

Bible Stories for Adults

Overview of the Book of Genesis

Genesis 1 - 50

Opening

Gathering: Give an example of how God's good plan was accomplished in your life despite your efforts to do something else or despite apparent impossibility.

Today's Focus: To recognize God's love for us through creating us, honoring us, justly disciplining us, offering us His grace and continually blessing us so we may do His Will.

Key Verses: *God created man in His own image.* Genesis 1:27

I will bless you; ... I will bless those who bless you, ... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Genesis 12:2-3

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. Genesis 50:20

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Creation (*Genesis 1*)

Does the Bible start with the beginning of God?

Psalm 90:2 = It can't; God has no beginning nor end; God is eternal

Then what beginning does the Bible start with?

Genesis 1:1 = The beginning of creation - everything we know - heavens & earth

How did God create everything we know, see, feel, hear, smell, etc.?

Genesis 1:3 = "God said ... and there was" - Simply by giving His Word

What was the last thing God created?

Genesis 1:27 = Mankind - Created in His image, with a soul (not just an evolved animal)

How long did it take God to create everything and how did He feel about it?

Genesis 1:31 = 6 days, "It was very good"

The Crown of God's Creation (*Genesis 2*)

What purposes did God have for the crown of His creation?

Genesis 1:28; 2:15 = Multiply, Make Use, Take Charge & Take Care of His creation

Was this creature given "free rein" over what he did and how he did it?

Genesis 2:16-17 = He was given "free rein" within limits

How did God further bless this crown of His creation?

Genesis 2:18, 22, 24 = He saw man's social need and gave him a partner

The Fall (*Genesis 3*)

How well did the crown of God's creation live freely within His limits?

Genesis 3:5-6 = They fell into sin when tempted by Satan

How did God respond in judgment against this disobedience and rejection of His will?

Genesis 3:7, 16-17, 19 = Gave sense of guilt, pain, subordination, difficulty & death

How did God respond in love with His grace (undeserved gift)?

Genesis 3:15, 22-23 = Promised Savior for the world, Kept man from living forever in sin

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The Cycle of Sin / Judgment / Grace (*Genesis 3-11*)

<u>Chapter</u>		<u>Sin</u>	<u>Judgment</u>	<u>Grace</u>
3	=	The Fall	Death	Promise of Savior
4	=	Murder	Expulsion	Mark
6-9	=	Wickedness	Flood	Noah
11	=	Pride	Dispersed	Abraham

What sin do we learn about next?

Genesis 4:8 = Murder - Cain killed Abel

What was God's judgment in response to this sin?

Genesis 4:11-12 = Failure in raising crops (livelihood) & expulsion as a *restless wanderer*

How did God follow this judgment with His loving grace?

Genesis 4:15 = A mark to protect him from revenge by others

What sin do we learn about next?

Genesis 6:5 = Great wickedness and evil

What was God's judgment in response to this sin?

Genesis 6:17 = The Flood - To *destroy all life*

How did God follow this judgment with His loving grace?

Genesis 6:18-19 = He saved Noah, his family and a remnant of animals

What sin do we learn about next?

Genesis 11:4 = Pride and purposeful disobedience to God's command to scatter

What was God's judgment in response to this sin?

Genesis 11:9 = Confused their language and scattered them

How did God follow this judgment with His loving grace?

Genesis 12:1-3 = He called Abram to make a people through which to bring a blessing

Scripture Focuses In (*Genesis 1-12*)

What is the focus of Genesis 1?

Genesis 1:1 = God's love to all of His creation

How does this focus change in Genesis 2?

Genesis 2:7 = God's love to the human race in ancient history

How does this focus change in Genesis 12?

Genesis 17:7 = God's love to one chosen man and his family

How does this focus change in the New Testament?

Galatians 3:8-9 = God's love to the new family of Abraham, the chosen people of faith

Father Abraham (*Hebrews 11:8-12*)

Was Abraham chosen to receive God's blessing because he was so righteous?

Joshua 24:2 = No, he came from a family that worshipped idols - Chosen purely by grace

How did Abraham respond when God called him to go, and why?

Hebrews 11:8 = He obeyed and went by faith, trusting in God's direction

How did God further bless Abraham in response to his faith?

Hebrews 11:9-13, 16 = He blessed him with land, descendants and a promise of eternal life

How did God bless the people of the world through Abraham's faith?

Galatians 3:29, 14 = We are heirs to the promise given to Abraham through faith in Jesus

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A Perfect Faith? (*Genesis 12-21*)

- Did Abraham ever falter in his faith? = Sarah was Abraham's half-sister
Genesis 12:11-13 = Didn't trust God to protect, Stretched truth to protect himself
- Why should Abraham have trusted God to protect him and Sarah?
Genesis 17:19 = God's covenant of blessing to the world would pass through Sarah
- Did Abraham learn to trust God more as he lived longer under God's care?
Genesis 20:2-3 = No, he did the same thing; God had to intervene again
- How else did Abraham interfere with God's plan out of weakness of faith? = He was 85 yrs old
Genesis 16:1-2 = He gave up hope in the son God promised and took over himself
- How did God show Abraham that He will fulfill His plan, no matter how impossible it may appear?
Genesis 21:2, 5 = He gave Isaac, as promised, when Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90

Faith Tested (*Genesis 22*)

- How did God test Abraham's faith after proving to Abraham that He was in control?
Genesis 22:1-2 = He told him to sacrifice Isaac, to child of the covenant
- How did Abraham respond to this test, and why?
Genesis 22:3a, 8, 10 = He immediately obeyed, trusting that God was in control
- How did God respond to Abraham's faithful obedience?
Genesis 22:12-13, 16-18 = Gave substitution for Isaac and confirmed promise to bless world
- Why is this covenant of God with Abraham important to us? = Jesus is our substitutionary sacrifice
Hebrews 6:13, 17, 19-20a = He was also confirming his promise to save us through Jesus

One Last Faith Move (*Genesis 24*)

- What command had God given Abraham and his descendants as part of His covenant?
Genesis 17:10, 14 = To be a separate people, cut off (circumcised) from the evil world
- How did Abraham respond to this command after Sarah died and before he died?
Genesis 24:2-4 = He sent his chief servant to find a wife for Isaac from within the family
- How did God respond to Abraham's faithfulness in this matter?
Genesis 24:15-16, 21, 26-27, 50-51 = He granted the servant success with Rebekah

Faith of Isaac (*Genesis 25-27*)

- How did God test Isaac's faithfulness in a manner similar to that of his father?
Genesis 25:20-21, 25-26 = Made him wait 20 years before having a child of the covenant
- How did God respond to Isaac's faithfulness?
Genesis 26:3-4 = Confirmed to Isaac the promises and blessings He had given Abraham
- Did Isaac trust God in worldly matters better than his father had done?
Genesis 26:7 = No, he did the same and said that Rebekah was his sister
- Did Isaac take care that his descendants remained separated from the world (circumcised)?
Genesis 25:28; 26:34-35 = Allowed his favorite & eldest son, Esau, to marry local Canaanites
- How was Isaac prevented from passing the covenant blessing to his favorite son?
Genesis 27:1, 4, 15, 19, 27-29 = Rebekah and Jacob tricked him; he gave blessing to Jacob
- Did Isaac try to undo his mistake after learning that God's blessing had gone to Jacob?
Genesis 27:32-33, 36-37 = No, he accepted that the blessing had gone where God wanted it
- How did Isaac faithfully support God's choice for the covenant child? = Gave covenant blessing
Genesis 28:1, 3-4 = He commanded Jacob to marry from family, not a local woman

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Faith of Jacob (Genesis 28-32)

- How did God confirm His promise to Jacob on his way to find a wife in Haran? = Covenant promises
Genesis 28:12-15 = Appeared to him in a dream on top of a stairway to heaven
- How did Jacob respond to God's promise? = "Since God is doing this, I will respond in faith"
Genesis 28:20-22 = He made a vow and set up a stone as a witness and reminder
- How was Jacob, the deceiver, deceived by his uncle Laban? = Worked 7 more years for Rachel
Genesis 29:18-19, 21-23, 27-28 = He was given Leah instead of Rachel as a wife
- How did Laban further deceive Jacob?
Genesis 30:26-28, 32, 34-35 = Kept Jacob working for blemished animals, removed them
- How did Jacob try to deceive Laban in return? = God made it happen despite Jacob's ill plan
Genesis 30:38-39, 42 = He tried superstitious means to take Laban's livestock
- How did God confirm His calling to Jacob as he returned to Canaan?
Genesis 32:28-29 = He changed his name to Israel (he struggles with God) and blessed him

Jacob's Sons (Genesis 29-38)

- How did Jacob's wives get in the act of trying to control God's plan?
Genesis 29:30-31; 30:1, 4, 9, 22 = They had a child-bearing contest - 12 sons & a daughter
- How did Jacob's sons show they had learned deceit from their father?
Genesis 34:13, 15, 24-25 = Deceived Shechemites into being circumcised, then killed them
- Had Jacob learned the dangers of favoritism from his experiences with Isaac and Laban?
Genesis 37:3-4 = No, he openly favored Rachel's son Joseph
- How was Jacob deceived by his sons in response to this favoritism?
Genesis 37:13, 19-20, 26-27, 31-32 = Sold Joseph as a slave, told Jacob he had been killed

Joseph (Genesis 39-50)

- How did God use this to prepare Joseph for his key purpose in life?
Genesis 39:2-4 = Became highly trusted and responsible servant to Egyptian official
- How did God further prepare Joseph in a way that Joseph likely questioned?
Genesis 39:7, 10, 14, 20 = He refused Potiphar's wife's advances, accused of rape, jailed
- How did God use this to make an opportunity to present Joseph to the Pharaoh?
Genesis 41:8-9, 12-16, 39-40 = Called to interpret Pharaoh's dreams, made second in Egypt
- How did this lead to God's purpose of getting His covenant people to Egypt for a time of preparation?
Genesis 45:4-5, 7-10 = Joseph met brothers during famine & had ability to protect them
- Did Joseph see God's hand throughout his life's difficulties?
Genesis 50:20 = Yes, "God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done"

Response

1. How is God's almighty and creative hand evident in the world around me?
(Genesis 1; Job 38-41; Psalm 19:1-6; 95:3-5; Jeremiah 10:12-13; Romans 1:20)
2. Do I take serious my responsibility as the crown of God's creation? How should I change?
(Genesis 1:26, 28; 2:15; Psalm 8:3-8; 115:16; Micah 6:8)
3. How has God's judgment been evident in a recent sin I committed? How has He shown His grace?
(Gen 3:6, 15-23; 4:8-15; 6:5-8, 17-18; 11:4, 9; 12:1-3; Ez 18:21-32; Rom 6:21-23; James 2:12-13)
4. Do I live according to the faith of Abraham? What does it mean that I am his heir?
(Genesis 12:1-8; 22:1-18; 26:2-5; Isaiah 51:1-2; Romans 4; Galatians 3; Hebrews 11)
5. How have I recognized God's hand in turning the troubles in my life into His good?
(Genesis 45:4-8; 50:20; Esther 4:7-16; Jeremiah 29:10-11; Romans 8:28; Philippians 1:12-14)