

New Christian Study

Lesson 1: Creation

Read: Genesis Chapter 1

Themes to Discuss:

- Who do we meet?
- What did God do?
- What were the problems, if any?
- God created us in his own image (v27). What does this tell us? How should we think about ourselves?
- What did God conclude at end of the sixth day (v31)?

What questions do you have?

Lesson 2: The Fall of Man

Read: Genesis Chapters 2 and 3

Themes to Discuss:

- What 2 trees did God mention? What is the contrast between these trees?
- What one command did God give Adam?
- Who do we meet in 3:1? What did he say to Eve? **Did this create a problem? If so, what is the problem?**
- What kind of relationship did God have with the man and woman BEFORE they disobeyed? (hint: see 3:8-9)
- What kind of relationship did man and woman have with God AFTER they disobeyed? (hint: see 3:10, and compare to 2:25)
- Who broke the relationship?
- What was the punishment?
- What about us? Did we “inherit” this punishment from Adam and Eve?

What questions do you have?

Lesson 3: God Introduces Himself to Abram

Read: Genesis 12:1-7, chapter 15, 16:1-6, 17:1-8, 21:1-7 and 22:1-18

Summary of 9 chapters we skipped: Genesis records 7 generations of good people and of evil people. Noah was 10 generations after Adam, and only Noah and his family were saved from the flood God sent to wipe evil off the earth. Abram was 10 generations after Noah.

Themes to Discuss:

- Abram was born approx. 2200BC in the city of Ur, close to the modern-day city of Basra, Iraq. Both were a port on the Persian Gulf.
- When God told him to leave his country and go to a far land (12:1), that was much harder than moving today.
- God made a promise to Abram (v2-3), and the promise was not just for Abram, it was for “all peoples on earth.” Does this promise include us? You?
- How old was Abram when he left?
- Later, God made the promise more specific (15:1-5).
- **Gen 15:6 is a very important verse:** “Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.” What did Abram do? What was God’s response? What can we learn from this verse that applies to us?
- v18 tells us: “On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram.” What is a covenant?
- In 16:1-6, we see God’s promise was slow to come, so Sarai and Abram took things into their own hands. What did they do? Do we ever think God’s promises are slow? Do we ever repeat the same mistake Sarai and Abram made?
- In 17:1-8 God re-confirms his covenant and changes Abram’s name to Abraham (v5). God says his covenant will be an everlasting covenant (v7). What does that mean for us? How old was Abraham?
- In 21:1-7, we see God kept his promise! How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? How long did the promise take?
- 22:1-18 is important. In literature and movies, the author/director often uses a technique called foreshadowing. Do you know what foreshadowing is? There are many examples of foreshadowing in this passage; can you identify any?
- Yet again, God re-confirms his covenant with Abraham. This time, God swears by himself. This is like a double promise. Are you glad to believe in a God who can not lie, who makes a promise and who re-confirms his promise with us? Does this strengthen your faith?
- Abraham believed God could keep his promises, even when it took a long, long time. Yet, Abraham and Sarah had bad days (they laughed at God, they lied, they followed their own way when God was too slow). What can we learn from this?

What questions do you have?

Lesson 4: Moses, the Exodus and the Ten Commandments (The Law)

Read: Exodus chapters 1-3 6:1-8, 11:21 thru 12:42, 14:15-31, 20:1-17.

Deuteronomy 18:14-22 (The Prophet), 30:11-20

Summary of 28 chapters we skipped:

- Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. The promise continued through the younger, Jacob
- Jacob (God gave him a new name, Israel) had 12 sons; these became 12 tribes of Israel
- The 10 oldest sons sold the 11th son, Joseph, into slavery in Egypt.
- Joseph becomes the #2 ruler in Egypt, behind only Pharaoh
- Joseph saves Egypt from a 7-year famine
- Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to buy grain. Eventually Jacob and other 11 brothers and family (70 in all) come to Egypt
- After Joseph dies, Egyptians make Israelites slaves and mistreat them harshly. God hears their cries, and does a great miracle so that God's name may be glorified everywhere on earth (another way to let all men know that God is the true God)

Themes to Discuss:

- Moses birth and preparation for leadership
- God introduces himself to Moses and has to answer inadequate objections. Do we ever have excuses for God in our own lives?
- What did God say his name was?
- Promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob re-confirmed. Why is this important?
- The 10 plagues
- The significance of the Passover. What foreshadowing of Christ do you see?
- The Exodus
- How did God gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army?
- What is the significance of the 10 Commandments (The Law)? Does the Law apply to us, as Christians?
- In Deuteronomy, Moses present the people two choices: Follow God (blessing) or rebel (punishment). Which do you think the nation of Israel chose?
- We'll quickly review history of Israel, from the Exodus to the birth of Christ, to set the stage as we leave the Old Testament, and move into the New Testament.
- Speaking of testaments, what is a testament? Why is there an Old Testament and a New Testament? Which Testament is in force for us?

What questions do you have?

NOTE: this is first 4 lessons. New Testament lessons “under construction” and will be added to our website soon!