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, subordinance, 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)

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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
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
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?  

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)*