

Bible Stories for Adults

God's Plan From the Beginning

Genesis 1 - 3

Opening

Gathering: Name examples that show you that God has a plan for His creation.

Today's Focus: In His great love, God created us and everything we know. He has revealed to us, from the very beginning, His plan to bring us to Him despite our rejection of Him through sin.

Key Verses: *The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call.* Acts 2:39

He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel. Genesis 3:15

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The Song of God's Creation (*Genesis 1*)

What do the first few words of Genesis tell us?

Genesis 1:1

- **In the beginning**

- In the beginning **God**

- In the beginning God **created**

- In the beginning God created **the heavens and the earth**

What is the literary style of Genesis 1:1 - 2:3?

What is the message of each verse part?

- "*And God said*"

- "*Let there be*"

- "*And it was so*"

- Particulars are restated

- God gives names or blessings

- "*And God saw that it was good*"

- "*And there was evening and there was morning*"

How do days 1-3 correspond to days 4-6?

Separation - Forming from Chaos

1 (v3-5)

2 (v6-8)

3 (v9-13)

Population - Filling the Empty

4 (v14-19)

5 (v20-23)

6 (v24-31)

What does this pattern say about God and His creation?

Ephesians 1:11

Was man just one of the animals that God decided to "*Let there be*"?

Genesis 1:26

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

Ephesians 4:24

How did God feel about His creation after it was finished?

Genesis 1:31

What was one reason that God made His creation *very good*?

Romans 1:20

Bible Stories for Adults

God's Plan From the Beginning

Page 2

A Conflicting Creation? (*Genesis 2:4-7*)

What literary style takes over after the prologue poem?

Genesis 2:4a (4-7)

When does Chapter 2 take place?

Genesis 2:7

Does Chapter 2 belong more with Chapter 1 or Chapter 3?

The Garden of Eden (*Genesis 2:8-14*)

What did God do even before creating man that showed His tremendous love for man?

Genesis 2:8

Why did God create the Garden of Eden?

Genesis 2:9 (Psalm 149:4a)

Why did God want to *delight* mankind?

Ecclesiastes 3:11-14

Where was the Garden of Eden?

Genesis 2:10-14

The Crown of God's Creation (*Genesis 2:15-17*)

Was this man that God created supposed to just sit back and *delight* in what God gave him?

Genesis 1:28; 2:15

Was this man given "free rein" over what he did in God's Garden and how he did it?

Genesis 2:16-17

Not a Loner (*Genesis 2:18-20*)

What did God already realize that this man had to learn?

Genesis 2:18

How did God show this to the man?

Genesis 2:19-20

One Flesh (*Genesis 2:21-24*)

Did God create a suitable helper for man by speaking a command or by forming dirt?

Genesis 2:21-22

What was significant about the way God created this helper?

Genesis 2:23-24

What does Adam's acceptance of this new helper remind those of us who are married?

Ephesians 5:28

Are married couples truly considered as one flesh?

Matthew 19:3-6

How does marriage reflect God's intention for man's relationship with Him?

1 Corinthians 6:15-17

Bible Stories for Adults

God's Plan From the Beginning

Page 3

Original Man (*Genesis 2:25*)

What can we learn about man's original nature and character?

Genesis 1:27

Genesis 2:7

Genesis 2:25

The Fall (*Genesis 3:1-7*)

How did Satan cleverly try to change man's perfect obedience to God?

Genesis 3:1

Did Adam and the woman clearly understand their *freedom within limits*?

Genesis 3:2-3

How did Satan play on the woman's mistake and then lie to push her to sin?

Genesis 3:4-5

How much more tempting did Satan need to do before the man and woman sinned?

Genesis 3:6

Did this sin make them more God-like in knowing good and evil?

Genesis 3:7

What is the problem with learning about good and evil from a sin perspective?

John 8:34

Two Adams View Temptation (*Matthew 4:1-11*)

Is it a sin to be tempted?

1 Corinthians 10:13

Then what is the problem with temptation?

Matthew 26:41

Is it possible to stand up to strong temptations?

Matthew 4:1

Adam saw that *the tree was good for food* and gave in to his desires. Did the second Adam?

Matthew 4:2-4

Adam felt the fruit would make him *like God* and fed his pride. Did the second Adam?

Matthew 4:5-7

Adam found the fruit *pleasing to the eye* and took what he saw. Did the second Adam?

Matthew 4:8-10

Angels kept Adam from God's Garden. How were angels used with the second Adam?

Matthew 4:11

Guilty (*Genesis 3:8-10*)

Were Adam and the woman proud of their new-found knowledge of good & evil?

Genesis 3:8

Did they readily confess their sin?

Genesis 3:9-10

How did the humans react when faced with the facts?

Genesis 3:11-13

Bible Stories for Adults

God's Plan From the Beginning

Page 4

Curses and a Blessing (Genesis 3:11-19)

How did God curse the serpent for being the form that Satan used to tempt the humans?

Genesis 3:14

How did God continue cursing the serpent that also cursed Satan, but blessed the humans?

Genesis 3:15

*I will put enmity between you and the woman
and between your offspring*

and hers;

He

will crush your head

and you will strike His heel.

What curses did God give the woman for falling into Satan's temptation?

Genesis 3:16

What curses did God give Adam for falling into Satan's temptation?

Genesis 3:17-19

Life After Sin (Genesis 3:20-24)

Realizing that they would eventually die, what responsibility now faced Adam and the woman?

Genesis 3:20

What did God do that showed His unending love for the Crown of His Creation?

Genesis 3:21

What else did God do that showed His love for Adam and Eve?

Genesis 3:22-24

Besides living forever in sin, why else should Adam and Eve not eat of the tree of life?

1 Corinthians 15:50-54

Does the tree of life still exist?

Revelation 22:1-3a

Compare the first 3 chapters of the Bible (Genesis 1-3) with the last 3 chapters (Revelation 20-22)

Revelation 22:13

He is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How have I seen evidence that man was created in God's image? (Genesis 1:27; Job 4:17; Psalm 139:13-16; Romans 3:21-24; Ephesians 4:11-13, 22-24; Col 3:9-10)
2. What have I learned about God's plan for my life? Am I following His plan? (Genesis 1:28; 2:15; Psalm 40:5; 138:8; Jeremiah 29:11; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 2:8-10; Revelation 21:1-4)
3. How have I served as a helper for others? (Genesis 2:18; Proverbs 31:10-31; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:25-37; Galatians 5:13-14; Ephesians 5:21-6:9; 1 Peter 5:2-5)
4. How has God made it clear to me that He has given me freedom within limits? (Genesis 2:16-17; Psalm 119:45; Romans 6; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Galatians 5:1, 13; James 1:22-25; 1 Peter 2:16)
5. How important is it to me personally that God offered His saving grace immediately after sin first entered the world? (Genesis 3:15; John 3:16-21; 14:1-4; Romans 5; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 4:9-11)