



Park Community Church

GENESIS ————— //

BOOKENDS

// ————— REVELATION

Part One | Genesis: Where our Story Begins (Genesis 1 – 12:9)

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Curriculum Guide

The Goal

Park Community Church's small groups are built upon three pillars: gather, transformation, and impact. Using these three fundamental pillars, we anticipate the Holy Spirit to mold everyone in our small groups into the likeness of Christ as we push back the darkness in our city. Much of this work comes from knowing God personally, correctly, and intimately. Our hope is that the small group curriculum will facilitate a deeper understanding of God through his revealed Word in a way that transforms our lives together and moves us into Christ-like action.

Context Questions

Context is key when it comes to interpreting the Bible. Each week, we hope that you will take a few minutes to remind one another of where you are at in Genesis. Don't feel bound to the suggested questions, but feel free to let the conversation flow naturally. Especially as we study the Old Testament, it is important to understand the context in which the scripture is written.

Textual Questions

As a group, you will observe the text and look for the details. What you are looking for in this section is simply what the *text* is saying. Do not feel the need to jump into application, that time will come. This section will help build a textual framework for the reflection questions that follow.

Reflection Questions

This section is designed to help your group move from hearing and understanding the Word to letting it shape your life. Each week you'll reflect together on questions that invite vulnerability, personal sharing, and accountability. Use this time to consider how the lesson applies to your daily life, whether through a new way of thinking, a fresh heart posture, repentance, celebration, or a conviction to live differently. The goal is that faith would be stirred in both belief and practice, encouraging one another toward growth in Christ.

Week One

The Birth of the Earth | Genesis 1

Context Questions

1. What events immediately precede the passage we're studying today?
2. How does the cultural context impact how this text is understood?

Textual Questions

Before using the questions, have the group simply observe the text. Listen to what they discover as the Holy Spirit leads them. You may naturally cover some of the questions provided below in that discussion.

1. Genesis 1:1 says "In the beginning, God..." What does this teach us about the nature of God and his relationship to time and space?
2. Each new aspect of creation comes into being through God's speech "And God said..." What does this teach us about the nature and the power of God?
3. What does verse 28 mean when God says of man, "And have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth?"
4. God's rhythm of declaring each day "good" is broken after the sixth day when he declares that "It was very good" (Genesis 1:31). What is implied by this change of language?
5. What would we be missing if this text was not included in the Bible?

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you feel tension between what Genesis says and what the world says about the world's origins?
 - a. What essential convictions should Christians hold about the creation account?
 - b. What questions continue to linger and how do we trust God even without knowing all the details?
 - c. What advice would you give a friend who claims they cannot believe in God based on the creation account in Genesis?

2. Over and over, God delights in what He has made and calls it "good." He sees beauty and goodness in what He creates, even before it "does" anything.
 - a. Do you believe God delights in you simply because you are His creation? Why or why not?
 - b. Have you ever felt you need to "do something" for God to delight in you?

3. God gave humanity dominion over the earth and called us to steward His creation responsibly (Genesis 1:26–28). This means intentionally caring for everything God has entrusted to us, as His representatives.
 - a. What does it mean to be a steward of everything God has given you?
 - b. Do you ever struggle to see yourself as a steward of all that God has entrusted to you? Why or why not?
 - c. What is one thing God has entrusted you with that you could steward better? What steps are you taking to do that?

4. Genesis begins with God as Creator and sets the tone for the whole book.
 - a. Have you ever read the whole book of Genesis before?
 - b. How might starting here, seeing God's power, purpose, and care in creation shape the way you read the rest of Genesis?

Week Two

The Start of our Story | Genesis 2

Context Questions

1. What events immediately precede the passage we're studying today?
2. How does the cultural context impact how this text is understood?

Textual Questions

Before using the questions, have the group simply observe the text. Listen to what they discover as the Holy Spirit leads them. You may naturally cover some of the questions provided below in that discussion.

1. Genesis 2:7 describes God forming man from the dust and breathing into his nostrils the breath of life. Why is this detail important?
2. In Genesis 2:15, God places Adam in the garden "to work it and keep it." What does this reveal about God's design for human work, worship, and responsibility?
3. The chapter ends with the man and woman being naked and unashamed (Genesis 2:25). What does this reveal about God's intent for innocence, trust, and intimacy before sin entered the world?
4. What would we be missing if this text was not included in the Bible?

Reflection Questions

1. God formed man from dust, then breathed life into him (v.7). This sequence reminds us of both our frailty and our intimate value before God.

- a. Which side of that image do you forget more often: your weakness or your worth?
- b. Why is recognizing both so important in the Christian life?

2. In Genesis 1, time and time again God saw his creation and declared it "good." However, in 2:18 Adam's aloneness is called "not good" even before sin enters the story.

- a. Why do you think that is?
- b. How have you experienced the "not good" of being alone?

3. God gave Adam meaningful work before sin entered the world. This shows that work is not a result of the fall, but rather part of God's design for the world and humanity's role in it.

- a. Consider the work you do today. Do you see it as an act of worship, a chore, a means to something else?
- b. What would approaching your work and career with a Genesis 2 perspective look like at your job?

4. God rested on the seventh day, showing that rest and shalom are central to His design for creation. This rhythm of rest later becomes the model for the Sabbath, offering regular rhythms of rest in a weary world.

- c. Is Sabbath currently a part of your life with God? If so, how? If not, why?
- d. What steps can you take to weave regular Sabbath and rest into your life?

Week Three

Where our Story Went Wrong / Genesis 3

Context Questions

1. What events immediately precede the passage we're studying today?
2. How does the cultural context impact how this text is understood?

Textual Questions

Before using the questions, have the group simply observe the text. Listen to what they discover as the Holy Spirit leads them. You may naturally cover some of the questions provided below in that discussion.

1. In verse 1, how does the serpent change God's command and why might that change be significant?
2. Compare God's original command in Genesis 2:16–17 with Eve's response in 3:2–3. What differences do you notice?
3. God's question in verse 9, "Where are you?" is followed by several others (vv. 11, 13). How do these questions structure the dialogue?
4. Look at the judgments given to the serpent, the woman, and the man (vv. 14–19). How are they similar and how are they different?
5. What would we be missing if this text was not included in the Bible?

Reflection Questions

1. In verses 1-5, the serpent twists God's words and introduces doubt into the mind of Adam and Eve. Today, Satan's method of deception has not changed, he takes good things and twists them for worse.
 - a. When have you found yourself questioning, "Did God really say...?"
 - b. What triggered that doubt and how did you respond?

2. In verse 9, God reaches out to Adam and Eve, who are trying to hide because of their shame, by asking "Where are you?"
 - a. What is God really asking with this question?
 - b. What does this question reveal about His character and pursuit?
 - c. Consider what Adam says when God asks him where he is. If God asked you today, "Where are you?" how would you honestly answer from a spiritual, emotional, and relational perspective?

3. Throughout the exchange between Eve and the serpent, Adam does not speak. However, we know he was with Eve because scripture says "She took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate." (v. 6b)
 - a. What does this scene suggest about the sin of passivity?
 - b. What does this type of passivity look like today?
 - c. In what situations have you "stood silent" instead of speaking or acting faithfully? What held you back?

4. In verse 11, God confronts Adam about eating the forbidden fruit. Instead of taking responsibility, Adam shifts the blame first to Eve and then even to God: "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." (v.12)
- a. Why do you think the natural response is to shift blame to others?
 - b. Where have you seen this happen in the world around you?
 - c. Share a time in your own life when you've tried to shift blame instead of owning your part in something? What happened?

Week Four

The Spiral of Sin's Corruption | Genesis 4 - 5

Context Questions

1. What events immediately precede the passage we're studying today?
2. How does the cultural context impact how this text is understood?

Textual Questions

Before using the questions, have the group simply observe the text. Listen to what they discover as the Holy Spirit leads them. You may naturally cover some of the questions provided below in that discussion.

1. In Genesis 4: 3–5, what is the difference between Cain's offering and Abel's? How does the text describe God's response?
2. After Cain kills Abel, God asks him, "Where is Abel your brother?" (v.9). How does Cain's reply compare to Adam's response in Genesis 3?
3. In Genesis 4:16, Cain settles "east of Eden." How does this detail connect to the earlier theme of being sent out from God's presence (Gen. 3:24)?
4. What patterns do you recognize in the genealogy and how might these be significant?
5. What would we be missing if this text was not included in the Bible?

Reflection Questions

1. God warns Cain, "Sin is crouching at your door... but you must rule over it" (v. 4:7). This is a picture of sin as something active, waiting, and close.
 - a. Where in your life do you feel sin "crouching at the door?"

- b. What tools have you been given to “rule over it?”

2. Lamech is a descendant of Cain and his brief story shows how sin isn’t idle, it escalates. Lamech takes two wives (departing from God’s design), boasts of killing a man for wounding him, and declares that if Cain is avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold. His words reflect pride, violence, and a growing hardness of heart.

- a. What do you notice about how sin and pride have grown through Cain’s line by the time we reach Lamech?
- b. Have you seen patterns of sin (anger, entitlement, self-justification, etc.) grow stronger over time when left unexamined in your life? If so, what steps can you take to bring them into the light?

3. All of Chapter 5 is a genealogy of Adam’s descendants, leading to Noah. Here we see that Adam’s legacy, being made in the Imago Dei (Image of God), is passed down (v.1-2) but so is the curse.

- a. How do you see patterns (healthy or broken) from your own family affecting your life today?
- b. Where do you need God to bring redemption across generations?

4. Throughout chapter 5, the rhythm “...and he died” repeats as a sober reminder of the consequences of sin and the reality of human brevity. Yet suddenly, this rhythm is interrupted by Enoch who walked with God and was taken (v.24). He didn’t experience death in the same way.

- a. What do you believe the author of Genesis is communicating through Enoch’s life?
- b. Can you think of someone in your life who “walks with God” in a way that clearly stands out from the world around them?

c. What about their life are you trying to emulate with yours?

Week Five

Noah Found Favor | Genesis 6 - 7

Context Questions

1. What events immediately precede the passage we're studying today?
2. How does the cultural context impact how this text is understood?

Textual Questions

Before using the questions, have the group simply observe the text. Listen to what they discover as the Holy Spirit leads them. You may naturally cover some of the questions provided below in that discussion.

1. How does the opening description of humanity (vv.1–4) set the stage for the flood?
2. What does the repeated emphasis on Noah's righteousness (vv.8–10) suggest about his role in the narrative?
3. Why might the text specifically mention Noah's age at the time of the flood (vv.6–7)?
4. What is the significance of God "shutting the door of the ark" (v.16) in the context of judgment and protection?
5. What would we be missing if this text was not included in the Bible?

Reflection Questions

1. "The Lord saw... that every intention of the thoughts of [man's] heart was only evil continually. And the Lord regretted that he had made man... and it grieved him to his heart" (v. 6:5) In the face of the world's sin, God is not distant or indifferent. He willingly chose to feel the weight and pain of a broken world.

- a. Have you ever considered that God suffers as a result of the world's brokenness and sin? What does this reveal about His character?
- b. Are there parts of your own life, or the world, that you believe grieve God's heart today?

2. Noah was asked to build something massive, time-consuming, and was probably ridiculed by others for it. Still, he stayed faithful.

- a. Is there anything in your life that feels like "building an ark" - something slow, costly, or misunderstood by those around you?
- b. How do you stay faithful when others don't understand or support the way you're trying to live in obedience to God?

3. Often walking in faithfulness looks like consistent, unseen, and ordinary obedience over a long time. This chapter demonstrates this clearly when it says, "Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him" (v. 22).

- a. What act of persistent obedience have you been tempted to overlook or dismiss as insignificant?
- b. What is one responsibility in your life that you see as unspiritual or unimportant, but might actually be an opportunity to walk in unseen, ordinary faithfulness?

4. When God spoke to Noah, he obeyed completely and built the ark, likely over the course of decades, even before there was a drop of rain.

- a. How difficult do you think it would have been for Noah in the waiting? Would you have felt the same way?
- b. Where in your life might God be asking you to obey, even when the outcome isn't clear or visible yet?

- c. How do you practice building trust in the Lord? What would this look like for you practically this week?

Week Six

God's Covenant with Noah / Genesis 8:1 - 9:17

Context Questions

1. What events immediately precede the passage we're studying today?
2. How does the cultural context impact how this text is understood?

Textual Questions

Before using the questions, have the group simply observe the text. Listen to what they discover as the Holy Spirit leads them. You may naturally cover some of the questions provided below in that discussion.

1. What commands and blessings does God give Noah and his sons in Genesis 9:1–7?
How does this connect to the creation mandate in Genesis 1?
2. What other parallels do you find between these verses and Genesis 1-2?
3. What is the downward spiral of sin progress from Genesis 3 to this point?
4. Noah builds an altar and offers sacrifices to God. Why do you think the text emphasizes this act immediately after leaving the ark?
5. What would we be missing if this text was not included in the Bible?

Reflection Questions

1. In Genesis 8:10-12, Noah sends out a dove, which returns with an olive leaf. Though the waiting was not over, this small sign gave Noah hope that new life was ahead.
 - a. Have you ever received a "small sign" of God's faithfulness in the middle of waiting?

- b. What have been some ways God has reminded you of his presence or faithfulness when you've been waiting for something or going through a difficult circumstance?

- 2. Just as Noah and his family were kept safe in the ark through God's judgment, we are kept safe in Christ, who bore judgment for us.

- a. How does seeing Christ as your "ark" deepen your confidence, trust, and understanding of salvation?
- b. Are there any parallels between Noah in this story and how you experienced the Gospel in your own life?

- 3. God's covenant is not only with Noah and his descendants, but also with every living creature on earth (9:8–17).

- a. What does this show us about God's relationship with all of creation, not just humanity?
- b. What do you think the Christian responsibility is toward caring for the earth?
- c. What does this look like in your day-to-day life?

- 4. The Hebrew word for "bow" in verse 8:13 is the same Hebrew word for a military "warbow."

- a. What might be the significance that God "set his warbow in the sky" (bent and pointed away from the earth) as the sign of his covenant with Noah, his descendants, and the rest of creation?

- b. What symbolic similarities do you see between the Noahic covenant and the New Covenant found in the person of Jesus?
- c. What role do God's covenantal symbols play in the Christian life today?

Week Seven

The Tower of Babel & Abraham | Genesis 11 - 12:9

Context Questions

1. What events immediately precede the passage we're studying today?
2. How does the cultural context impact how this text is understood?

Textual Questions

Before using the questions, have the group simply observe the text. Listen to what they discover as the Holy Spirit leads them. You may naturally cover some of the questions provided below in that discussion.

1. What similarities do you notice between the sin at the Tower of Babel and the first sin in Genesis 3?
2. Knowing that this story immediately follows the Flood narrative, what is the author of Genesis communicating about the nature of sin?
3. What is the significance that the people "migrated from the east" (v. 2)?
4. What was God concerned about regarding the people of earth before He dispersed them?
5. Why did God wait until Abram was 75 years old before telling him of His promised blessings?
6. How does the Tower of Babel story contrast the calling of Abram?
7. What would we be missing if this text was not included in the Bible?

Reflection Questions

1. In Genesis 11, the technological advancement and discovery of brick building sparked human pride and the desire to ascend to the heavens in order to “make a name for themselves.”
 - a. Looking at our world today, how do you see technology, creativity, and ambition intersect with the human desire to “make a name for themselves” or ascend to the heavens and “be like God” (Gen 3:5)?
 - b. Where does this tension show up in your own life?

2. On the surface, Abram seems like an ordinary, old, even insignificant man; childless, with no record of remarkable achievements in his genealogy or past.
 - a. Why do you think God chooses someone like Abram to be a blessing to the nations?
 - b. How does this challenge the ways you view God’s work in your own life and the people He might use to accomplish His purposes?

3. The people of Babel sought to “make a name for themselves” through a massive project of their own design (v. 11:4). In contrast, God later promises to “make Abram’s name great” (v. 12:2).
 - a. How does this text impact the way we should be thinking about self recognition and greatness?

4. When God called Abram, He was very clear about what he needed to leave behind (his country, his people, and his father's household) but gave only a vague picture of where he was going (Gen 12:1).
- a. Why do you think God sometimes asks people to follow Him without revealing the full destination?
 - b. Can you think of other stories in Scripture where God calls someone in a similar way?
 - c. How does this pattern resonate with your walk with God? How has this been difficult? How has it been easy?
