



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 1

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

## SCRIPTURE


**Genesis 1**  
**Genesis 2**  
**Genesis 3**  
**Psalms 1**

The Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus, and today, we'll dive into that story's mysterious, watery beginning. The first three chapters of Genesis set the stage for the whole biblical drama. They introduce us to God's purpose for his creation, the results of humanity's decision to trust a deceiver rather than their creator, and God's plan to rescue and restore the world. The stories we'll read today also introduce important patterns that reappear throughout Genesis and the rest of the biblical story.

In today's video, we see how in Genesis 1, God transforms chaos and darkness into an ordered cosmos where life can flourish. We'll also see how God makes humans in his own image to reflect his good nature and rule creation as his partners.

God gives these humans everything they need to fulfill this calling. He plants them in a lush garden, where food grows in abundance and his divine presence dwells—a place where Heaven meets Earth. God also gives humanity the dignity of choice, represented by two fruit trees. The humans can trust God's wisdom and eat from the tree of life, or they can eat from the tree of knowing good and bad. This second tree represents taking the authority to do what's good in their own eyes, a choice which leads to death.

Unfortunately, an enemy deceives the humans in the garden, and they seize wisdom on their own terms with devastating consequences. Their relationships with God, each other, and the land fracture. But God promises that their choice and its consequences are not the end of the story. Throughout this year, we'll journey through the story of God's mission to rescue humanity and crush evil for good.



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 2

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## SCRIPTURE

**Genesis 4**  
**Genesis 5**  
**Genesis 6**  
**Genesis 7**  
**Psalms 2**

**Banished east of Eden, humanity continues a terrible, downward spiral. In today's video, pay attention to how humanity repeatedly rejects God's good plan and the harm this brings.**

**As the spiral descends in today's reading, you may notice certain words, phrases, images, actions, and settings reappear in multiple stories. The biblical authors use these literary repetitions as "hyperlinks" to other parts of the Bible.**

**Take, for example, the story of Cain. Like his parents under Eden's fruit trees, Cain faces a life-or-death kind of choice. God tells Cain that sin is like a "croucher" or "predator" that wants to devour him, but it can be "mastered" or "subdued." But instead of following God's instruction, Cain does what looks good in his own eyes—a choice that leads to death. Cain's decision and its consequences echo his parents' tragic story: struggle, curse, and exile from God's presence.**

**The cycle of death and oppression only gets worse from there. By Genesis 6, humanity is on the brink of self-destruction. God's images were supposed to multiply and fill the earth with goodness, not with violence and evil!**

**With a broken heart, God sends a powerful flood. The dark waters of chaos wash back over the world to cleanse it of evil. But God refuses to abandon humanity. He saves Noah and his family, bringing them through the waters of death for a fresh start on the other side.**





FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 3

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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## SCRIPTURE

**Genesis 8**  
**Genesis 9**  
**Genesis 10**  
**Genesis 11**  
**Psalms 3**

**Today, we close the first main section of Genesis, which focuses on God, creation, and humanity. Watch the video to review the story so far and the pattern of humans forsaking God's wisdom in favor of their own ideas about good and bad.**

**Today's reading is packed with hyperlinks to Genesis 1-3. The de-creation floodwaters recall the dark waters of chaos in Genesis 1. There, God separated the waters to bring forth dry land where life could flourish. But by rejecting God, humanity is headed back to lifelessness and chaos. The end of the flood narrative is a hopeful moment of new creation, and Noah is presented like a new Adam. Unfortunately, Noah also takes the fruit from his garden and ends up naked and ashamed—repeating the pattern and continuing the downward spiral of human brokenness. The story bottoms out at the Tower of Babylon (in Hebrew, Babel means Babylon). Humanity's rebellion and arrogance stretch to the skies, so God scatters them.**

**As we reach the end of Genesis 11, it's natural to ask ourselves: Will humans ever get it right? Is there a way for God to restore humans as his faithful partners? The rest of the biblical story answers this question.**



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 4

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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## SCRIPTURE

**Genesis 12**  
**Genesis 13**  
**Genesis 14**  
**Genesis 15**  
**Psalms 4**

**In today's reading, God promises to bless Abram (later called Abraham) with land, a great reputation, and a family too big to count every member. But why did God choose to bless this one man with so much?**

**God blesses Abram for one key purpose: so that his family will bless all the families (or nations) on Earth (Gen. 12:2-3). These verses form a hinge between two major narrative blocks in Genesis: the story of God's relationship to the world (Gen. 1-11) and the story about his rescue plan through Abram's family (Gen. 12-50).**

**Notice how Genesis 12:1-9 inverts Genesis 11:1-9. In Babylon, humanity builds a tower to make their own name great. Their journey starts in arrogance and ends in disaster. In contrast, Abram builds an altar to make Yahweh's name great. His journey starts in obedience and ends in blessing.**

**As we continue in our reading, we'll also meet the mysterious ruler Melchizedek. Though briefly mentioned, Melchizedek becomes a prominent biblical figure who serves as both king and priest (and he will show up again in the New Testament book of Hebrews!).**

**Today's video explains the important role that royal priests play in the biblical story. Melchizedek points forward to a future royal priesthood in Jerusalem and to humanity's ultimate priestly king, Jesus.**



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 5

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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## SCRIPTURE

**Genesis 16**  
**Genesis 17**  
**Genesis 18**  
**Psalms 5**

**In today's video, we'll notice an emerging pattern. Despite God choosing Abram and his family to bless the world, they make selfish and fearful decisions that threaten to derail their own lives and God's rescue plan. But God remains faithful to rescue and bless them anyway.**

**Today's story is a good example of this pattern. God promises to provide a child for Abram and Sarai (later called Sarah)—a child that Sarai will bear herself. But years of infertility erode their patience, and eventually, they stop trusting God's promise. Like Adam and Eve, they do what's right in their own eyes. They take their enslaved Egyptian girl, Hagar, abuse her by forcing her to bear Abram's child, and then oppress her once she becomes pregnant.**

**Despite Abram's lack of faith and treatment of Hagar, God remains faithful to his promise. God comforts and provides for Hagar, and he reaffirms his commitment to Abram with a formal covenant and a new name: Abraham. Even as imperfect humans struggle to trust him, God keeps his promises.**





FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 6

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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## SCRIPTURE

Genesis 19  
Genesis 20  
Genesis 21  
Psalms 6

Today's reading begins under the dark shadow of pained outcries from yesterday's story. In the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, human corruption and violence have reached heights not seen since before the flood. Notice the parallels between the two stories: God acknowledges the grievous corruption (Gen. 6:11-12), humanity desires a sexual encounter that violates the boundary between Heaven and Earth (Gen. 6:1-5), God provides a place of refuge with a door shut tight against the danger outside (Gen. 7:7, 13-16), and a parent escapes the catastrophe only to end up drunk and shamed by his children (Gen. 9:21-23).

These hyperlinks connect both events and reveal that cosmic, divine judgment repeats when God deems it necessary. Later biblical authors will use "Sodom and Gomorrah" as a shorthand for God's response to dire cases of human injustice.

But just as God's rescue plan continued after the flood, his plan also continues after the fire. He fulfills his long-awaited promise to give Abraham and Sarah a son. It's a bittersweet moment. Isaac's healthy birth testifies to God's faithfulness, but "Isaac" in Hebrew means "laughter," forever recalling his parents' impatient distrust toward God. Isaac's arrival also rekindles Sarah's jealousy toward Hagar and Ishmael, leading to vicious behavior and deepening family ruptures.

All of this heightens the tension: God is staying faithful, but Abraham's trust is faltering. Will this continue, or will God change things up?



FEBRUARY 2020 | DAY 7

# ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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## SCRIPTURE

**Genesis 22**  
**Genesis 23**  
**Genesis 24**  
**Psalms 7**

**Today's reading opens with a scheming man, a fractured family, and questions about the future of God's plan. God chose Abraham and his family to rescue and bless the world. But this family keeps trying to take God's promise on their own terms, hurting themselves and the people around them in the process.**

**Still, God refuses to give up on them. He gives Abraham a chance to act in faith by instructing him to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. It is a shocking, unsettling test. However, as we'll learn in today's video, a test from a good God presents an opportunity.**

**And Abraham aces the test! Instead of succumbing to fear, he demonstrates the kind of radical trust needed to partner with God. Abraham and his descendants must trust that God's promises are always true and that he alone can give and sustain human life. Abraham and Sarah will soon die, but passing this test ensures God's partnership will live on through their son, Isaac. The next generation will have its own tests and opportunities to walk with God.**