Each brought their offerings to the Lord. Abel and his offering were favored by God but Cain and his offering did not receive God's favor. Cain responded with anger to God's favor toward Abel.

Then God comes to Cain and He asks, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?" God calls Cain to obedience. He says, "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?" God was concerned about Cain and Abel's hearts as they made their offerings to Him. God graciously continues by warning Cain that sin was slithering around him just waiting for a crack in Cain's heart that it might enter and take possession of him.

Cain chose not to make God's word of warning the center of his life but rather chose to let sin have its way with him. God wanted His best for Cain but Cain chose to let evil prevail. Then God comes to Cain a second time and asks, "Where is your brother?" and Cain answers with a lie, "I don't know." The question Cain asks is the same question that has been asked throughout history, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

In Genesis 4 God reveals the value He places on human life and the responsibility He gives to each of us to be our brother's keeper. Because of the destructive power of our bent to do evil God now needs to draw us into a love relationship with others as we partner with Him caring for others. Throughout this study ask yourself the questions: 1) Who is my brother/sister? 2) How am I caring for him/her? Who are those God has called me to bless with His love and compassion?

Am I my brother's keeper? The answer is obviously "yes" and what a privilege! Enjoy the insights and discoveries as God's Holy Spirit opens the eyes of your heart to learn how precious your life and the lives of those who live in community are to Him.

INTRODUCTION: Adam and Eve have been removed by God from living in the Garden of Eden. We can envision them walking away and knowing in the background that the flaming sword of the cherubim was “flashing back and forth guarding the way to the tree of life.” It’s an agonizing picture. One can’t help but wonder what was going through their minds. They had never experienced life outside of Eden. They had never experienced living on their own. Everything had been provided for them and all they had to do was enjoy it. Harmony existed between them and all of creation and now what would life be like as Adam set out to yield a harvest from a ground that would produce thorns and thistles. Eve certainly didn’t have a clue about the pain of childbirth or have a sense of what it would be like to have her husband rule over her. And, where was God now?

For the first time they are experiencing the anguish of loneliness. Even though they were together in marriage sin brought separation into their relationship, a new factor they had never known before. We can recall the words from Genesis 2:24, “and the two shall become one flesh.” In addition, their relationship with God had changed. Sin had brought shame and guilt that alienated them from God. They hid from Him and from each other. And, the story gets worse as we learn how sin ravages relationships within this family.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Genesis 4.

Note: Many particulars and details are not recorded in this chapter. In fact, when the study of this section of Genesis is completed you may have more questions than answers. The purpose of these early chapters of Genesis is to unveil the devastating work of evil and the destruction caused by sin as humankind relates to God, to others, and to creation. Again in his chapter the enemy reveals its arsenal and power to wound, separate, and demolish. John 10:10 reminds us that the enemy comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. With this in mind let’s proceed. Chapter 4 exposes the wretchedness of sin as it permeates the life of the family. As this is uncovered, we need to look for God’s presence and intervention as the One who in mercy sustains creation.

EXERCISE:

1. The main characters in this Genesis story abruptly change with the words, “Adam lay with his wife...” What are the names of their two sons? _____ and _____
2. What do we learn about the work of these two sons (verse 2)?
 - a. About Abel? _____
 - b. About Cain? _____

3. "In the course of time" Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord from their work. What did each bring (verses 3-4)?
 - a. Cain brought _____
 - b. Abel brought _____
4. What was the Lord's reaction to each of the offerings (verses 4-5)?
 - a. To Abel's offering _____
 - b. To Cain's offering _____
5. What was Cain's reaction to the Lord's disfavor (verse 5)? _____

Part 2

TEACHING: At first glance the Lord does not seem to act fairly toward these two brothers and as a result He appears to have created dissention between them. We do not know if God had given instruction to them as to what constituted a proper and acceptable offering for Him. We do know verse 4 tells us, "the Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering." Then, what was it about his offering that made Abel favorable to the Lord? We know one thing. Abel brought fat portions. This means that an animal's blood had to be shed to acquire that portion.

Recall in our study of Genesis 3:21 that the Lord saw fit to clothe Adam and Eve with garments made from animal skins and in order to acquire the skins blood had to be shed. Although we are not told in these verses the significance of the shedding of the blood, other sections of the Bible teach us that the shedding of blood was necessary for the redemption of humankind. The blood was that which covered over sin. This is important to understand as we look ahead many, many years later and see Jesus' blood shed on the cross. The shedding of His blood was the ultimate sacrifice that covered over the sins of the whole world. We will study this in greater detail as the studies continue.

EXERCISE:

1. So "Cain was very _____ and his _____ was _____." Because the Lord did not favorably receive Cain and his offering he felt rejection. The Lord comes to Cain and asks him why he's all angry and why is his face downcast.
2. What does the Lord ask next in verse 7? "If you do _____?"
3. Then comes "but if _____."

TEACHING: Does this verse sound similar to the “but” that God said in the Garden in Genesis 2:17? God asks Cain, “Who are you going to serve?” Sin skips no generation. It is passed down from father to son. God acting in love comes to Cain and says, “Don’t let sin have you!” In essence He is telling Cain that He loves him and wants to be the One who is the center of Cain’s life. But the enemy is ruthless.

EXERCISE:

1. “Sin is crouching at your door.” What picture does this portray for you? You may choose to consider 1 Peter 5:8. _____
2. Revelation 3:20 gives the picture of Jesus at the door of our hearts. Write out this verse:

3. Notice the difference in posture.
 - a. Sin is _____ at your door (Genesis 4:7).
 - b. Jesus is _____ at the door (Revelation 3:20).Jesus waits to be invited in whereas sin lurks or crouches at the door waiting for the moment when it can slither in and do its destruction.

Part 3

ASSIGNMENT: Read verse 8 again. Cain feeds his anger and invites Abel to the field. There he attacks his brother and kills him. The murder is simply stated. There’s no Hollywood technology involved, no intrigue, no mastermind control center. No, Cain simply attacked Abel and killed him.

What happens next? Who has returned to hold Cain accountable for his brother’s life? Do you recognize a similarity to the Lord asking Adam and Eve, “Where are you?” in Genesis 3:9? They have just eaten the forbidden fruit. Now the Lord and Cain have a conversation...

EXERCISE:

1. What does the Lord ask Cain? _____
2. What is Cain’s reply? _____
3. What does the Lord ask next? _____
4. Take a moment and turn back to Genesis 3. What does God ask in verse 13? _____

Sin continues to make its path of destruction. His brother is dead. Death of a human being had never happened before. What was this? God holds Cain accountable for his brother’s blood. At a time when

one can hardly ever read the newspaper or turn on TV without being exposed to some violence ending in death, we've become numb to the value God places on life.

EXERCISE:

1. The next thing God says (verse 10) is so revealing: "Listen! Your brother's _____

The creation that God had made is precious to Him and from the ground He hears the cry of one He loves (Genesis 3:10).

2. Once again, sin has its consequences. What are the consequences that God declares will be brought on Cain because he murdered his brother (Genesis 4:11-12)?
 - a. "You are under _____"
 - b. "When you work _____"
 - c. "You will be _____"

3. And what is Cain's reaction? _____

This very land from which he had made his living was now cursed and would "no longer yield its crops" for him. What more did Cain say about his punishment (verse 14)?

- a. "You are driving _____"
 - b. "and I will _____"
 - c. "I will be _____"
 - d. "and whoever _____"
4. Notice what the Lord does next in verse 15?
 - a. What does He say? _____
 - b. What does the Lord do? _____

Note: We have no knowledge as to what that mark may have been, however, for Cain the mark was a sign of God's mercy for he certainly deserved nothing but God's wrath.

5. Genesis 4:16 says that Cain _____
Once again we can recall the end of chapter 3 and as we saw Adam and Eve leave the Garden of Eden we see Cain leaving the presence of the Lord and going off to live in another land.

Part 4

TEACHING: Briefly, let's look at Cain's ancestry and at some of the progress that his descendants brought to the world at that time.

1. Verse 17 tells us that a son was born whom he named _____.

2. In that same verse we learn that Cain was _____ and named it _____ after his son.
3. Next comes the record of Cain’s descendants:
 - a. Verse 20: Jabel, the father of _____
 - b. Verse 21: Jubal, the father of _____
 - c. Verse 22: Tubal-Cain who _____

Note: It is interesting to note that construction, farming, and music are already mentioned as emerging in the culture of that day.
4. We see in verse 25 and 26 the descendants of Adam and Eve. Eve gave birth to _____ and Seth had a son named _____.
5. In addition, in verse 26 we see the Lord relating to His people as they begin to _____ This gives us an awareness of the worship and prayer life of the people as they began to call on Him.

DIGGING DEEPER: Using the cross-reference look at another section of the Bible that gives more information about Abel. If you look in Genesis 4:2 your Bible may give a cross-reference following the word “Abel.” If not, look for the cross-reference following the word “offering” in verse 4. In the cross-reference column find the corresponding verse and the corresponding letter that follows these two words. Most likely Hebrews 11:4 will be listed as one, if not the only reference.

The Book of Hebrews is found toward the end of the New Testament. Hebrews 11 is known as the “faith chapter.” If you scan down through the chapter you will notice that several verses begin with the words “by faith.” You will notice that many Bible characters are mentioned. For example, in verse 7 Noah is mentioned. In verse 8 Abraham is listed. Jacob, Joseph, Moses and others are among the ancients who were commended for their faith.

DEFINITION:

- **Faith** – In Hebrews 11:1 **faith** is defined. Faith is _____

If you look at verse 4, Abel is listed as one who was commended for his faith. Three things are mentioned about Abel:

1. By faith _____
2. By faith _____
3. By faith _____

What one insight does this verse give to your study of the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4? _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: In Genesis 4:9 God asks Cain the question, “Where is your brother?”

1. Who are those in my life I would identify as my “brother?” _____
2. What was Cain’s immediate response? _____
3. What are ways in which I am able to demonstrate care and concern for those I have identified as my brother? _____

4. Sometimes, if I am asked about my brother, why do I, too, have to admit that I don’t know where my brother is? _____
5. What insight does Matthew 25:37-40 give? Why is Jesus so concerned about Cain’s brother? And my brother? _____

PRAYER: Lord, it is much too easy to point the finger of blame at Cain and say, “I would never do that.” However, I know that all too often I hurt and offend others with my words and actions. Please forgive me and restore my relationships with You and others. Enable me to act responsibly, respectfully, and lovingly toward others as You have so graciously and lovingly treated me. _____

Part 5

INTRODUCTION TO THE GENEALOGY: Genesis 5 begins with a review of the creation of man from Genesis 1 and then in verse 3 moves on with new information before recounting in detail the genealogy that begins with Adam and his family. In this chapter you will notice the many years that these individuals lived. This data may raise some interesting and challenging questions for you. Record these questions in your notebook and then press on in your study. We will not be spending much time in this chapter but will call attention to a couple of interesting details.

EXERCISE:

1. In Genesis 5:1 we are reminded that...
 - a. God created man in the _____.
Reread Genesis 1:27.
 - b. God created them _____ and _____.
 - c. And He _____ them (Genesis 1:28).
 - d. When they were created He called them “_____.”
2. Genesis 5:3 reveals something very different than what verse 1 told us.

- a. What does this verse say about Adam's son? _____
- b. How was the likeness, or image, of Adam's offspring different from the way God had created Adam and intended humankind's image to be? _____

See also Genesis 1:26, 27.

- c. Humankind's image no longer reflected the perfect image of God. Sin marred the reflection of His image for all generations to come.
3. Take time to list the names mentioned in this chapter from Adam to Noah in their birth order and with the number of years each is recorded to have lived.

Name	Years lived	Name	Years lived

4. What interesting truth did you learn about Enoch in verses 21-24? _____

Note: For additional information on Enoch read Hebrews 11:5-6. He was considered by God to be one who pleased God. What does verse 6 tell us we need in order to please Him? _____
 Faith believes that God exists and those "who earnestly seek Him" He rewards by revealing Himself to them!

- 5. Who lived to be the oldest? _____ Is his name familiar to you?
- 6. What did Lamech say about his son Noah in Genesis 5:29? _____
- 7. Did God curse the ground or was it cursed because of sin? Review Genesis 3:17-19. _____
- 8. Who are the three sons of Noah mentioned in Genesis 5: 32?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

APPLICATION: Reflect on your own ancestors. Draw your family tree gathering information from parents and grandparents, friends, and other relatives. Your family tree may be difficult to draw because of life circumstances, death, adoption, and foster care. Create your tree and let it include those who have been significant to your life, those you admire, who have supported and encouraged you, who have taught you and provided for your well-being and education, the means that have brought you to where you are today.

PRAYER: O Lord God, I thank you for those who have gone before me, for those I have read about in Genesis 5 and for those of my own ancestry. Thank you for blessing them as you have blessed me. Thank You for lovingly creating each of them. I, too, have those who follow after me. Grant that I might be an example to them as I give witness to Your love for me in Christ Jesus. _____

LESSON FOUR

NEVER AGAIN!

GENESIS 6-9:17 – NOAH AND THE FLOOD

OVERVIEW OF LESSON 4

Table of Contents	43
Introduction	44
Lesson 4: Genesis 6-9:17	
• Creation's Condition and God's Decision	45
• Noah and Ark	47
• The Rain Came	49
• God Remembered Noah	50
• The Ark Unloaded	51
• Definition: <i>Mercy</i>	52
• God's Blessing	54
• Definitions: <i>Atoned</i> and <i>Justified</i>	55
• Value of the Lifeblood	56
• Made in His Image	57
• Definition: <i>Covenant</i>	59

INTRODUCTION

The story of Noah and the flood begins with the words “the Lord was grieved...His heart was filled with pain.” All that He had created was now filled with evil and wickedness, corruption and violence. His decision was to destroy all that He had made, humankind, animals, and all living creatures, and to start all over again. This story of destruction and death recorded in Genesis 6-9, however, also offers hope because of a man named Noah. We are told that Noah “found favor in the eyes of the Lord.” He was a righteous man and “walked with God.”

The flood waters covered creation and separated God from all that was evil. But Noah and his family God preserved within the shelter of the ark along with two of every kind of living creature. What God preserved would be given the directive to multiply and fill the earth once again. God established with Noah His promise to preserve him and his family. Noah was obedient and did all that God commanded him to do.

The same rain that destroyed all of creation by flood was the same rain that lifted the ark and caused it to float above the mountaintops. Everything not in the ark that had life died. Months passed but then we are told that God remembered Noah and all those who were with him. The wind blew, the waters receded, the rain had stopped, and the ark settled at last on dry ground.

Eventually God called Noah out of the ark and all those with him. All the living creatures with him were released. Noah built an altar and worshipped God. The Lord gave the promise “*Never again* will I curse the ground because of man...and *never again* will I destroy all living creatures as I have done.” God acted graciously with this promise for He knew that “every inclination of the heart is evil from childhood,” yet His promise was to *never again* destroy all living creatures as He had done.

In this story we learn the value God places on human life as He calls us to give an account for the life of our fellowman. We rest in the knowledge that God has promised to be gracious to us and that He will remember and never forget the everlasting covenant promise He made to Noah.

As you engage in this study, *Never Again!*, may you grow in your love for your Heavenly Father who calls you to righteousness and godliness and to walk with Him. Always remember that He promises to shower you with His grace as He remembers His everlasting covenant.

Part 1

INTRODUCTION: Remember, a battle rages between God and the evil one for the souls of all humankind. God’s passionate desire is a restored relationship with all that He has made, all that has now been alienated from Him by sin.

Note: Genesis 6, 7, and 8 record the story of the flood. Chapter 6 begins with four difficult verses to understand. You may ask several hard questions. For example, where did these people come from? Who married whom? Acknowledging the lack of explanation and the desire for clarity, this study is not intended to answer these questions but rather to familiarize you with the stories that give knowledge and insight into God’s love for all that He had made.

Let’s begin our study of the flood recorded in Genesis 6:5 through Genesis 8:22.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Genesis 6:5-7, 11-12.

EXERCISE:

1. Verse 5 of chapter 6 paints a dreadful picture. What did the Lord see? Write out the words to this verse: _____

2. This verses uses three words to describe how pervasive the wickedness of human beings had become (Genesis 5b):
“..._____ inclination of the thoughts of his heart was _____
evil _____ the time.”
3. Sin polluted all of creation. Sin even permeated the heart and mind of humankind. People now had the propensity for evil rather than for good. Sin permeated all of their actions. Even good actions were saturated with sin because they lacked a relationship with God. Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without _____ it is _____ to _____
God because _____ who _____ to Him must
_____ that He _____ and that He rewards those who
_____ Him.” In their polluted
condition their wickedness became great (Genesis 6:5).

4. According to Hebrews 11:6 what is essential for a relationship with God?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
5. Now look ahead to Genesis 6:11 and 12. In verse 11 what words are used to describe the conditions of the day?
 - a. _____ and
 - b. _____

QUESTIONS:

1. What does verse 6 tell us about God? _____

2. What does verse 7 tell us that God decided to do? _____

3. What had God given to man (Genesis 2:7) that He was now about to destroy? _____

REFLECTION: Everything that had the breath of life God decided to destroy. Consider how bad things must have become that He would determine to destroy all of life, even the birds of the air, for example? Note your observations as you attempt to enter into a richer understanding of the heart of God.

1. Was this a display of His anger, an outburst of His wrath? _____

2. What would it be like to have your most treasured creation that reflected your image now mirror only your extreme opposite? _____
3. God's work of creation is ongoing. Children are born; plants and animals reproduce. What might have happened if He had not acted? Would only the power of evil prevail? Would everything created be lost forever? _____

4. If humankind chose to do only evil, then only wickedness would prevail. God created human beings for the purpose of reflecting Him and His goodness, not for joining forces to serve evil. His desire was for their lives to center around Him and His Word. He wanted them to live their lives in a loving response to Him. What had replaced God and now become the focus of their hearts? _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Remember, God is a relational God. His desire is to live in a relationship of love with His creation. What has been your relationship with God? How do you feel about the thoughts and inclinations of your own heart? Reflect and note some of your thoughts: _____

2. Recall a time when you attempted to *reach out* to someone in a relationship of love only to experience rejection. Or maybe for you it's the memory of you *rejecting* the love of another. What happened to the relationship in the process? _____

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I thank You for Your desire to have a relationship with me. You continually forgive me and love me in spite of how I treat You. Even though I act offensively toward You at times, You always lovingly call out to me. Teach me to love You more and to express my love for You by reaching out in love to others. _____

Part 2

INTRODUCTION: Since Adam and Eve fell into sin, the history of humankind has gone from bad to worse. At the very beginning we are told the story of Cain killing Abel and now we learn that the world is in such pitiful condition that God, the One who created the heavens and the earth, is about to “wipe mankind...from the face of the earth.” The condition of God’s creation seems hopeless. But then, in verse 8 comes one small ray of hope...

ASSIGNMENT: Read Genesis 6:8-7:5.

EXERCISE:

1. Verse 8 offers a word of hope through a man named _____.
2. What words are used to describe him (verse 9)? See also Genesis 7:1.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
3. Noah had three sons (verse 10): _____, _____, and _____

4. God shares His plan with Noah. What does He tell him in verses 13 and 17? _____

5. Although the earth is filled with violence and corruption and He is going to destroy every living creature, yet He shows His great love for Noah and His family. What was His order for Noah (verse 14) _____
6. What are God’s instructions to Noah for building the ark (verse 14-16)? _____

7. Once the ark is built, what is Noah to do (verses 19-21)? _____

8. So Noah built the ark and the Lord gave the command to load it up (Genesis 7:1-3). He tells Noah that in a week the rain will begin and it will last for _____ days and _____ nights (verse 4). And then He adds, “I will _____.”
9. What are we told about the faith of Noah in Genesis 6:22 and again in Genesis 7:5. _____

EXERCISE: Such a contrast exists between the people of the earth and a man named Noah. Review Genesis 6:5 through 7:5. What words are used to compare Noah and the people on the earth?

Noah	People on the earth
Found favor	wickedness

APPLICATION:

1. What might life have been like for Noah and his family during the years when the ark was under construction? _____
2. When have you experienced ridicule or been teased because you took a stand for what you believed? _____

3. What was the reaction of others? What were your thoughts for having made the unpopular choice? _____

DIGGING DEEPER: Undoubtedly, Noah looked like a fool building this enormous structure in an arid land and telling of the great flood of destruction that would be coming. Although he may have looked like a fool to those whose “every inclination...was only evil all the time,” what does Hebrews 11:7-8 tell us about him?

- “By _____ Noah, when _____ about things not yet _____, in holy _____ (awe, respect) built an _____ to _____ his family. By his _____ he _____ the _____ and became _____ of the _____ that comes by _____.”

Noah was a man of faith. He was warned by God “about things not yet seen.” Although they seemed unbelievable and took faith to believe, yet Noah believed God and obeyed Him. We are encouraged to be men and women of faith acting on what God’s Word says and responding obediently to what He tells us.

PRAYER: O Lord God, You grieved over the condition of creation. People chose to act in contempt toward You. Noah, however, found favor in Your eyes because he believed that You existed and he believed Your Word to be truth. Give me such a faith that believes Your Word, trusts You, and desires to respond obediently. _____

Part 3

ASSIGNMENT: The ark is loaded. God closes the door. And, it rains for _____ days and _____ nights (Genesis 7:17) just as God had told Noah (Genesis 7:4). Let’s look at what the story says. Read Genesis 7.

EXERCISE:

1. Who entered the ark according to verses 7 and 13: _____
2. What animals were included? See verses 8-9, 14-15. _____
3. Who closed the door once everyone was in (verse 16b)? _____
4. What are some of the words used to describe the flood (verses 11-12, 17-20)? _____

5. What was destroyed?
 - a. Verse 21: Every living... _____
 - b. Verse 22: Everything... _____
 - c. Verse 23: Every living... _____
6. How long did water cover the earth (verse 24)? _____

REFLECTION: It is difficult to imagine what Noah and his family must have been thinking during these days of flooding and destruction. God’s judgment on those who were not in a relationship with Him and chose a life of violence and corruption was death. Noah knew that his neighbors, business associates, extended family members and town folk that he related to on a daily basis all perished. One can only try to imagine the stage of horror occurring outside the ark. But, at the same time, one must recognize the peace and safety that God had provided for those living inside the ark.

Noah and his family had not been told by God how long they would live in the ark. They only knew that God was going to “bring the floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens.” Undoubtedly, they could hear the rain fall on the ark. They knew after the 40 days and nights that it had stopped. But now it is 150 days later and the ark continues to float on the water. This is where Genesis 8 begins.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Genesis 8:1-19.

EXERCISE:

1. Even though Noah didn’t know how long his family would be in the ark, he knew the One who had protected and provided for them. Write out the first three words of Genesis 8:1. _____

2. God remembered Noah and all that were in the ark. He cared for His creation. He set out to release them but first He had some work to do. What do the next verses tell us?
 - a. Verse 1: _____
 - b. Verse 2: _____
 - c. Verse 3: _____
 - d. Verse 4: _____
 - e. Verse 5: _____
3. The ark has finally settled on the mountains of Ararat. Read verses 6 through 12. How did Noah know that the water had receded and at last there was dry land? _____

4. Several weeks passed before the earth was completely dry. Then in verses 15-16 God gave Noah the command to _____
5. The time had come for Noah and his family and all of the animals that were with them to come out. It is interesting that the words from Genesis 1:28 are said to Noah this time in verse 17. “...so they can _____.”

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for remembering me. There have been times in my life when I have felt forgotten by others and alone. My life didn't seem to matter much to others. Thank You for reminding me that I am valuable and precious to You. Each day may my life reflect thanksgiving to You. _____

Part 4

INTRODUCTION: So Noah came out with everyone who was in the ark with him (Genesis 8:18-19). If you were Noah and had been all cooped up in the ark all of those months, what do you think would be the first thing you would do? Let your imagination go! _____

ASSIGNMENT: Read Genesis 8:20-22.

EXERCISE:

1. The ark is empty. What is the first thing Noah does? _____
(verse 20). We learned from the story of Cain and Abel that the sacrifice pleasing to the Lord was the sacrifice that required the shedding of the blood of an animal. In verse 20 we learn that Noah sacrificed some of the clean birds and clean animals that were in the ark in order to make a burnt offering to the Lord.
2. Notice the Lord's reaction in verse 21. First, He _____
and said in His heart: “*Never again* will I _____ because
of man, _____ every inclination _____
is _____ from _____. And, _____
will I _____ all _____, as
I have done (verse 21).”
3. His promise continues (verse 22). Write out this verse: _____

MEMORIZATION: This promise of the Lord in Genesis 8:21-22 is an excellent Word to put to memory. Take a moment and write out these verses on an index card and set out to memorize this great promise. You may choose to categorize this verse as another “Promise of God.”

TEACHING: God is not ignorant of mankind’s sinfulness. But, He does say that even though He knows what people will do and that the condition of the earth will again be filled with violence and corruption, with evil and wickedness, He will never again destroy all living creatures as He had done. The words “even though” are words that reveal His mercy. He is a merciful God.

- **DEFINITION:** *Mercy* means that God chooses not to carry out what we deserve. Because of our sin and the intentions of our hearts to do evil, we do deserve to be punished. We do deserve to die. In Romans 6:24 we learn that “the wages of sin is _____, but the gift of God is _____ in Christ Jesus our Lord.” What we deserve is death but God shows us His mercy by not giving us what we deserve. Instead, He demonstrates His love for us by giving us eternal life through faith in Jesus.

APPLICATION: An example that may help to increase your understanding of mercy is to enter a courtroom scene. Someone is standing before the judge guilty of a crime. The sentence is imprisonment (or, death). But then the judge’s own son steps up and says, “Your Honor, I will do time (or, die) in this individual’s place.” The judge then announces to the guilty party, “not guilty” and sends his own son off to prison (or, to his death). The penalty has been paid. The person is free to go. Case dismissed.

In this example God is the Judge. His law demands that justice is done. The payment for the wrong we have done must be carried out. We stand before God guilty of sin and deserve His punishment. His Son, Jesus, however, paid for our sin by taking on Himself the punishment that we deserved. Because of His suffering and death God the Father gives us His mercy and announces to us “not guilty.” We are set free! Case dismissed.

- Think back on a time in your life when you experienced mercy. What did you deserve? What did you receive instead? _____

- Recall some of your thoughts and feelings when you knew that you had experienced mercy:

- People around us are crying out for mercy. What might be a situation in which you can bring mercy? _____

PRAYER: Gracious God and Father, thank You for Your mercy that enables me to live not in fear of what I deserve but rather in anticipation of Your free gift of life eternal. Thank You for Jesus. Like Noah, grant me the faith to see Your hand of mercy. In spite of the evil inclinations of my heart You have chosen to never again destroy but rather to maintain the order of creation as long as this life endures.

REFLECTION: God used the ark to preserve a remnant of His creation. The ark kept the occupants safe and secure as they passed through troubled waters. Think back on a time when life around you seemed to be falling apart. Relationships were under attack. Friends found themselves in difficult situations as a result of unethical choices they had made. Business associates were caught cheating on others and then wrestled with threatening consequences to their jobs, homes, and family life.

God's love becomes like an ark in which He lifts us above all that needs attention and cries out for help. God wants everyone in His ark. He wants everyone to know and experience His grace and mercy. He wants everyone to enjoy a love relationship with Him that allows all to live free from the fear of death and free to enjoy life with Him now and forever.

REVIEW: We have studied the Biblical account of the flood recorded in Genesis 6-8. When the Lord saw the moral decay of humankind, the violence and corruption, the wickedness and evil, He determined to wipe from the face of the earth everything that had breath, all human and animal life. He grieved the despicable condition of His creation.

Genesis 6:8 begins, "But Noah..." Because God considered Noah to be a righteous man who lived in a relationship with Him, God shared with Noah His plan of destruction and gave orders for the construction of the ark. When the ark was completed God instructed Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives to enter the ark. In addition, a male and female of every animal was to accompany them. Then the Lord shut the door and the waters of the flood came on the earth (Genesis 7:10).

After the floodwaters had receded sufficiently, the ark rested on land and the occupants came out. At the end of Genesis 8 we learned that the first thing Noah did was to offer burnt offerings to the Lord. This pleased God. He promised that "even though every inclination of [man's] heart is evil from childhood"

He would “never again destroy all living creatures, as He had done.” Now we pick up where we left off with Genesis 9.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Genesis 9:1-7.

EXERCISE:

1. Genesis 9:1 almost sounds like a repeat of Genesis 1:28. The blessing given to the first man and woman God now gives to Noah and his sons. “Be _____ and _____ in number and _____ the earth.” It almost sounds as though Noah is like a new Adam. God is ready to start again and wants His creation to be blessed so He says to them, “Be fruitful and increase.” He wants them to “fill the earth.” This is His blessing to them.
2. He goes on to tell them that all creatures on land, sea, and air are “given into their hands” (verse 2). What does God say in Genesis 1:26? _____
_____ His instruction to Adam and Eve was “rule over” all the creatures.
3. The next thing God says in Genesis 9:3 is, “Everything... _____

4. What does God give as food for creation in Genesis 1:29-31?
 - a. Verse 29 – Food for mankind: _____
 - b. Verses 30-31 – Food for animals: _____
5. God says everything that lives and moves is food for them (Genesis 9:3). But, once again, God has placed a stipulation.
 - a. What was the stipulation in Genesis 2:17? _____
 - b. What was the stipulation this time in Genesis 9:4? _____

PRAYER: Lord God, You so generously provide for Your creation. You act in mercy, not punishing us as we deserve for all the wrong we have done. Instead You choose to lavishly pour out Your love on us. Thank You for blessing us and calling us to be fruitful and to fill the earth. You desire that the earth be filled with life. Teach us to hold sacred all of life. _____

Part 5

TEACHING: Why is God so insistent on this point in Genesis 9:4 that meat must not be eaten that “has its lifeblood still in it?” The Book of Leviticus contains what is referred to as the Levitical laws. These

are the laws of God for His children, the children of Israel, or the Israelites, who would live many, many years later in Biblical history. Leviticus 17:10-14 gives some insight as to why God told Noah years earlier that meat with the lifeblood still in it was not to be eaten.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Leviticus 17:10-14.

EXERCISE – Digging deeper...

1. What value does God place on blood according to these verses? _____

Note especially the words in verses 11 and 14: "...the _____ of every _____ is in the _____." God values the blood because the blood is the life of every creature.

2. God also says in verse 11 that the blood "makes _____ for one's _____."

TEACHING: Prior to Jesus' life and death, animals were sacrificed to the Lord to make *atonement* for the sins of the people. The sacrifice of animals and the blood that was shed appeased God's anger toward people because of their sin. God accepted the sacrifice of animals as payment for their sin, in place of the death of the people. The blood was that which covered over sin.

- **DEFINITION: Atone (Atonement):** To atone for the sins of the people meant that there was no longer anything that obstructed or interfered with the relationship between God and humankind. Atonement meant that they were *at one* with God. The shed blood of animals was regarded as the sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people and avert the wrath of God. God forgave the people for their sins when they shed the blood of animals and made sacrifices to Him.

Other parts of Scripture will help define and explain the concept of atonement:

1. According to Hebrews 9:22 we learn that "_____ the shedding of _____ there is no _____."
2. Romans 3:25 says that God presented _____ as a _____ of _____ and all those who believe in Him by faith He justifies.

- **DEFINITION REVIEW: Justified** – God does not hold my sin against me. I no longer need to face the charges against me because of sin. The opposite of justified is condemned. God declares that I am not guilty. He says to me that the relationship has been restored. The life of Jesus, including His suffering and death, was done for me. He has made me righteous before God. This ultimate sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, brought an end to all other sacrifices for no other sacrifice was needed. Jesus paid the ultimate price for sin by the shedding of His blood on the cross in our place.

MEMORIZATION: In this part of the lesson there are several verses that you are encouraged to put on an index cards and memorize. Remember to note the reference where the verse is found.

1. Hebrews 9:22 (ending) "...and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."
2. Leviticus 17:11 – (entire verse)
3. Romans 3:25 – "God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood."

On each card with each verse write a few words and phrases that help bring to mind the significance of shed blood.

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord God, for acting mercifully and not giving to us what our sins deserved, eternal death. Thank You for loving us by giving Your Son Jesus to be the atoning sacrifice, the One who removed the scourge of sin, making us *at one* with You and gave us life eternal. _____

Part 6

INTRODUCTION: We have taken a considerable amount of time to study the words God said to Noah and thus have grown in our understanding of the value He places on blood. You are beginning to memorize significant verses that give a foundation for discovering insights as we continue the study. Genesis 9:5-6 hold some additional pieces of information that help give increased value to our understanding of why God places such a high value on blood. Although it may seem as if we are spending more time than necessary on the subject, you are encouraged to press on. All of these nuggets are basic truths for growing in our appreciation of God and recognizing the value He places on us and the relationship He wants with us as His people.

God was adamant concerning the lifeblood of every animal and the lifeblood of every human being. He not only instructs that meat with the lifeblood still in it must not be eaten but in Genesis 9:5 He goes on to say that He will _____ an _____ from every animal and every human being.

First, let's take a look at another reference that addresses the accounting of the lifeblood of every *animal*. As stated earlier in this lesson God gave His moral law to the children of Israel when they were in the wilderness many years later. These laws were given in detail. He wanted them to know and understand that they were given to protect them from unknown danger and thus provide for their safety and preservation. God's law was a means whereby people could respond obediently to Him and thus demonstrate that they chose to have their lives centered on Him and His Word. This response would reflect the relationship of love they shared with Him.

EXERCISE – Digging deeper...

1. In Genesis 9:5 God tells Noah that He will “demand an accounting from every animal.” What is the example of this in His law recorded in Exodus 21:28-32? _____

Note: Don’t get bogged down in the detail and in all that is not explained or understood concerning this instruction. Rather seek to understand what God means in Genesis 9 when He speaks of “demanding an accounting from every animal.”

2. In the second half of Genesis 9:5 God also says that from each *person* He will “demand an _____ for the _____ of his _____.”

Sometimes our concern for the lifeblood of our fellowman almost seems nonexistent. Through media we are exposed to killings and murders every day. TV and movie screens have influenced our regard for human life. Genesis 9 can force us to take a look at all of this from God’s point of view. We hear God saying in verse 6, “Whoever _____ the _____ of _____, by _____ shall his _____ be _____ for in the _____ of _____ has _____ made man.”

According to this verse, life belonged to God and it was God’s to give and to take away.

Remember God’s blessing was for people to engage with Him in creation. He wanted them to increase and fill the earth, not to shed or disregard the lifeblood of others. Death reflects sin, not the blessing of God.

REFLECTION: These words can bring to mind many complex situations and raise numerous thought-provoking questions that all beg to be answered. For now, make note of your thoughts and observations. You may find yourself wrestling with a new perspective and with concepts that you have never considered before. Are these new thoughts disturbing? How do they challenge you? _____

Take time to address these questions: a) What is *God* saying? b) Does He *really* mean what He says?

1. In what ways does our world reflect an obedient response to God’s Word? _____

2. In what ways does our world reflect a disobedient response to His Word? _____

3. The way in which we live our lives in response to God’s Word reflects the one whom we have chosen to make the center of our lives.

- a. What does my life reflect? _____

- b. What do the lives of my friends reflect? _____

- c. What does our world reflect? _____

PRAYER: I have many thoughts and questions, Lord. In this study I am reminded that You blessed Noah with a creative purpose for his life. You also made him responsible for the lifeblood of his fellow man. Renew in my heart a love that holds sacred human life. Enable me to protect and defend others from anything that would deprive them of life. _____

TEACHING: God made man in His image (Genesis 1:27). We learned in Genesis 5:3 that man’s ability to reflect the perfect image of God was ruined by sin. The children that were conceived by Adam were created in the image of Adam. Although damaged by sin, all people continue to bear some image of God and He never wants the life of the one who bears that image to be taken by another. Remember what God said to Cain in Genesis 4:10 just after Cain had killed his brother Abel, “Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.”

Genesis 9:6 says, “for in the _____ of _____ has _____ made _____.” God continues to place great value on us as the ones who bear His image. When blood of man is shed the one who bears the image of God dies. It’s because we are God’s image bearers that life holds such great value.

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS: God’s Word says that I am created in the image of God. My fellow human beings are also created in His image. The following questions are designed to help you reflect on what it means that we are made in the image of God and to consider the value we place on our own lives and the lives of others.

1. What thoughts come to mind as you consider that all of humanity is created in the image of God although that image has been corrupted by sin? _____

2. Can the image of God be lost? What about those who may choose to deny God and live their lives apart from Him? _____
3. What value do you place on your life as one who bears the image of God? How does your life demonstrate that value? _____

4. What value do you place on the lives of others who also bear the image of God? How does your life demonstrate that value? _____
-

These may have been difficult questions to answer but unless we recognize that all are created in the image of God we can forget our responsibility to care for and protect others—their lives, their property and possessions, their reputation and character and, above all, their relationship with their Creator.

PRAYER: O God, all too often I have thought more of myself than I have of others. I have failed to honor and respect others as I ought. Like me, they are created in your image and their life comes from You. I often forget that I am in Christ and called to reflect You to Your creation, especially to my family, friends, and to others who share the community in which I live. Forgive me when I fail and work in me the desire to value life and to live responsibly. _____

Part 7

TEACHING: In Genesis 6:18 God shares His intentions with Noah to destroy all life and makes a promise to him. Write out verse 18: _____

In the promise God says that He is going to establish His covenant with Noah.

- **DEFINITION: Covenant** – A covenant is a solemn agreement that is initiated by one party and offered to a second. The covenant stands until one party member breaks or leaves the agreed upon terms of the covenant.

Note: You may be familiar with a covenant. For example, if you go to the bank for a loan, the bank as the lending agency makes certain stipulations regarding the loan and then offers the contract to you as the borrower. Once both of you have signed, the covenant becomes a legal document that will hold up in the court of law.

EXERCISE:

1. In this story God initiates a solemn promise of His mercy. It is a promise that He makes and which He cannot break. With whom does God establish His covenant (Genesis 9:9-10).

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

2. God initiates and establishes the covenant with Noah, his sons, and the generations to come. He also includes all the animals that came out of the ark and every living creature on earth. That's quite inclusive, wouldn't you say? Genesis 9:11 is the actual covenant. Write out this verse:

3. In Genesis 8:21 when God smelled the "pleasing aroma" of Noah's sacrifice, it says that He "said in His heart..." From out of God's heart we hear Him say that never again will He destroy creation with a flood. Notice the use of the words "never again" in Genesis 8:21 and Genesis 9:11. How many times did He use them? _____ You can almost hear God saying with a tone of resolve, "Never, never, never again..."
4. Then God determined to give a sign of the covenant. What was that sign? _____
5. Read verses 12 and 13. God uses the rainbow as a sign for us that He will remember His promise. He uses the rainbow as a reminder to Himself of His merciful promise to every living creature for all generations. Whenever the clouds come and a rainbow appears He says that "I will _____ My covenant (Genesis 9:14-15)."
6. It's interesting that whenever a rainbow is present almost always the question is asked: "Did you see the beautiful rainbow?" Once in awhile we may even see a double rainbow. We gaze upon the beauty of His creation and the merciful sign of promise that "even though..." (Genesis 8:21) He will "never again..." (Genesis 9:15)."
7. And, once again He uses the words _____ in verse 15. Five times He says that He will never again use water to destroy all of life. God is abundantly merciful to creation. Regardless of what the condition of creation becomes we need never fear total destruction by floodwaters. His great love (mercy) endures forever (Psalm 106:1).

APPLICATION: God has said that He will never again destroy all life with a flood.

1. What difference does this covenant make for you in your life? _____

2. If I believe that God made the promise, why do I believe that He will keep His promise?

3. Do I find it easier to believe that He will never allow such a flood again because it seems so impossible? Because I can see the rainbow? Because... _____

4. Do I reflect the image of God in my life by the way in which I make and keep my promises to others? Can others know and depend on me because they know that what I say I will do, I will

do? _____

PRAYER: Lord God, You have mercifully established Your covenant with all created life promising that You will never pour out Your wrath and destroy creation with floodwaters again. You have kept Your promise. Your Word is Truth. Enable me to reflect You through the words that I speak. May others know that what I promise I will keep and thus establish trust that will be built upon throughout the years. Thank You that Your Word can be trusted and provides a solid foundation on which I can build my life.

CLOSING COMMENT: In verse 17 God says that “this is the covenant that *I* have established.” Nothing about this covenant was dependent upon Noah, his sons, living creatures or the generations to come. This covenant was strictly dependent upon the promise God made. In future studies we will learn of different covenants that God established with His people. Some held conditions such as “if you do this” then “I will do that.” They would hold both a blessing and a curse dependent upon the obedience of God’s people. For now, it is important to understand that this covenant God has established with Noah is totally dependent upon God who promises to keep it for all generations.

LESSON FIVE

FROM NOAH TO ABRAM

GENESIS 9:18 – GENESIS 11 – THE PEOPLE SCATTERED

OVERVIEW OF LESSON 5

Table of Contents	62
Introduction	63
Lesson 5: Genesis 9:18-Genesis 11	
• Noah's Shame, Ham's Curse	64
• The Generations of Noah	66
• One's Own Genealogy	68
• The Tower of Babel	69
• Sin's Consequence	70
• What God Wanted	71
• Shem to Abram	72

INTRODUCTION

The flood destroyed all that God had created except what was preserved by Him in the ark. God initiated a new beginning with Noah as soon as the ark was emptied. He gave to Noah the same blessing that He had given Adam. “Be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on earth and increase upon it.” In addition, He made a covenant with Noah and promised that He would never again destroy creation by the waters of a flood. Then He determined that the rainbow would be the sign of His covenant with Noah and all creation. But God knew that every inclination of man’s heart was evil from childhood yet His promise was to never again destroy all living creatures as He had done.

Time passed and very soon we see the effect of sin creep back into all that God had created beginning with Noah’s own family. One might think that his family would have understood the consequences of sin and thus obeyed the command of the Lord; but we dare never forget that although the flood had destroyed the earth sin had permeated every inclination of man’s heart. Satan was still waging war as the champion of evil and God wanted to continue blessing humankind with His love expressed in His grace and mercy.

The years passed and the generations of Noah’s sons scattered over the earth. In Genesis 10 we are given an account of the genealogies of Japheth, Ham, and Shem. Genealogy may seem like an unnecessary part of this lesson but from God’s perspective, the ancestry of God’s Champion who ultimately conquered and destroyed evil is very important. Genesis 11:10-32 completes the genealogy in Genesis from Noah to Abram.

The final story in this unit is the story of the tower of Babel. The language and speech of the whole world was the same. A group settled in a plain in Shinar which is in the area of present day Iraq. Their self-centeredness motivated them to live for themselves and make a name for themselves. As a result, God “came down” and saw what they were doing and decided to confuse their language so they would not be able to understand each other. This confusion of language scattered the people over all the earth.

This lesson challenges us to consider our own ancestry, those who have gone before us and those who come after us. Our ancestry also includes individuals who have spiritually gone before us and those who come after us. We are encouraged to be people of influence. As we have been blessed through relationships with family members we are called to bless the lives of others. As we have been introduced to God’s love and forgiveness, we are called to share His love and forgiveness with those who have yet to know Him. Accept the challenge and be faithful as you serve.

Part 1

INTRODUCTION: We are about to leave the story of Noah and the flood; however, there's just one more story to cover. Genesis 9:18-19 offers a couple of observations regarding the three sons of Noah who came out of the ark:

1. In review, what were their names? _____, _____, and _____
2. What is specifically mentioned in regards to Ham? _____
3. What does verse 19 tell us about these three sons? _____

More will be said about these men in subsequent verses. For now simply received this as information.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Genesis 9:20-28.

EXERCISE:

1. What do we learn about Noah in verse 20?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

We know that this story doesn't happen immediately following the flood because we know that it takes several years for a vineyard to grow. We do know that he was a "man of the soil" and that he set out to plant a vineyard. From the fruit of the vineyard he made wine and drank some to the point of drunkenness.

2. Verse 21 says that he "lay _____ inside his _____."
Whether Noah was completely naked or lay exposed we do not know. Let's consider what we do know:
 - a. Who found Noah first (verse 22)? _____
 - b. What did he find? _____
 - c. What did he do? _____
3. Obviously, from what happens next we know that Noah was in a shameful state and his son Ham who first found him did nothing but rather chose to speak about it to his brothers.
 - a. What did Shem and Japheth do (verse 23a)? _____

- b. These men went to great lengths not to see their father shamefully exposed. Verse 23b says that _____
- c. Noah awoke “from his wine” and found out what Ham, his youngest son, had done to him. What does he do? _____
- d. The failure to cover up his father’s shame brought disgrace upon Ham. He was cursed by his father. What was the curse as written in verse 25? _____

- e. Noah gives a blessing to Shem and Japheth (verses 26-27):
 - i. What is Shem’s blessing? _____
 - ii. What is Japheth’s blessing? _____

APPLICATION: A profound sense of respect is at stake between the ones who were living under God’s new covenant of mercy. It’s difficult to understand how it can be possible that so soon in history this event happened. Noah’s son had disgraced and shamed his father. Ham treated his father with disrespect. Sin continues to leave its mark upon the family as both father and son are left shamed and disgraced. In our day and age demonstrating disrespect toward parents is often dismissed and all too often goes without consequence. For some people relationships within families are so broken that respect no longer exists.

1. Recall a time in which you observed a parent or elder not given respect? Maybe you were involved in the situation.
 - a. What was the cause? _____
 - b. What was the result? _____
2. When are times in which we may be able to deliberately attempt to protect others rather than run off and tell others? _____
3. Think of a specific situation in which you may be able to deliberately choose to protect someone from shame, disgrace, and disrespect? How might you protect them with love? _____

PRAYER: Lord God, I confess that all too often I speak to expose others rather than choose to cover up and protect them. Give me a heart that would choose to protect the reputation and character of others. Thank You for covering over my shameful condition with the blood of Your Son, Jesus, my Savior.

Part 2

INTRODUCTION: Genesis 10 records the account of the generations of Noah's sons. Each account is also written in 1 Chronicles 1. You may find it interesting to follow along in the Book of First Chronicles as we work in Genesis. This account will give you a sense of where civilization began after the flood.

Genesis 9:19 says that "from them came the people who _____."

EXERCISE:

1. Let's first look at Japheth, the oldest of Noah's sons in Genesis 10:1-5.
 - a. How many sons did Japheth have (verse 2)? _____
 - b. In verses 3 and 4 attention is given to two of his sons: _____ and _____
 - c. What interesting fact is given in verse 5? _____

It may be interesting to note that Japheth's family migrated to the west to the countries of Asia Minor, known today as Turkey and Europe.

2. Verses 6-20 speak of the sons of Ham. Ham's family migrated to the area known today as Israel, to North Africa and Egypt.
 - a. How many sons did Ham have (verse 6)? _____
 - b. Cush had five sons. One of his sons is specifically mentioned in verse 8:
 - i. What was his name? _____
 - ii. What additional information does verse 8 give? _____
 - iii. He was not only a mighty warrior but also a _____

TEACHING:

1. Verses 10-12 speak about the growth of Nimrod's kingdom: Babylon in verse 10, Assyria in verse 11, and Nineveh in verse 11. Babylon and Assyria played major roles in Israel's history. Babylon conquered Judah, the Southern Kingdom, and Assyria conquered Israel, the Northern Kingdom. The Israelites were held as captives in these countries for many years. Nineveh was a town built by Nimrod. The Book of Jonah tells the story of what it took for God to bring an obstinate prophet to that country. More information on these locations will be given in future units of study.
2. Other names to point out that played major roles in Israel's history:
 - a. The Philistines (verse 13) would be the ongoing enemies of the Israelites during the time when David was king.
 - b. The Canaanites (verses 15-18) settled in the land that would be given by God to the children of Israel. When the Israelites came to possess the land they were met by many

hostile nations. Some of these nations included: the Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, and Hivites. As you see, all of these were descendants from Ham, Noah’s son whom he cursed.

- c. The Canaanite clans scattered. This would be an excellent time to take a look at the maps in the back of your Bible. Possibly the most helpful map is the one that shows the kingdom of Israel during the reign of King David and King Solomon. Attempt to locate these towns, cities, and territories:
 - i. Sidon – to the north along the coast of the Mediterranean
 - ii. Gaza – to the south, also along the coast
 - iii. Sodom and Gomorrah – located on the east side of the Dead Sea
 - iv. Philistia – the land of the Philistines

These locations give you an introduction to places where major events in Israel’s history occurred. Again, don’t get bogged down or discouraged with all the strange names. This is information that will enable you to enjoy identifying historical sites.

EXERCISE:

- 3. Verses 21-31 speak of the sons of Shem. The genealogy of Shem is extremely significant in Biblical history. This is the lineage of such individuals as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, King David, and King Solomon. The descendants of Shem, Noah’s middle son, migrated to the southeastern region of what is referred to in the Bible as Mesopotamia and what we know as the Persian Gulf.
 - a. How many sons did Shem have (verse 22)? _____
 - b. Turn to 1 Chronicles 1:24-27. Very succinctly we are told the generations between Shem and Abraham. Complete this table of the descendants:

Shem	
	Abram, that is Abraham

- c. Identify as many of these names as you can in Genesis 10. Underline them.

Note: A person can wonder and even argue the importance of a genealogy such as this. In fact, if you look ahead to Genesis 11 another one is recorded. Although the genealogies may not seem to

show any significant value at this point, as history unfolds we will learn that from God's perspective an accounting of the descendants of Noah is very important, even as far back as the descendants of Adam.

Part 3

APPLICATION: Have you ever traced your genealogy? Some people take this very seriously. For some it is the hope that someone important will be found in their lineage. Take a little time and consider those who have gone before you. If you are able, ask relatives about these individuals. Learn the stories attached to your family heritage. This can be a time in which to thank the Lord for maybe one individual, in particular, who may have played a significant role in your life.

PRAYER: _____

APPLICATION: There's another lineage you may want to consider as well. Who are those who have been spiritual parents, if you will, to you? Who are those who shared their faith with you, who prayed for you, and who introduce you to Jesus? Or, maybe you are the first in your sphere of influence to be introduced to the Bible as the Word of God. Who shared with you? _____
This may be a time in which to thank the Lord for someone who wanted you to know about the God who loves and forgives you, the God who acts in mercy toward you, the God who created you and longs to be in a relationship with you for all eternity.

PRAYER: _____

APPLICATION: You can begin a new lineage by helping someone embark on their own spiritual journey. Who are those you can introduce to God and His Word? _____
This also can be a time in which to thank the Lord for the opportunity to share His love with others. Ask Him to give you eyes to see those who do not yet know Him.

PRAYER: _____

Part 4

INTRODUCTION: One more story remains in this study. It takes place in Shinar, or Babylonia which is modern day Iraq, in the land to the east where the descendants of Ham (Genesis 10:10) settled. This story is found in Genesis 11:1-9.

ASSIGNMENT: Read Genesis 11:1-9.

EXERCISE:

1. Verse 1 reads, “Now _____ had one _____ and a _____.”
2. So, they put their heads together and said (verse 3a), “Come, _____
_____.”
3. We are told (verse 3b) that they used “_____ instead of _____, and _____ for _____.” This would indicate a more advanced society that created its own building materials.
4. Then they said (verse 4), “Come let us _____ ourselves a _____, with a _____ that reaches to the _____, so that we may _____ and _____ be scattered over the _____.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you see a problem here? Is there anything wrong with what they set out to accomplish?

2. Do you see anything similar to this happening in the present age? _____

3. Is there something wrong with using the technology they had to build a city with a high tower?

4. Something must be wrong, however, because verse 5 begins with the big little word: _____

EXERCISE:

1. The Lord came down to take a look at their construction project—the city and the tower that they were building. What did He decide (verse 6)? “If as _____ people speaking the _____ language they have _____, then _____ they plan to do will be _____ for them.”
2. So He said, “Come, _____ and _____ their _____ so they will not _____ each other.”

TEACHING: What had their common language allowed them to do? What had happened to their thinking? What had become the focus of their existence? _____

1. They said to each other (verse 3), “Come, let’s make…” In verse 4 they said, “Come let *us* build…” The problem was that they had made themselves the center of their own lives: “Let us build *ourselves* a city.”
2. They didn’t want to be scattered. They wanted to make their creation the center of their existence. By creating a city and a high tower that “reaches to the heavens” they intended to create a name for themselves. Their intent was to become the center of their own universe.
3. They thought they could create a tower that would reach the heavens. Knowing what we do today about the enormity of the heavens, their attempt seems laughable. Do you sense a little tongue in cheek as God says, “Come, let us go down...(verse 7)” There was no way that man would reach into the heavens.
4. Their self-centered motivation to use their intellect, skill, technology, and abilities to make a name for themselves cried out demanding attention. They could do whatever they liked if they could communicate effectively. However, if their language was confused they would not be able to understand one another and their self-centeredness would force them to abort the projects.
5. So, the Lord came down (verse 7) and confused their _____. They were no longer able to understand each other. For example, if one builder asked for a hammer, he may have been given a screwdriver.
6. The very thing they wanted—not to be scattered—was the very thing that the Lord did. Verse 8 says, “So the Lord _____ them from there over _____ the earth.”
7. And, the building of the city stopped. It wasn’t just delayed while everyone went to language classes. No, the building stopped and everyone was scattered over all the earth. The city was called _____ (verse 9) “because there the _____.”

Once again the consequence of sin is evident. Sin causes separation and destruction of relationships.

Let’s review:

1. We saw how sin caused separation between God and mankind and between husband and wife in Genesis 3.
2. Also in Genesis 3 we learned that sin brought a curse on the ground, ground that was to provide food for mankind.
3. Sin caused hatred and hostility within families as evidenced in the lives of Cain and Abel.
4. And, now we see that sin even brought an end to the one thing the world still had, _____ language and a _____ speech (Genesis 11:1).

In order for the earth to be filled, God wanted to have the people scattered over the earth.

Reference	What did <i>God</i> want...
Genesis 1:22	
Genesis 1:27	
Genesis 9:1	
Genesis 9:19	
Genesis 10:32	
Genesis 11:8-9	
Genesis 11:4	

APPLICATION: Have you ever wondered where the different languages originated? Communication causes so much turmoil in relationships even when we speak the same language. Use of the wrong word offends. Using picture language to convey meaning often creates barriers. Cultures and ethnic backgrounds complicate language.

As we look ahead into the New Testament in the Book of John we learn in John 2 that Jesus is the Word, the very communication piece of God. He communicates grace and truth (John 1:14). In spite of all the disruption and corruption sin caused, Jesus comes as the true Word of God to break down the barriers of sin and create peace between God and mankind and between people of every language and tongue—male and female, black and white, rich and poor, young and old.

When was a time communicating with someone was difficult?

1. What caused the problem? _____
2. How was the difficulty resolved? _____
3. Our attempts to communicate often fail. Admitting our failure and asking forgiveness for our shortcomings is the only hope for binding the brokenness that has occurred. What has been your experience for making restitution? _____

PRAYER: Take time to bring before the Father your own confession of failure to communicate well with another, maybe even with Him. Thank Him for the language of love that He offers through Jesus, the Word made flesh (John 1). _____

Part 5

INTRODUCTION: The genealogy in Genesis 11:10-32 sets the stage for “the rest of the story.” We have looked at the generations that have connected Adam to Noah. We know that Shem is Noah’s second son. It is important for the big picture to recognize the bloodline that connects Shem to Abraham. Abraham is the patriarch whom God chose and called to be the father of nations.

ASSIGNMENT: Let’s begin the last segment of Lesson Five by reading the genealogical account in Genesis 11:10-26. Look for names you recognize from Part 2.

EXERCISE:

Name	Age	Name	Age
Shem	500		
Arphaxad			
		Abram, Nahor, Haran	

A couple of things to notice...

1. Compare the length of life in the genealogy from Adam to Noah in Lesson 3.
2. The names from Shem to Peleg are all mentioned in Genesis 10:21-25. What is mentioned in verse 25 that may be the reason for different names from Peleg to Abram?

TEACHING:

1. More detail is given about the family of Terah, the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran.
 - a. Haran was the father of _____ (verse 27).
 - b. Lot was Abram’s _____.
 - c. The land where Terah and his sons lived is referred to as _____.
 - d. Terah’s son, Lot’s father _____ died (verse 28).
 - e. Abram married _____ and Nahor married _____.
 - f. What relation was Milcah to Nahor? _____
 - g. Milcah also had a sister named _____ (verse 29)
 - h. What do we learn about Abram’s wife Sarai in verse 30? _____
2. The family is on the move. These were nomadic people. They lived in tents and were very portable people. As head of the family, or tribal chief, Terah decided it was time to move.
 - a. They set out from the land of _____(verse 31)

- b. They were headed for _____ This is a familiar word learned earlier in this lesson. Refer to the genealogy of Ham, also called _____.
- c. Who did Terah take with him (verse 31)? _____

- d. They didn't get to Canaan. Where did they stop and settle? _____
- e. In verse 32 we learn that this is the place where Terah died. He lived _____ years.

APPLICATION: Have you experienced a move from one part of the country to another? Maybe it wasn't that far but you moved from the familiarity of your home to a new location. Recall the experience. Maybe you had nothing to say in the matter and you were simply told to pack your things.

Change can be unsettling. It's not that we don't want the end result but the steps to that end can be disruptive and cause all kinds of turmoil. The troubling feelings of loss cause us to resist the changes that moving to a new and distant land can create. We don't know what was Abram and Sarai's experience as they moved with Terah supposedly to the land of Canaan, but they packed up and moved not knowing what was before them.

1. Reflect on a move you've made. What were some of the most disturbing factors about the move? What caused stress and anxiety? _____
2. Who made the decision to move? _____
3. Who were those who made the move with you? _____
4. Did you make it to your original destination or did plans get changed? _____

PRAYER: O Lord God, sometimes You call us to leave even though we don't know what to anticipate. Abram was blessed with family, ancestry, a heritage that was under Your careful and watchful eye _____

CLOSING COMMENTS: As our study continues we will learn about God's plan for Abram. It undoubtedly was nothing like he anticipated but he walked in faith believing that God was with him. Abram moves with his wife, father, and nephew in a nomadic caravan to an unknown land. They leave the familiar to begin again in a new land. We have come to the end of this unit of study and are ready to leave these sojourners as they embark on their journey. The story of God's plan for mankind is just beginning to unfold. In the next until of study we will resume with Abram and Sarai's story in Genesis 12 and learn of God's great promise as He unfolds his plan for them and their offspring.

UNIT REVIEW

GOD'S PLAN, OUR CHOICE

UNIT REVIEW

This is NOT a test! Sometimes, however, it is encouraging to assess one's learning. We become more confident and are persuaded to press on. You have completed the Bible study unit *God's Plan, Our Choice*. Let's consider some of the things you've been working on these past weeks:

- Becoming familiar with the Genesis account of creation
- Learning what the Bible says about God as the Creator
- Defining to clarify and understand several terms:
 - Sanctify
 - Sabbath Day
 - Justified
 - Grace
 - Redemption
 - Faith
 - Mercy
 - Covenant
- Recognizing the value God places on humankind as those created in the image of God
- Understanding the responsibility of humankind to reflect His image to creation
- Understanding the responsibility to increase, fill the earth, rule over and subdue it
- Learning God's ideal for marriage
- Recognizing God's desire for humankind to live with His Word as the center of one's life
- Developing a broader understanding of sin, its desires, results, and consequences
- Becoming familiar with the story of Cain and Abel
- Growing in an awareness of the dreadful decline of creation
- Becoming familiar with the story of Noah and the flood
- Learning God's promise to Noah and all creation
- Appreciating the value God placed on the lifeblood, sacrifice, and covenants
- Becoming familiar with the descendants of Noah
- Learning the story of God's decision to confuse the language of the people

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have completed this study and have learned much. But there's much more to learn. You have finished Lesson 5 ending with the genealogy of Abram in Genesis 11. Abram and his wife Sarai travel toward the land of Canaan with Abram's father, Terah, who decides to settle in Haran. *God's Promise, Our Blessing* will pick up when God calls Abram to leave Haran and "go to the land I will show you (Genesis 12:1)." Like the flowing river leaving the headwaters, picking up volume from the tributaries, you will add to your knowledge and faith as God pours into you the river of life.

Additional CrossConnect Bible study downloads are available at no cost.

Visit the ministry's web site: www.CrossCM.org.

Let us hear from you!

Contact Tiffany: tiffany@crossconnectministries.com