

Read through the Bible



Genesis Week 1



Monday, October Fourteenth

Welcome to our six-week journey through Genesis! This booklet is laid out to help you walk through a portion of the events in Genesis every day. Whether you start off your day with this, find some time during your lunch break, or sit down with it before you go to bed, the hope would be for you to engage with the Bible on a consistent basis as God engages you and calls you into His story. May your journey be filled with newfound perspective as you dive into this account of God as Creator *and* Redeemer! – Pastor Chris

Read: Genesis 1:1-2:3

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- Who created the heavens and the earth? (see verse 1)

Genesis 1:1 reminds us that God Himself created the heavens and the earth. The Hebrew word for “created” is “*bara*,” which means “to create out of nothing” (you might be more familiar with the Latin phrase – “*creatio ex nihilo*” – meaning “creation out of nothing”). This means that God didn’t create the heavens and the earth from some pre-existent matter or even from Himself. Instead, God did the impossible – He took nothing and turned it into something!

- How was the earth created? (make special note of the verb in verses 3,6,9,14,20, 24, and 26)

Children’s Bible stories often show God creating a mountain or a tree with His hands, but the account in Genesis implies that He actually spoke things into existence (“And God *said*...”).

- What was unique about humans? (see verses 26-27)

Respond: Apply what you’ve learned in prayer and action

As you begin this journey through Genesis, think about what is going on in your life right now. What are you thankful for? What are you concerned about? In what ways are you looking to grow? Take some time to pray through these things with your Creator.

Tuesday, October Fifteenth

Last week, when the Tampa Bay Rays won Game 3 of the Division Series against the Houston Astros, they had their highest attendance of the season: 32,251. One of the Rays players, Kevin Kiermaier, commented on how energized he felt from all of the people who had showed up for the game. “Seeing everyone with the towels and every fan through every pitch, it was insane. That’s something that I’ve never experienced before.” In today’s passage, we’re going to see why being around other people is a ‘good’ thing.

Read: Genesis 2:4-25

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

In verse 4, your Bible translation probably has the word ‘Lord’ capitalized as ‘LORD.’ This is to signify God by His formal name – ‘YHWH’ or ‘Yahweh’ – which will be first introduced to Moses in the book of Exodus.

- How was Adam created? (see verse 7)
- What was God’s rule for Adam, and what was the consequence for breaking that rule? (see verses 15-17)
- What problem did God observe? (see verse 18)

Take a look back at yesterday’s reading (specifically the ends of verses 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, and 31). In each of these verses, we see that God observed His creation as ‘good.’ But for the first time, God saw something that was not good – man was alone. In creating Eve, God signaled just how important relationships would be for human beings (and not just romantic ones, but all relationships).

- How was Eve created? (see verses 21-22)

Respond: Apply what you’ve learned in prayer and action

Think about someone in your life who often feels alone. How might you invite that person to be a part of something you’re doing this week? If you are feeling alone, who might you reach out to and spend some time with?

Wednesday, October Sixteenth

Two young siblings are playing together in an antique store. In the midst of playing hide and go seek, both of them brush up against a table and knock over a beautiful glass vase. Upon hearing the loud crash, their dad comes running over and asks the two children who broke the vase. Both of them point to each other. In today’s passage, there’s a whole lot of finger pointing going on!

Read: Genesis 3:1-24

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- How did the serpent cast doubt on God’s command? (see verses 1-5)

The serpent is not directly identified as Satan in this passage, but various passages throughout the Bible indicate that this was the case (see Ezekiel 28:13-19, Job 26:13, and Isaiah 51:9).

- Where was Adam when Eve ate the fruit? (see verse 6)

Many people assume that Eve was by herself when she ate the fruit, and then later offered the fruit to Adam. But, in fact, the passage shows us that Adam was standing *right next to her* when she took the fruit and ate it! In this sense, Adam’s silence makes him complicit in disobeying God’s command, especially since he was the one who was originally entrusted with it (see 2:17).

- How did Adam respond to God’s question? (see verses 11-12) How did Eve respond? (see verse 13)

Instead of taking responsibility for their roles in the situation, Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent.

Respond: Apply what you’ve learned in prayer and action

Adam and Eve’s example reminds us that it’s much easier for us to blame somebody else than to take responsibility for our actions. As a part of your prayer time today, take some time to acknowledge your own shortcomings, and then reflect upon the reality that Jesus has already taken the blame of those shortcomings for you!

Thursday, October Seventeenth

Is social media creating a virtual world of jealousy and envy? Journalist Shannon Doyne certainly thinks so: *“Most people realize it’s not healthy to compare themselves to other people — but social media presents abundant opportunities to do exactly that.”* In today’s passage, Adam and Eve’s children get a firsthand experience of what can happen when they engage in comparison.

Read: Genesis 4:1-26

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- What offerings did Cain and Abel bring? (see verses 3-5)
How does Hebrews 11:4 help explain the difference between the two offerings?
- How do verses 6-7 help explain Cain’s motivation for killing his brother in verse 8?

Cain’s story shows us the dangers of jealousy, and how easily it can affect our thoughts and actions toward other people. In this case, Cain didn’t like the fact that God was more pleased with Abel’s offering than his, which caused him to take his brother out into a field and kill him. While we may not go to the extremes of Cain, we still run the risk of letting our jealousy of others rule our lives.

- How did Cain respond to God’s question in verse 9?

God knew the answer to His own question in verse 9, but He wanted to see if Cain would openly confess his wrongdoing, or if he would follow in the path of his parents by refusing to accept responsibility. Cain chose the latter, and in doing so, gave us a term that has been used for thousands of years since: ‘brother’s keeper.’

Respond: Apply what you’ve learned in prayer and action

Proverbs 14:30 states that “a heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.” Who or what are you currently (or recently) envious of? How might you ask God to create in you a heart of peace and contentment instead?

Friday, October Eighteenth

In 1969, Sealand of the Pacific opened in British Columbia, Canada. Initially, it seemed like a great idea: build an aquarium, bring in some orca whales, and people will come from all over to see them. The plan worked for a few decades, but over time, deficiencies became evident. The aquarium wasn’t well maintained, the whales were confined in very small spaces, and, in 1991, three of the whales attacked and killed a trainer. Shortly after, the call was made to close Sealand’s doors and sell the whales to SeaWorld. In today’s passage, God makes a tough call regarding His creation.

Read: Genesis 5:1-6:22

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- Between Adam and Noah, how long did people typically live? (skim through chapter 5)
- What did God conclude in 6:3?

Over the years, some people have interpreted this verse to mean that humans would no longer live past 120 years old. However, humans continued to live past this age (for example, see Genesis 11:10-26) and some do even today. Most scholars reject this first view, and instead, interpret this verse as a timeline for when God would flood the earth (i.e. 120 years from when He said this).

- Why did God decide to bring a flood? (see 6:5-7, 11-13)

This was not an easy decision for God. His heart was “grieved” and “filled with pain” (v. 5). At the same time, though, God decided that He wouldn’t completely destroy the earth. Instead, He would start over with a remnant of His creation by His side (see verse 8).

- What did God promise for Noah? (see 6:18)

Respond: Apply what you’ve learned in prayer and action

Think back to a time when you had to start over. How did you feel then? How do you feel now looking back on that situation? Take some time to thank God for always being at work in your life.

Saturday, October Nineteenth

Searching for a place to live can be a headache, especially in the Tampa Bay area where inventory is low, and prices are high (and 700,000 people are moving here over the next decade!). One of the neighborhoods in St. Pete that is often regarded as a great place to live is Shore Acres. It has good schools, quiet streets, young families, and it's relatively close to downtown and the interstate. There's only one problem – it floods, especially during the rainy summer months. In fact, if you regularly watch the local news, you've probably seen a news anchor reporting in a canoe on a flooded street somewhere in Shore Acres. In today's passage, God sends the flood that He had promised in the previous chapter.

Read: Genesis 7:1-24

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- How many of each animal and bird did God command Noah to bring on the ark? (see verses 1-3)

Woah! Hold on a second...didn't we learn in Sunday School that Noah brought two of every animal onto the ark? Our passage today shows us that while Noah did indeed bring a pair of every *unclean* animal onto the ark, he also brought seven pairs of every *clean* animal and bird. Leviticus 11 outlines which animals are clean and unclean, but Noah wouldn't have access to this book because...well...it hadn't been written yet. Instead, we can safely assume that Noah knew which animals were clean and unclean because God had told him so.

- How is the beginning of the flood described? (see verse 11)
- How high did the flood go? (see verses 18-20) What was the result? (see verses 21-23)

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Throughout Genesis 6-7, Noah trusted God amidst a challenging situation. Is there a challenging situation you are facing right now? How might you trust God even if you're not quite sure what's next?

Sunday, October Twentieth

If you've ever been to the DMV before, chances are you had to wait quite a while to see someone. Sure, you may have walked right up to the front desk and told the attendant what you were there for, but the moment you received your number (say, 76) and looked up at the board to see "Now Serving Number 32," your heart likely sank as you realized you'd be waiting for a long, long time. In today's passage, Noah and his family have to wait almost five months in the ark before they can step out and explore the new world (only slightly longer than having to wait at the DMV).

Read: Genesis 8:1-22

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- How did Noah determine whether or not the flood waters had receded? (see verses 6-11)
- How did Noah's action in verse 20 indicate one of the reasons why God had asked him to bring seven pairs of the clean animals and birds as opposed to just one? (see 7:2-3)
- What did God promise after smelling Noah's sacrifice? (see verses 21-22)

Upon leaving the ark, Noah immediately built an altar to the Lord. This was not only an opportunity for him to give God his first and best sacrifices, but to also give thanks for keeping them safe during the flood. As a result of Noah's actions, God resolved that He would never again destroy all living creatures (v. 21).

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

When we come to God with our prayers, waiting for a response can sometimes be the most difficult part. What is something that you've been praying for lately, but haven't received a response to yet? What has waiting taught you about yourself and about God?

Questions? Comments? Contact Pastor Chris at chris.futch@oursaviorfl.org or (727) 344-2684.