

New Heights
Christian Church
Sunday School
Quarterly
Lesson Plans
(Spring 2009)

The Book
of Genesis

by

James Thomas Lee, Jr.
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Lesson 1: God is the Creator and He Did Not Need Science (March 1, 2009)

- I. Creation ex-nihilo (Genesis 1:1-31)
- II. The Maker of Heaven and Earth (Psalm 121:1-8)
- III. “I AM THAT I AM” (Exodus 3:14)
- IV. “Before Abraham, I AM” (John 8:48-59)
- V. “The Creator of the World (John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:16)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Genesis 1:1-31, the triune God created the world ex-nihilo, which means out of nothing. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit had their individual roles in Creation, and those roles support the thesis that Jesus is the eternal Son of God. In Genesis 18:1-33, Abraham had involvement with an eternal being, who was probably Jesus. In Exodus 3:14, God told Moses that His name was “I am that I am”, and that same name was given to the Pharisees in John 8:48-59 when Jesus used the words, “I am”. In John 1:1-3, the Apostle John wrote that Jesus was the Creator of the world. In Colossians 1:16, the Apostle Paul wrote that Jesus created all things. Psalm 121:1-8 also declares the Lord to be the Maker of heaven and earth.

Related Passages: Genesis 1:1, Genesis 1:26, Genesis 18:1-33, Exodus 3:14, Psalm 121:1-8, John 1:1-3, John 8:48-59, and Colossians 1:16

Five Day Recommended Reading:

- Monday: Genesis 1:1-31
- Tuesday: Genesis 18:1-33
- Wednesday: Psalm 121:1-8 and John 1:1-3
- Thursday: John 8:48-59
- Friday: Colossians 1:1-16

Study questions:

1. Who created the world?

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2. How do scientists say that the world was created?

3. In your opinion, is the Big Bang theory true?

4. In your opinion, can scientists show that the Big Bang theory is credible?
What is dark matter and why is it important to their hypothesis? What is the mission of the Hubble Spacecraft? How do scientists use computer models to approximate the Big Bang theory?

5. In your opinion, is the Theory of Evolution true or false?

6. In your opinion, can scientists show that the Theory of Evolution is credible?
Why do they always suggest a very old earth? What is the probability of macroevolution on earth? How have scientists tried to tip the scales in their favor?

7. Why do scientists try to undermine God's role in Creation?

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Daily Devotion for Tuesday: February 24, 2009

Title: Jesus Existed Before Abraham

Bible Passages: John 8:48-59, John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:16, Genesis 1:1, Genesis 1:26, Genesis 18:1-33, and Exodus 3:14

Key Verse: "I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!'"

During His earthly ministry, Jesus consistently claimed to be the Son of God, and He often argued openly with the Pharisees about their shallow beliefs and about their failure to accept Him. They were supposed to be the spiritual leaders of the synagogue and of Israel, and they should have recognized the Son of God. But they were so caught up in their legalistic traditions that they could not effectively lead anyone spiritually. In John 8:48-59, Jesus told them that His Father was God and that they did not know Him. He said that they were liars, and He even told them that He had lived before Abraham. To that, they cited His physical age, they told Him that He could not have possibly lived three thousand or more years earlier, and they indicated that He must be demon-possessed.

The Pharisees questioned the deity of Christ, and many people through the centuries have done the same. But according to the Scriptures, their skepticism has been at their own peril. In John 1:1-3, Jesus was described as the Word that was with God in the beginning. That passage credits Him with the works of Creation, and it also says that nothing was made without Him. In Colossians 1:16, the Apostle Paul said that Jesus created all things in the heaven and in the earth, and in Genesis 1:1, the plural name, Elohim, was even used for God to show that the whole Trinity was in attendance. In Genesis 1:26, God was referred to by plural pronouns to once again show that all three Persons of the Trinity were involved. The Pharisees did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God, so they were very angry whenever He made such a claim. However, He was who He claimed to be, and much to their chagrin, Genesis 18:1-33 even shared a time when Abraham happily greeted Him and shared a meal with Him. The "I am" that He said in John 8:58 matches the "I am that I am" that He said to Moses in Exodus 3:14, and that also upset the Pharisees.

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Daily Devotion for Thursday: February 26, 2009

Title: God is the Creator and He Did Not Need Science

Bible Passage: Psalm 121:1-8

Key Verse: "My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."

How man came into existence has been hotly debated over the past couple of centuries. The Big Bang Theory, which has never been proved, claims that the world burst into existence as the result of a cataclysmic explosion many, many billions of years ago. The Theory of Evolution, which has also never been proved, claims that life burst into existence many millions of years ago as the result of chemical behaviors in a specially prepared biological pool.

Neither of those Creation theories can be proven, neither can answer all the questions about Creation, and both require an individual to accept some things that also cannot be shown or proven. The Big Bang theorist, even if the theory could be proven, must still accept that something or Someone created the initial mass from which the explosion occurred. The evolutionist, even if the shortcomings of that overall theory could be resolved, must still accept that something or Someone created the specially prepared biological pool mixture from which life came. And similar statements can also be made about the evolution in Space theme that many evolutionists currently support.

In short, all Creation theories require a measure of faith. Yet, a logical answer for the existence of those theories actually exists. Why would someone accept by faith that God created the initial mass from which a big bang could have created the whole universe and not just accept Genesis 1:1 that says that God created the universe? Why would someone accept by faith that God created the pool mixture necessary for evolution and not just accept that God created all species "according to their kinds" as is taught in Genesis, Chapter One? The answer is that the prince of this world would like to discredit Moses because that would mean that Jesus is discredited, too. All the religions of the world are willing to embrace God, and even science is willing to acknowledge Him and give Him His due. But mention the name of Jesus, and the prince of this world goes crazy. He does not want people to know the truth about Him.

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Lesson 2: The Bible Is Still Current and Still Relevant (March 8, 2009)

- I. The Events of Creation (Genesis 1:1-31)
- II. The Promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
- III. The Real Identity of Jesus (John 1:1-14)
- IV. Jesus was the Creator of the World (Colossians 1:15-16)
- V. The End of the Age (Matthew 24:1-51)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Genesis 1:1-31, Moses recorded the events of Creation.

According to Scriptures, God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. In Genesis 12:1-3, about one thousand years after Creation, God established a special relationship with a man named Abraham and made some very specific promises to him and his family. Those promises are still relevant today. In John 1:1-14, the Apostle John identified Jesus as the Creator of the world, as the Lamb of God that was rejected by His own people, and as the Savior of mankind. In Colossians 1:15-16, the Apostle Paul wrote the Jesus created all that was created, and in Matthew 24:1-51, Jesus told His disciples about some of the events that would occur in the end times.

Related Passages: Genesis 1:1-2, Genesis 1:11-27, John 1:1-14, and Colossians 1:15-16

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday: Genesis 1:1-31
Tuesday: Genesis 12:1-3
Wednesday: Matthew 24:1-51
Thursday: John 1:1-14
Friday: Colossians 1:15-16

Study questions:

1. What happened on each day of Creation?

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2. Why were Jews commanded to do no work on the Sabbath? Why does the universal church gather on Sunday?

3. Where was Abraham from? How old was he when God called him from his land, and what specific promises did God make to Abraham that are still relevant today?

4. How do John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:15-16 prove Christ's deity?

5. How did the Apostle John say that Jesus would be received by His own people? Who were the first two disciples? Who were the next two disciples?

6. How did Jesus describe the end times to His disciples? What was the question they asked that He could not answer? Why was He unable to answer their question? What is the kenosis?

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Daily Devotion for Tuesday: March 3, 2009

Title: Jesus Created Everything

Bible Passages: John 1:1-14, Genesis 1:1-2, and Colossians 1:15-16

Key Verse: "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."

Genesis 1:1-2 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." For many centuries, people have read those verses and never grasped the full meaning of what the Holy Spirit was inspiring Moses to write. The first verse in the Bible says that God created the heavens and the earth, but the second verse shows that He was not alone. Consequently, the God of the Bible is not how most people believe.

He was and is three Persons in One, and each Person of the Godhead has a different role. God the Father is the heavenly Father and the first Person of the Trinity. God the Son is Jesus, and the Bible teaches many things about Him. Two of those things are that He is the second Person of the Trinity and that He was born in the form of a man so that he could die on the cross at Calvary and purchase redemption for those that will receive Him. God the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity, and the Bible teaches that He was at Creation and that He indwells all new believers once they receive Jesus as their Savior.

In John 1:1-14, the Apostle John wrote about the incarnation of Jesus and identified Him as the Son of God and again as the second Person of the Trinity. What many people do not realize, though, is that John also placed Jesus in the beginning at the moment of Creation. In John 1:1-2, he said that Jesus was in the beginning with God and that He is God. Then, in John 1:3, he actually identified Him as the Creator. John 1:3 says, "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." In Colossians 1:15-16, the Apostle Paul identified Jesus as the Creator and as the One that created all things, too. So, in addition to all that Jesus did to bring salvation to humans, He also created all the things in this life that people enjoy.

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Daily Devotion for Thursday: March 5, 2009
Title: The Bible Is Still Current and Still Relevant

Bible Passage: Genesis 1:11-27

Key Verse: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

Many individuals hold the Bible in low regard, and many also have a low view of the Book of Genesis. Over time, people have questioned the intelligence level of the people who wrote the Bible. They have questioned how well the Bible was copied and preserved through the years, and some have even alluded to it as an old, outdated book. Others have said that the Book of Genesis reads like a fairy tale, and some have said that the various Bible translations cannot be trusted. The Bible has received numerous criticisms for a very long time by a very large number of critics. Yet, those critics have ignored an important truth when they fail to acknowledge the genuine brilliance of the author of Genesis, Chapter One.

Before the middle-Nineteenth Century, no one repeatedly reading the words "according to their kinds" in Genesis, Chapter One, would have truly understood the significance of those words. Even someone like Dr. Martin Luther would have been at a loss when trying to understand how important those few words would become to later generations. It took a man like Charles Darwin, with his radical Theory of Evolution, to show that the Bible has always been and will always be far ahead of its time. Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." How much more does a person really need to know to understand how life on earth began? What further proof does an individual require to know that the Bible really is current and relevant to today's generation?

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Lesson 3: All are Sinners Because of Adam (March 15, 2009)

- I. The First Sin (Genesis 3:1-24 and Romans 5:12)
- II. Some Bible Definitions of Sin (Psalm 10:4, Proverbs 29:23, Daniel 5:20, I John 2:16, and Matthew 22:37-39.)
- III. The Steps of Sin (I John 2:16)
- IV. The Right Attitude (Matthew 22:37-39)
- V. The Bible is God's Word (II Timothy 3:16 and II Peter 1:21)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Genesis 3:1-24, the first sin was recorded, and God's Plan of Salvation was foretold. Romans 5:12 teaches that Adam's sin brought sin upon all of the human race. Psalm 10:4, Proverbs 29:23, Daniel 5:20, I John 2:16, and Matthew 22:37-39 help an individual understand sin. However, eliminating sin from a person's life is not the way to be saved. I John 2:16 further defines sin as "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." A person is saved when he or she enters into a personal relationship with the Lord, as is taught in John 3:16 and other passages. Finally, II Timothy 3:16 and II Peter 1:21 state that the Bible is God's inerrant Word and that all individuals should be engaged in its careful study.

Related Passages: Genesis 3:1-7, Genesis 3:15, Psalm 10:4, Proverbs 29:23, Daniel 5:20, Matthew 22:37-39, Romans 5:12, II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21, and I John 2:16

Five Day Recommended Reading:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Monday: | Genesis 3:1-24 |
| Tuesday: | Psalm 10:4, Proverbs 29:23, and Daniel 5:20 |
| Wednesday: | Matthew 22:37-39 |
| Thursday: | Romans 5:12 and II Timothy 3:16 |
| Friday: | II Peter 1:21 and I John 2:16 |

Study questions:

1. How do theologians explain Adam's transgression on all humanity?

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2. Does the evidence of Genesis 3:21 suggest that Adam and Eve were saved or that they were lost?

3. What are the steps that lead a person to sin, and at what point does the person actually sin?

4. How does the Bible define sin? What does I John 2:16 say about the nature of sinners?

5. How would you explain to someone the steps for being saved?

6. How do you know that you can trust the Bible?

7. What do you know about the KJV and the NIV? In your opinion, is one version better than the other?

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Daily Devotion for Tuesday: March 10, 2009

Title: All are Sinners Because of Adam

Bible Passages: Psalm 10:4, Proverbs 29:23, Daniel 5:20, I John 2:16, Matthew 22:37-39, Genesis 3:1-7, and Romans 5:12

Key Verse: "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

Few people understand how sin started or why it exists. A dualist would say that an eternal God exists along with eternal sin and that they are in constant conflict with each other. Some people would say that sin happens because of the limitations placed on finite beings. Some would say that sin just happens, while others would say that it arises when the soul is placed within a physical organism. Sin has been defined as pride and selfishness, and the Bible supports those definitions in Psalm 10:4, Proverbs 29:23, Daniel 5:20, I John 2:16, and Matthew 22:37-39.

When trying to understand or define sin, though, one must realize that sin is a specific evil, that it stands related to the Law of God, and that it consists in the want of conformity and includes guilt and moral pollution. People are tempted to sin in steps. First, the person feels a particular desire to do or to have something that is biblically wrong. Second, the person chooses to want the object of his or her desire. Third, the individual develops a plan for having the desire satisfied. Fourth, the person advances to the point of having a willingness to put the plan into action. Fifth, the person puts the plan into action and actually gratifies himself or herself with the desired object. In that temptation process, the person commits sin in step four when he or she has the willingness to put their plan into action.

In Genesis 3:1-7, Adam followed the above five steps of temptation, and as a representative for humanity, he committed the original sin. He had a choice of whether or not to eat of the forbidden fruit, and he chose to eat. Because of his choice, all people are born as lost sinners, and each person must come to Jesus to be forgiven for his or her sins.

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Daily Devotion for Thursday: March 12, 2009

Title: Moses Foretold Jesus

Bible Passages: Genesis 3:15, II Timothy 3:16, and II Peter 1:21

Key Verse: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Many people see the Bible as a Book telling people what to do and what not to do, but that view greatly limits the overall scope of God's Word. II Timothy 3:16 says that the Bible was Holy Spirit-inspired and that it is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. People should study the Bible, first of all, because the Holy Spirit inspired the authors to pen every word. The expression "verbal-plenary," which is often used to describe biblical inspiration, means that every word was inspired and that all parts of the Bible are equally inspired. Because of that, individuals should make themselves students of God's Word so that they can learn more about the Lord, so that they can find out how to enter into a personal relationship with Him, and so that they can be trained in matters of righteousness. While the Bible is a simple set of rules for living, it is still very much more.

Another reason for studying the Bible is to learn the course of the current world. Much of the Bible was written prophetically, and that means that many authors wrote about events before they happened. II Peter 1:21 says that prophecy did not originate with human beings but that it came from the Holy Spirit. When biblical authors wrote about events before they happened, it was because the Holy Spirit was moving them to do so. People sometimes have difficulty believing Bible prophecy, but Genesis 3:15 presents one of the most important prophecies in all of Scriptures. Adam and Eve had just sinned by eating fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and God was telling the serpent and them the consequences for their actions. For the man, life would be the struggle of trying to work the ground and make a living. For the woman, childbirth would be hard, and her husband would rule over her. For the serpent, in Genesis 3:15, God said that He would send His Son, born through the seed of the woman, to crush Satan's head. That seemingly simple verse is the first biblical reference to the coming Messiah, and every Jew from Moses on knew the importance of those words.

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Lesson 4: Methuselah Lived a Long Time (March 22, 2009)

- I. The godly line of Adam and Eve (Genesis 5:1-32)
- II. Saints that have not tasted physical death (Genesis 5:22, II Kings 2:1-11, and I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- III. Contending for the Faith (Jude 1:1-25)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Genesis 5:1-32, the godly line of Seth is recorded. Of particular interest are Enoch, Methusaleh, and Noah. Enoch did not die physically, Methusaleh lived up until the year of the Great Flood, and Noah built the ark that saved his family. In II Kings 2:1-11, the final days of Elijah were recorded, and like Enoch, he was carried into heaven without ever dying physically. In I Thessalonians 4:13-18, the Apostle Paul wrote about the Rapture, and that will be another occasion where saints leave this life without physically dying. In Hebrews 11:1-40, the heroes of the Bible are presented, and Enoch is once again mentioned in the early verses of that chapter. In Jude 1:1-25, Jude wrote about the end times, about contending for the Faith, and mentioned that Enoch was a prophet.

Related Passages: Genesis 5:18-27, II Kings 2:1-11, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Hebrews 11:5, and Jude 1:14

Five Day Recommended Reading:

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| Monday: | Genesis 5:18-27 |
| Tuesday: | II Kings 2:1-11 |
| Wednesday: | I Thessalonians 4:13-18 |
| Thursday: | Hebrews 11:1-40 |
| Friday: | Jude 1:1-25 |

Study questions:

1. Who were Seth, Enoch, and Methuselah? What did Methusaleh's name mean?

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2. How old was Noah when he started building the ark? Do you believe that a year in those days corresponded to a year today.

3. What does Genesis 5:24 mean? Does that mean that Enoch could be one of the two witnesses in Revelation?

4. What will happen to the saints when the Rapture occurs?

5. Does the trumpet mentioned in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 correspond to the trumpet judgments in the Book of Revelation? If so, does that mean that the church will be on earth for the first part of the Great Tribulation?

6. How did the writers of Hebrews and Jude describe Enoch?

7. Why did Jude write his book? What did he mean when he wrote about contending for the Faith?

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Daily Devotion for Tuesday: March 17, 2009

Title: Enoch Walked With God

Bible Passages: Genesis 5:18-24 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Key Verse: "Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away."

I Thessalonians 4:17 says, "After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever." Few Bible doctrines are anymore difficult to understand than the Rapture, even though it is clearly taught in principle in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. During the first century, the church at Thessalonica believed that Jesus was literally coming back again for His church in the very near future, so they had stopped working and had started looking for Him to come. But while He will return at His appointed time, He did not come back then, and so far, He still has not come back.

The Apostle Paul wrote to that church to tell them to get back to work and to occupy until the Lord returns. He also shared that those who were trusting in Christ would someday be caught up to meet Him in the air. But that kind of talk sounds too mystical and too unbelievable to really be true. Nevertheless, what he wrote was and is the truth, and Christians have a couple of perfect examples of men in the Bible that have already been caught up to meet with God. The first man was Elijah. He had been God's man when the Lord dealt with King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, and when it was his time to depart this earth, he rode God's fiery chariot into heaven. The second man was Enoch, and Genesis 5:24 says that he walked with God and that God took him away.

One should not be surprised that Elijah and Enoch were both very close to the Lord and that they also just happened to be the two men that were taken into heaven without having to die. While all people in normal circumstances must die, God has made a way for everyone to be with Him for all eternity. Through Jesus and His death on the cross, many saints will someday experience firsthand the mystery of the Rapture. But until then, all people can experience the miracle of the rebirth by trusting Jesus as their Savior.

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Daily Devotion for Thursday: March 19, 2009

Title: Methuselah Lived a Long Time

Bible Passages: Genesis 5:21-27, Jude 1:14, Hebrews 11:5, II Kings 2:1-11, and I Thessalonians 4:15-18

Key Verse: "Altogether, Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died."

Two of the most fascinating men in the Bible and probably of all time were Enoch and his son, Methuselah. According to Jude 1:14, Enoch was a prophet, and according to Genesis 5:24 and Hebrews 11:5, he walked with God and one day was no more. The expression, "was no more," means that he did not die or experience death like most people. Instead, he was taken away in much the same way that Elijah was taken away into heaven, in II Kings 2:1-11, by a whirlwind and a chariot of fire. The manner in which Enoch was snatched out of the earth pictures how the church will someday be snatched or raptured out of the earth and taken into the clouds to be with the Lord. I Thessalonians 4:16-17 says, "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

The termination of Enoch's earthly life provides a perfect example of how the church will someday be taken out of the earth to forever be with the Lord. But his son, Methuselah, also sent a special message to his contemporaries while he was still alive. During ancient times, babies were often given names that had special meaning or significance, and the name, Methuselah, means he dies, there is a dart, or there is a sending forth. Based on those definitions, many Bible scholars have concluded that his name, alone, would have been like a warning or an alarm in people's ears every time they heard it, and that is because his name was often associated with death and calamity. One might wonder what event his name would have been warning people about, and the answer is that he died in the same year that the Great Flood destroyed all of the earth. The conclusions are that God knew exactly what He was doing and also that He warned the people of coming disaster for well over nine hundred years.

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Lesson 5: God's Attribute Of Constancy (March 29, 2009)

- I. God was Sorry that He had Created Man (Genesis 6:1-22)
- II. God Never Changes (Hebrews 13:8)
- III. God Changed His Mind about Nineveh (Jonah 3:10)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Genesis 6:1-22, God poured out His wrath upon the earth and mankind, which were full of wickedness. He caused a great flood that destroyed most of humanity, most animals, and all vegetation. Only Noah and his family survived that devastation. In Psalm 33:11, the Psalmist wrote that God's counsel stands forever. In a similar passage from Psalm 102:27, he wrote that God is always the same and that He has no end. In those passages, God is shown to be Someone that is constant and never changes. In Hebrews 13:8, the author wrote that Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. But the Bible also records instances where God does seem to change His mind about some things. In Genesis 6:6, for example, He showed regret at having created humanity. In Jonah 3:10, He changed His mind about destroying the people of Nineveh. In Genesis 6:3, God had given the inhabitants of the earth one hundred and twenty years prior to the flood to repent, and in II Peter 2:5, Noah was called a preacher of righteousness. Those two passages suggest that Noah worked on the Ark for over one hundred years and that he preached to bystanders in an attempt to get them to repent. But they would not, so God had no choice but to let them be destroyed by the flood. He was not mean or evil to rid the earth of its wickedness because the Bible shows that everyone alive during those days could have made the same choices that Noah had made, but they would not.

Related Passages: Genesis 6:1-22, Psalm 33:11, Psalm 102:27, Hebrews 13:8, and II Peter 2:5

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	Genesis 6:1-22
Tuesday:	Psalm 33:1-11
Wednesday:	Psalm 102:1-27
Thursday:	Hebrews 13:1-8
Friday:	II Peter 2:1-5

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Study questions:

1. In Genesis 6:6, why was God sorry that He had created humanity?
2. Who were the sons of God and the daughters of men in Genesis 6:2 and Genesis 6:4? Who were the giants in Genesis 6:4?
3. Who were the Nephilim? If they were destroyed by the Great Flood, then why do they show up again in Numbers 13:33 and Deuteronomy 2:11?
4. How long did God give the people on earth to repent? How do you know that?
5. What covenant did God make with Noah after the flood? How does that covenant relate to God's next time of wrath?
6. How can you reconcile Hebrews 13:8 with Genesis 6:6 and Jonah 3:10?

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Daily Devotion for Tuesday: March 24, 2009

Title: God's Attribute Of Constancy

Bible Passages: Psalm 33:11, Psalm 102:27, and Hebrews 13:8

Key Verse: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

In Psalm 33:11, the Psalmist wrote that God's counsel stands forever. In a similar passage from Psalm 102:27, he wrote that God is always the same and that He has no end. In those passages, God is shown to be Someone that is constant and never changes. In Hebrews 13:8, the author wrote that Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. But the Bible also records instances where God does seem to change His mind about some things. In Genesis 6:6, for example, He showed regret at having created humanity. In Jonah 3:10, He changed His mind about destroying the people of Nineveh. And in other passages, He is shown to feel pain.

The above contrasting, seemingly contradictory passages sometimes cause confusion about a God that is not supposed to change. Despite the above passages, however, a reasonable comment can be given to explain God's behavior in each instance. In the case of Nineveh, He changed His mind about destroying the people because they had changed their mind about serving Him. Jonah had gone to that wicked city and preached a message of repentance. But when the people humbled themselves before the Lord, God changed His mind about destroying them. In the passage following Genesis 6:6, God brought judgment to the earth and destroyed all life, with the exception of Noah and his family, but only because those people would not repent. If they would have, then He would have repented of the doom that He was about to bring on them.

Concerning this generation, the Bible teaches, in II Peter 3:9, that the Lord is long-suffering and not willing that any should perish. But His current attitude toward unrepentant sinners will change someday, too. When the time comes for the final judgment on humanity, He will no longer be long suffering towards those that have rejected Him. He will judge all the people for their sins, while all the time still being a God of love that never changes.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: March 26, 2009

Title: Noah was God's Man for an Important Job

Bible Passages: Genesis 6:9-22 and II Peter 2:5

Key Verse: "So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out."

In Genesis 6:1-7, Moses wrote about the times of Noah. He indicated that the people were extremely wicked and that their hedonistic lifestyle had greatly displeased the Lord. He also wrote about the Nephilim, and though he did not elaborate on their precise identity, they were probably the men from the godly line of Seth. They were having sexual relations and producing children with the ungodly women of that time, and their sinful behavior was why God had become so upset. Genesis 6:5-6 says, "The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain."

In Genesis 6:8-13, God looked for someone that had not fallen into sin with those ungodly women, and He found Noah. Genesis 6:8 says that Noah found favor with the Lord, and Genesis 6:9 says that he was righteous and blameless before others. Therefore, when God decided to destroy the life on earth, He chose Noah and his family to preserve the godly line of Seth, to save the animal life, and to start civilization again. Genesis 6:14-22 listed the detailed instructions that He gave Noah for building an Ark. He then caused it to rain for forty days and forty nights, and everyone outside the Ark was drowned.

In Genesis 6:3, God had given the inhabitants of the earth one hundred and twenty years prior to the flood to repent, and in II Peter 2:5, Noah was called a preacher of righteousness. Those two passages suggest that Noah worked on the Ark for over one hundred years and that he preached to bystanders in an attempt to get them to repent. But they would not, so God had no choice but to let them be destroyed by the flood. He was not mean or evil to rid the earth of its wickedness because the Bible shows that everyone alive during those days could have made the same choices that Noah had made, but they would not.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Lesson 6: Abraham is a Hero of the Faith (April 5, 2009)

- I. Abraham did not Come from the Best Family (Genesis 11:24-28)
- II. Abraham was Faithful to his Calling (Genesis 12:1-20)
- III. Abraham had his Faults (Genesis 20:1-18)
- IV. Abraham is a Hero of the Faith (Hebrews 11:8-10)

Main Focus of this Lesson: Genesis 11:24-28 says that Terah was Abraham's father, Joshua 24:2 says that Terah was an idolater, and Luke 3:34 says that Terah was among the Lord's ancestors. Those verses show that the Bible is an honest Book that does not try to sugarcoat the truth. Genesis 12:1-20 records God's call on Abraham to leave his homeland and seek out the land that the Lord would show him. In Hebrews 11:8-10, Abraham was listed among the heroes of the Faith because he responded favorably to God's call. However, he was far from perfect. In Genesis 20:1-18, Abraham lied about his wife and almost got an innocent king killed.

Related Passages: Genesis 11:24-28, Genesis 12:10-20, Genesis 20:1-18, Joshua 24:2, Luke 3:34, and Hebrews 11:8-10

Five Day Recommended Reading:

- Monday: Genesis 11:24-28 and Genesis 12:1-20
- Tuesday: Genesis 20:1-18
- Wednesday: Joshua 24:1-12
- Thursday: Luke 3:1-34
- Friday: Hebrews 11:8-10

Study questions:

1. When Abraham left Ur, did he do exactly what the Lord told him? Compare Genesis 11:31 and Genesis 12:5. How many times did God tell Abraham to go to the Promised Land?

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: March 31, 2009

Title: Terah set a Bad Example for his Family

Bible Passages: Genesis 11:24-28, Joshua 24:2, and Luke 3:34

Key Verse: "Joshua said to all the people, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshiped other gods.'"

The accounts of Genesis 11:24-28, Joshua 24:2, and Luke 3:34 teach at least four profound biblical truths. In the first passage, Terah was listed as Abraham's father. In the second passage, Joshua identified him as an idolator. That verse says that he worshipped other gods and also that he was the father of Abraham and Nahor. Then, in Luke 3:34, Luke wrote that Terah was in the descendant line that led to the birth of Jesus.

The first truth is that the Bible is an honest Book. Even though Abraham was called a friend of God and even though they had had a very close relationship, the writers of Scripture, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, did not hesitate to tell the complete truth, even when it was condemning. The second truth from the above passages is that each person has a free will to choose as he or she wishes concerning the Lord. Because God loves everyone, He does not treat people like robots or puppets. He lets them choose concerning Him, even when their choice is to not embrace Him. The third truth is that Jesus was born from a line of some very dubious characters. Joseph had descended from Terah, but Mary had also descended from him. They were both descended from Judah, who had had an illicit sexual relationship with his daughter-in-law, and from David, who had had an illicit affair with Bathsheba and had even had her husband killed in battle. While Joseph was not Jesus' natural father, Mary was His natural, birth mother.

The fourth truth is that Abraham obeyed the Lord, that he walked away from the evil, idolatrous ways of his family, and that the Lord blessed him for making those choices. He lived a life that pleased God, he consistently put his faith in Him, and his life provided a good example for others to follow.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: April 2, 2009

Title: Abraham Made the Same Mistake Twice

Bible Passages: Hebrews 11:8-10, Genesis 12:10-20, and Genesis 20:1-18

Key Verse: "Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you."

Being able to believe and have confidence in the Bible are very important. Critics have often maintained that uneducated or undereducated men wrote it and that they did not truly understand what they were seeing or hearing. Critics have also often suggested that the copying and translation processes were probably flawed so that the originally transmitted Word of God cannot possibly be known. But an important argument against those critics is the fact that the Bible is a very honest Book. It shows godly people at their best and at their worst, and it does not try to hide any of the facts.

According to Hebrews 11:8-10, Abraham was a hero of the Faith because he left his homeland and family at an old age to go to a land that the Lord would show him. However, when comparing Acts 7:1-4, Genesis 11:31, and Genesis 12:4, one can see that he was actually instructed twice by God to go into the Promised Land. At a younger age, he had left Ur with his extended family to go to that land and, and then, when seventy-five, he left Haran without his entire family so that he could complete his original journey. Abraham had grown up in an idolatrous family, and the biblical evidence suggests that that ungodly environment had had a negative influence on him.

Later, once he got to the Promised Land, he made some other mistakes on his own. Twice, in Genesis 12:10-20 and Genesis 20:1-18, he told foreign kings that Sarah was his sister so that they would not kill him to get at her. At another time, he actually had an affair with his wife's servant. But when one carefully examines Abraham's whole life, a clear pattern of spiritual growth is very evident. The testimony about him in James 2:23 was not completely true in the beginning of his spiritual journey, just like such words are not totally true of anyone just starting out for the Lord. But he grew richly in the Lord, and because the Bible is an honest Book, his whole story was accurately told.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Lesson 7: Abraham's Faith and Isaac's Obedience (April 12, 2009)

- I. God is Transcendent (Genesis 1:1-31)
- II. God is Personal (Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 26:24, and Genesis 28:12-15)
- III. God Changed Abram's Name to Abraham (Genesis 17:5)
- IV. God Tests Those that Come to Him (Genesis 12:1-7)
- V. God Tested Abraham, Too (Genesis 12:10-20, Genesis 20:1-18, and Genesis 22:1-14)

Main Focus of this Lesson: God is both transcendent and personal. By His being transcendent, a person cannot relate to Him as to any other god but rather must recognize Him in His power and splendor and as the One to Whom everyone is accountable. In Genesis 1:1-31, He is presented simply as the Creator of the world. By His being personal, an individual cannot analyze Him like a thing or object. Instead, He must be experienced in a personal way. In Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 26:24, and Genesis 28:12-15, He revealed Himself to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob personally and dealt with each one individually. In Genesis 17:5, He changed Abram's name to Abraham. The Lord also tests those that come to Him. In Genesis 14:1-24, He let some evil kings test Abraham by taking his nephew hostage. In Genesis 12:10-20 and Genesis 20:1-18, He tested Abraham, and the saint made the same mistake twice. But in Genesis 22:1-14, Abraham was tested once again in a very extreme way, and that time, he did exactly as the Lord would have him do.

Related Passages: Genesis 1, Genesis 12:1-20, Genesis 14:1-24, Genesis 17:5, Genesis 20:1-18, Genesis 22:1-14, Genesis 26:24, and Genesis 28:12-15

Five Day Recommended Reading:

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| Monday: | Genesis 1:1-31 |
| Tuesday: | Genesis 12:1-20 |
| Wednesday: | Genesis 14:1-24 and Genesis 17:5 |
| Thursday: | Genesis 20:1-18 |
| Friday: | Genesis 22:1-14, Genesis 26:24, and Genesis 28:12-15 |

Study questions:

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

1. In what ways can one say that the Lord is transcendent?
2. In what ways can one say that the Lord is personal? How do Genesis 11:31, Genesis 12:4 and Genesis 15:7 show that God those not give up on His people?
3. In Genesis 12:7, what two promises did God make to Abraham? How do those promises affect the way that many individuals interpret the Book of Revelation?
4. What mistake did Abraham make twice?
5. What was the very difficult test of Genesis 22:1-14?
6. How does God show His nature and attributes to humanity? What does God's name, Jehovahjireh, in Genesis 22:4 mean?
7. In Genesis 22:9-10, how is Isaac a type of Christ?

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: April 7, 2009

Title: God - Transcendent and Personal

Bible Passages: Genesis 1, Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 26:24, and Genesis 28:12-15

Key Verse: "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Man, in his understanding and worship of God, is sometimes uncomfortable with the dual facts that He is both personal and transcendent. By His being personal, an individual cannot analyze Him like a thing or object. Instead, He must be experienced in a personal way. By His being transcendent, a person cannot relate to Him as to any other god but rather must recognize Him in His power and splendor and as the One to Whom everyone is accountable. People have a natural tendency to argue and pick apart. Therefore, most people would like for God to fit into a nice convenient mold for them so that He can be easily analyzed and dissected. But He does not cooperate.

In Genesis, Chapter One, He is presented without argument or apology as the living God and as the Creator God that simply spoke everything into existence. In that sense, He is the transcendent, one and only true God that is over and above all. But He is also the personal God, too. In Genesis 12:1-2, He personally spoke to Abraham and led him out of Ur. In Genesis 12:3, He personally promised a blessing to Abraham, to his family, and to all that would bless him. Similarly, to Isaac, in Genesis 26:24, He appeared as the God of Abraham and promised similar blessings. To Jacob, in Genesis 28:12-15, He appeared in a dream and promised a continual blessing to that specific line of Abraham.

Modern mankind and womankind are sometimes upset by the personal and transcendent qualities of the Lord. But no one that truly knows Him, as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and many others can already attest, have reason to feel that way. He is over and above all, but He can also be approached and known in a personal way.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: April 9, 2009

Title: Having the Faith of Abraham

Bible Passages: Genesis 12:1-20, Genesis 14:1-24, Genesis 17:5, Genesis 20:1-18, and Genesis 22:1-14

Key Verse: "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

In Genesis 12:1, God came to a man named Abram, who was later renamed Abraham in Genesis 17:5, and told him to leave his home in Ur to go to a place that he would be shown. What made Abraham's journey particularly noteworthy was that he was already seventy-five years old when given that instruction. While people may or may not have aged differently then than they do now, seventy-five years was still a long time, and it would have still been plenty of time for Abraham to establish roots in his own homeland. Relocating at that point in his life would have had some negative consequences and created some negative anxieties, but he obeyed God and did as he was told.

During his new life with the Lord, however, Abraham still made a couple of mistakes. In Genesis 12:10-20, he went into Egypt, and because he thought that Pharaoh would have him killed over his wife, he lied and said that she was his sister. In Genesis 20:1-18, he did the same thing again with a king named Abimelech. Both times Abraham had done wrong, and both times, he was caught in his lie. But despite those negative moments, he also had some times of triumph. In Genesis 14:1-24, he did battle with and defeated some nations that had taken his nephew, Lot, as a prisoner. In Genesis 22:1-14, God tested him by telling him to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice. Though Isaac was not actually sacrificed, Abraham obeyed God and again passed an important test.

Abraham's life teaches those in Christ a few very important lessons. First, a person can see that God is real and that He enters into relationships with His own. Second, God gives His children the freedom to do wrong as well as to do right. Third, He loves His children, nurtures them, cares for them, and helps them grow. Abraham was wise to leave his home at the age of seventy-five to follow God, and each person that trusts in the Lord today is equally wise.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Lesson 8: Abraham was Promised a Seed and some Land (April 19, 2009)

- I. Lot Wanted the Best for Himself (Genesis 13:5-12)
- II. God Promised Abraham Two Things (Genesis 13:14-17 and Genesis 22:1-19)
- III. Jesus Taught Christians to have Abraham's Attitude (Matthew 20:20-28)
- IV. Love God above All and your Neighbor as Yourself (Matthew 22:37-39)
- V. Righteousness by Obedient Faith (Romans 4:1-3 and James 2:21-23)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Genesis 13:5-12, Abraham had to contend with a nephew that always wanted the best for himself. But because he repeatedly demonstrated the right kind of faith, God told him, in Genesis 13:14-17 and again in Genesis 22:15-18, that he would have an abundant family and that his family would take possession of the mighty land of Canaan. In Matthew 20:20-28, Jesus told the mother of John and James and His other disciples that greatness in God's eyes is attained by those that serve, and that was the kind of attitude that Abraham often demonstrated. Jesus followed that teaching in Matthew 22:37-39 by telling His listeners to love the God with all their heart, mind, and soul and their neighbors as themselves. Abraham is described as a hero of the Faith that lived according to the correct spiritual principles. In Romans 4:1-3, the Apostle Paul wrote that he was a righteous man because he had believed God, and in James 2:21-23, James also wrote that Abraham was righteous because of his faith in the Lord.

Related Passages: Genesis 13:5-17, Genesis 22:1-19, Matthew 20:20-28, Matthew 22:37-39, Romans 4:1-3, and James 2:21-23

Five Day Recommended Reading:

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| Monday: | Genesis 13:5-17 |
| Tuesday: | Genesis 22:1-19 |
| Wednesday: | Matthew 20:20-28 |
| Thursday: | Matthew 22:37-39 and Romans 4:1-3 |
| Friday: | James 2:21-23 |

Study questions:

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

1. How did Lot show his true attitude? What happened to his family and him in the end? Do you believe that Lot was saved?
2. What two promises did the Lord make to Abraham?
3. How does one attain greatness in God's eyes? How would you describe the relationship between holiness and having a servant's attitude?
4. In Matthew 22:37-39, what are the two commandments that Jesus gave to His listeners?
5. What did the Apostle Paul write about Abraham in Romans 4:1-3?
6. What did James write about Abraham in James 2:21-23?

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: April 14, 2009

Title: Abraham was Promised a Seed and some Land

Bible Passages: Genesis 13:14-17, James 2:21-23, Genesis 22:1-19, and Romans 4:1-3

Key Verse: "All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever."

Abraham was far from perfect because, like most people, he made a lot of mistakes. On two occasions, he lied to national leaders about Sarah being his wife. On several other occasions, he got ahead of God when it came to receiving his promised seed, and within that regard, he even married his wife's handmaiden so that he could have a son by her. Not everything that he did was good. But in Romans 4:1-3, the Apostle Paul wrote that he was a righteous man because he had believed God, and in James 2:21-23, James also wrote that Abraham was righteous because of his faith in the Lord.

Abraham was special because he did a number of special things to show his faith, hope, and trust. He left his homeland, at age seventy-five, to go to an unknown land that God would show to him. He patiently waited for a son for a very long time before he foolishly became involved with his wife's handmaiden, and once his promised son was born, he was willing to throw it all away just to show his devotion to the Lord. In Genesis 22:1-19, he came close to offering his son, Isaac, on an altar to God, but at the last second, an angel stopped him. Because Abraham repeatedly demonstrated the right kind of faith, God told him, in Genesis 13:14-17 and again in Genesis 22:15-18, that he would have an abundant family and that his family would take possession of the mighty land of Canaan.

Abraham lived long enough to see Isaac grow up and bring many more sons into the world, but he did not live long enough to see them completely conquer Canaan because that still has not happened. The day will come, however, when both of God's promises to Abraham will be fulfilled, and in that day, the Jewish people will inhabit their land. God will be their God, Jesus will be their Messiah, and they will worship Him just as their father, Abraham, did.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: April 16, 2009

Title: Lot Wanted the Best for Himself

Bible Passages: Genesis 13:5-12, Matthew 20:20-28, and Matthew 22:37-39

Key Verse: "So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east."

Putting one's goals and oneself ahead of everyone and everything else is one of the worst possible human traits, so in Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus told His audience the formula for joy. He told them to love the Lord with all their heart, mind, and soul. Then, He told them to love their neighbors as much as they love themselves. His formula for joy can be easily remembered by forming an acrostic out of the word "joy." The first letter in that word is "j," and it stands for Jesus. Put Jesus first. The second letter is "o," and it stands for others. Put others second. The third letter is "y," and it stands for you. Put yourself last. Based on the Lord's clear, simple teaching, a person can find maximum joy in this life by practicing His "joy" principle. Conversely, some of the most miserable people in the world are those that have been practicing His principle in reverse.

In Genesis 13:5-12, Lot fell into the trap of wanting the best of everything for himself, and in the end, it cost him. Given the choice between two large areas of land, he chose the better land for himself and left the lesser land for his uncle, Abraham. Abraham was his senior, and Abraham had made it possible for him to even be in the position of having so much property. But rather than insist that his uncle take the better property, Lot insisted that he be given the better property. He took the land that faced Sodom and Gomorrah, and he eventually lost everything because of his closeness to the wickedness of those two cities. In his final days, he had incestuous relationships with his two daughters, and he became the father of two ungodly nations. By contrast, Abraham was blessed with everything that the Lord had promised him. In Matthew 20:20-28, the Apostles John and James had wanted the two best seats in Christ's kingdom, which were on either side of the Lord, and Jesus lectured them about their ungodly desires. In that case, both men listened to Jesus, and both became among the most willing and most humble of all of the disciples.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Lesson 9: Abraham Took Matters into his Own Hands (April 26, 2009)

- I. The Promise of a Seed and Some Land (Genesis 12:1-3)
- II. Into Egypt and Back Again (Genesis 13:1)
- III. Getting Ahead of the Lord (Genesis 15:1-6 and Genesis 16:1-5)
- IV. Hagar Learned that God even saw Her (Genesis 16:13)
- V. Birth of the Promised Son (Genesis 21:1-7)
- VI. Jehovahjireh and Jehovah (Genesis 22:13-14 and Exodus 3:13-14)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Genesis 12:1-3, God promised Abraham a large family and the physical property of the Promised Land. In Genesis 13:1, Abraham, Sarah, and Lot left Egypt to go into the south after he had initially gone there to escape a terrible famine that had occurred in the land. In Genesis 15:1-6, he tried to anticipate God's course by thinking that his servant, Eliezer, was supposed to be his promised seed. Then, in Genesis 16:1-5, he again got ahead of the Lord by having a son with his wife's handmaiden, Hagar. In Genesis 16:13, Hagar called upon the Lord and learned that He even saw her and her needs. In that instance, God identified Himself to His people as Jehovah Rohi, the God that sees. In Genesis 21:1-7, Abraham and Sarah finally had their promised son and gave him the name, Isaac. In Genesis 22:13-14 and Exodus 3:13-14, God revealed His character, attributes, and nature by identifying Himself by two other names, Jehovahjireh and Jehovah, the self-existing One.

Related Passages: Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 13:1, Genesis 15:1-6, Genesis 16:1-5, Genesis 16:13, Genesis 21:1-7, Genesis 22:13-14, and Exodus 3:13-14

Five Day Recommended Reading:

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| Monday: | Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 13:1 |
| Tuesday: | Genesis 15:1-6 and Genesis 16:1-5 |
| Wednesday: | Genesis 16:13 and Genesis 21:1-7 |
| Thursday: | Genesis 22:1-14 |
| Friday: | Exodus 3:1-14 |

Study questions:

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

1. What two promises were made to Abraham?
2. How did God reveal Himself to Abraham when Isaac was to be offered? In that episode, how did Isaac compare to Jesus on the cross?
3. What two ways did Abraham get ahead of God concerning his promised seed?
4. Who was Hagar, what was her son's name, and what people have descended from her? How did Abraham treat Hagar? How did the Lord reveal Himself to Hagar? What does Jehovah Rohi mean, and why was that significant to Hagar?
5. Who was Jehovahjireh, and when was that name given? What does Jehovah mean?
6. In Exodus 3:13-14, Moses asked God His name so that the Egyptians and Jews would know Him? What did that name mean? Why was that name new to the Jews since it frequently appears in the Book of Genesis? By what name did Abraham know God? See Exodus 6:3.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: April 21, 2009
Title: Abraham Took Matters into his Own Hands

Bible Passages: Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 13:1, Genesis 15:1-6, Genesis 16:1-5, and Genesis 21:1-7

Key Verse: "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you."

Because people are naturally impatient, even the godliest person can get ahead of God in the handling of the affairs of his or her life. However, while being faithful and doing those things in one's life that the Lord wants to be done are important, letting Him work them out in His own timeframe is just as important. In Genesis 12:1-3, God had told Abraham to leave his homeland and go to the place that he would be shown. In return for his obedience, the Lord promised him that he would become a great nation and that the other nations of the world would be blessed or cursed based solely upon how they received him. So, since he wanted to be obedient to the Lord and because he liked God's promises, Abraham left his homeland and did as he had been told.

But like most people, Abraham wanted God's promises to him to be fulfilled right away, so he started trying to make things happen. He knew that the Lord could not make him a great nation if he did not have any children, so one of the first things that he did was to look for a suitable relative through which his nation could be built. In Genesis 13:1, his nephew, Lot, had traveled with Sarah and him from their homeland, and because they did not have any children of their own, Abraham initially thought that God might be planning to fulfill His promises to him through Lot. But when that turned out to be wrong, Abraham next looked to his head servant, Eliezer, in Genesis 15:1-6, as the most likely person through whom God would work. But when that also turned out to be wrong, he then committed the ultimate wrongdoing, in Genesis 16:1-5, by having a son with Sarah's servant, Hagar.

In Genesis 21:1-7, Abraham and Sarah finally received the son that they had been promised, but their initial impatience had brought themselves and others a lot of unnecessary grief. The conclusion is that God's people should wait patiently on Him, or they might have to bear some unpleasant consequences.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: April 23, 2009

Title: El Roi is One of God's Names

Bible Passages: Genesis 22:13-14, Exodus 3:13-14, and Genesis 16:13

Key Verse: "She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One who sees me.'"

Throughout the Bible, and especially in the Old Testament, God revealed His nature and character to people by His different names. Genesis 22:13-14 says, "Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." The name, Yahweh Jireh, appeared in the above passage and showed God as the One that provides for His people. Abraham had been instructed by the Lord to offer his only son, Isaac, on Mount Moriah, but God provided the sacrifice for him.

Exodus 3:13-14 says, "Moses said to God, 'Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, What is his name? Then what shall I tell them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.'" In Hebrew, Jehovah or Yahweh is God's proper name, and it means, "I AM THAT I AM." That name refers to the self-existing One, and when He gave it to Moses, He was communicating that He is eternal, that He exists on His own, that He is self-sufficient, and that He is in total control of everything.

Leading up to Genesis 16:13, Hagar, the young mother-to-be of Ishmael, had been wrongfully banished from Abraham's home. Abraham's wife, Sarah, had not been able to give Abraham the son and heir that had been promised to him by God. So, she took matters into her own hands and told him to have the child by her servant, Hagar. Abraham complied, and the result was that Hagar became pregnant. When she was forced to leave Abraham's home, God comforted her heart. Then, she understood that He was a God that saw all her needs and that He could be trusted, and the same is still true of Him today.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Lesson 10: Lot's Wife was Turned to a Pillar of Salt (May 3, 2009)

- I. God's Promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
- II. Lot's Fateful Decision (Genesis 13:8-13)
- III. Trouble in Lot's Family and his own Life (Genesis 19:15-38)
- IV. The Eternal Fate of Lot (II Peter 2:8)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Genesis 12:1-3, God told Abraham to leave his country and kindred and that he would receive a son and some land. A number of years later, Sarah gave birth to Isaac, and the Promised Land was occupied by the Canaanites. In verse three of that passage, God promised a blessing to all that blessed Abraham and a curse to those that cursed him. In Genesis 13:8-13, Abraham and his nephew had prospered in their respective properties, so they had to split apart to avoid conflicts between their men. Lot chose the best land for himself and left the lesser property to his uncle Abraham. Lot had not treated his uncle very honorably, and the result was that he brought a curse upon himself. In Genesis 19:15-38, the place that Lot had chosen for himself was just outside of Sodom and Gomorrah. Eventually, he ended up in those wicked towns and was forced out when God destroyed the towns. To add to his shame, his wife was turned to a pillar of salt in verse twenty-six, and his daughters had sons by their father later in the chapter. Lot lived a shameful life. His wife was turned to salt probably because, according to Matthew 5:13, salt was what her life lacked. Nevertheless, II Peter 2:4-9 says that the Lord knows how to deliver even someone like Lot from their terrible estate. II Peter 2:8 even says that Lot was a righteous man, but he had gotten himself too deeply into an ungodly environment.

Related Passages: Genesis 13:8-13, Genesis 19:15-38, Matthew 5:13, and II Peter 2:4-9

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	Genesis 12:1-3
Tuesday:	Genesis 13:8-13
Wednesday:	Genesis 19:15-38
Thursday:	Matthew 5:1-13
Friday:	II Peter 2:4-9

Study questions:

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

1. What promises did God make to Abraham?
2. What did God require Abraham to do? Did Abraham fully comply?
3. Why did Abraham and Lot have to separate? What did Lot's choice say about him? What did Abraham's reaction to Lot's choice say about him?
4. Once the decision was made, how did Lot go wrong? When the angels came to Lot's house, how did Lot show even more how far he had fallen?
5. What happened to Lot's sons-in-law? What happened to his wife? Why did they come to such terrible ends? Was Lot in any way responsible?
6. How did Lot further disgrace himself with his daughters?
7. Do you think Lot was saved?

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: April 28, 2009
Title: Lot's Wife was Turned to a Pillar of Salt

Bible Passages: Genesis 19:15-26, Matthew 5:13, and II Peter 2:7

Key Verse: "But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt."

In Matthew 5:13, during the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men." With those words, He was indirectly telling His followers that they were like the salt of the earth and that they could add flavor to an already ugly world. By their very presence, they could make any environment better, no matter how bad the environment, and that is because salt is a preservative that adds flavor to many fine foods. But when salt is missing, those same foods do not taste nearly as good, and Jesus was also teaching that being salt in an ugly world for the Christian is optional. They can choose to follow Him but still not make Him Lord of their life. However, such persons will probably not find much joy in their salvation. Plus, when salt has lost its saltiness, it is no longer good for anything, and when Christians have lost their desire to serve the Lord, then their Christian effectiveness is hurt, too.

In Genesis 19:15-26, one man and his family perfectly fit the description of saved people that had lost their saltiness. In II Peter 2:7, the Apostle Peter identified Lot as a righteous man, but his lifestyle was not very consistent with that description. He had separated from his uncle, Abraham, a few years before and had gone to live in the wicked towns of Sodom and Gomorrah. But even worse than that, he had taken his family with him, and he had exposed them to the vile sins of those foreign people. When God chose to deal with the two towns, He first sent an angel to lead Lot and his family out, and the lesson is that God always takes care of His own, even when they have been less faithful than they should have been. Once they were out of the town, the angel told them to not look back at the destruction that was taking place. But Lot's wife looked back, and when she did, she was turned into a pillar of salt. A person might wonder why salt, and one reason was so that her transformation to salt would constantly remind Lot that he had lost his saltiness.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: April 30, 2009

Title: Lot had Incestuous Relationships with his Daughters

Bible Passages: Genesis 19:30-38, Genesis 13:8-13, and II Peter 2:4-9

Key Verse: "So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father."

Lot was Abraham's nephew, and in II Peter 2:4-9, he was called a righteous man. But from his life, one might not understand how he could have been. For much of his life, he seems to have lived only for himself and for what he could get, since years before the events of Genesis 19:30-38, he had once chosen the best land for himself rather than for his uncle. In Genesis 13:8-13, when a dispute had arisen between Abraham's herdsmen and between his herdsmen, Abraham told him to choose the land that he wanted so that they could each become prosperous while away from each other but also without conflicting with each other. So, in Genesis 13:10-11, he chose the better land for himself when rightfully he should have desired the best for his uncle, who was his senior. He also chose the land that was consumed with the wrong kind of people, since Genesis 13:12-13 says that the people of Sodom were very wicked and sinful.

Yet, those were the choices that he had made, and in Genesis 19:30-38, after God had destroyed the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot became the participant in another choice that was really made on his behalf. By that time, he had lost his wife and all of his family except for two daughters, and those two girls plotted to become pregnant by him so that his family could continue. On the first night, the older daughter got him drunk, slept with him sexually, and became pregnant. Then, on the second night, the younger daughter did the same thing so that both girls had become pregnant by their father. In Genesis 19:37-38, the older daughter gave birth to a boy and named him, Moab. The second daughter also gave birth to a boy, and she named him, Ben-Ammi. The first son became the patriarch of the Moabites, and the second son became the father of the Ammonites. Many years later, both nations would have conflicts with Israel, and both would suffer through periods of defeat. However, despite Lot's controversial life, God looked past his shortcomings and saw him as a righteous man simply because Lot had put his hope and trust in the Lord.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Lesson 11: One of God's Names is Jehovahjireh (May 10, 2009)

- I. The Promise of a Seed and Land (Genesis 12:1-2)
- II. The Test (Genesis 22:1-2)
- III. Doing what the Lord Wanted (Genesis 22:3-10)
- IV. Abraham Passed the Test (Genesis 22:11-18)

Main Focus of this Lesson: In Genesis 22:1-19, Abraham faced his greatest test.

After having been promised a seed and some land in Genesis 12:1-2, he had to patiently wait for the first part of that promise to be fulfilled. During that time of waiting, he made many mistakes. But eventually, his promised seed, Isaac, was born. Then, in Genesis 22:1-19, the Lord told him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. So Abraham, who had finally learned to trust God, faithfully set about to do what the Lord wanted. As he was about to take the life of his own son, an angel of the Lord stopped him and instead provided a ram for the sacrifice. Abraham had passed the Lord's most stern test, and Abraham called that place Jehovahjireh, which means "God will provide". In John 3:1-36, Jesus told Nicodemus about salvation, and when His time had come, He became our sacrificial Lamb to reconcile us with God. God provided Abraham a ram, and He has provided us with a Lamb.

Related Passages: Genesis 22:1-19 and John 3:16

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday: Genesis 22:1-10
Tuesday: Genesis 22:11-18
Wednesday: Genesis 22:19-24
Thursday: John 3:1-16
Friday: John 3:17-36

Study questions:

1. In Genesis 22:1-24, what did the Lord want Abraham to do? Why was Abraham willing to obey?

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: May 5, 2009

Title: One of God's Names is Yahweh Jireh

Bible Passages: Genesis 22:1-18 and John 3:16

Key Verse: "I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies."

Abraham was far from perfect as a follower of the one true God. On two separate occasions, he made poor choices when he lied about Sarah being his sister, and on other occasions, he showed lapses in his faith when he did not fully trust God concerning a promised son. But Genesis 22:1-18 showed Abraham at his best, and those verses also revealed three truths about God and His plan to which the critics cannot respond. In Genesis 22:1-2, God had told Abraham to sacrifice the son for whom he had waited so many years, and in Genesis 22:7-11, the Bible says that Abraham was doing everything to obey. At the last moment, though, in Genesis 22:12-14, God stopped him and provided a ram for the sacrifice. In response to God's intervention, Genesis 22:14 says, "So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.'"

The first truth in the above passage is that one of God's names is Yahweh Jireh, and the Hebrew translation for that name is that the Lord will provide. For present-day Christians, Yahweh Jireh tells of One that can be trusted to meet all of a person's needs. God's people do not have to worry about the needs of this life or about eternity because Yahweh Jireh will care for them. The second truth is that Abraham's offering his son presented a perfect picture of God offering His own Son, Jesus, on the cross for the sins of every person. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." The third truth about Genesis 22:1-18 is scientific in nature. While top scientists once thought that the total number of stars was about one thousand, God revealed to Abraham that the stars in the sky were as numerous as the sand on the seashore. Many critics have rejected the Bible as an old, outdated Book, but it has always been ahead of its time and never been shown to have errors.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: May 7, 2009

Title: Isaac was a Type of Christ

Bible Passages: Genesis 22:1-19 and John 3:16

Key Verse: "He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son."

Isaac was the promised son of Abraham and Sarah, and in Genesis 22:1-19, he also became a type of Christ. His parents had waited many years for him to be born, and when he finally was born, the Lord asked Abraham to do the almost inconceivable. Genesis 22:2 says, "Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.'"

Before Jesus became the sin Sacrifice for humanity, the children of Israel regularly offered animals sacrifices for their sins. Normally, the animals were lambs, goats, rams, or doves, but for Abraham and his test, God told him to offer his only son, Isaac. Isaac was not really Abraham's only son because he had already fathered Ishmael. But Isaac was the son that had been promised to Abraham and Sarah, and he was supposed to be the son through whom the Lord would greatly bless Abraham. Through Isaac, Jacob would be born, and through Jacob, the twelve sons were born that would become the patriarchs of the twelve tribes of Israel. Thus, if Abraham did as the Lord was telling him, then the blessing for which he had long waited could have come to an abrupt end. However, if he failed to do what God was telling him, then that could have brought an end to the blessings, too.

So, Abraham believed God and took his son to be offered. By being treated like a sin offering, Isaac was doing what Jesus would do many years later by dying on the cross. Of course, Isaac could not have been the world's savior because he was not the Son of God. But slaying his own son, as God did with His only begotten Son, would have hurt Abraham very much. Fortunately, he did not have to because God provided a suitable animal sacrifice as soon as He saw Abraham's obedience. However, as was shared in John 3:16, God actually did offer Jesus on the cross for the sins of all, and Jesus really died.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Lesson 12: How To Maintain A Stable Family (May 17, 2009)

- I. Handling one's children
- II. The Right of the Firstborn (Deuteronomy 21:15-17)
- III. A Serious Problem between Jacob and Esau (Genesis 27:34-41)
- IV. Judah's Wayward Behavior (Genesis 38:12-26)
- V. Judah's Sacrificial Behavior (Genesis 44:18-34)
- VI. Variations to the Firstborn Rule

Main Focus of this Lesson: Genesis 24:67, Genesis 25:21-28, Genesis 27:34-41, Genesis 32:9-10, Genesis 33:1-4, and Genesis 35:27 teach God's ideal for the family and talk about relationships within the family. Those passages discuss the lives of Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob. Isaac, the son of Abraham, and Rebekah were married, and they had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Both boys were born on the same day, but they were very different in personality and likes and dislikes. Esau was an outdoorsman. Jacob was more quiet and reserved. Esau liked to go hunting, but Jacob usually amused himself closer to home. A problem arose in their family, however, because Isaac preferred Esau and Rebekah preferred Jacob. Their parental favoritism became disruptive to the whole family, and it caused an unhealthy rivalry between the two boys. Genesis 38:12-26 records a mistake by Judah, and Genesis 44:18-34 records something good that he did. In Genesis 48:12-22, Jacob, whose name God had changed to Israel, gave the firstborn blessing to Joseph's younger son, Ephraim, instead of to the older. In Genesis 49:1-12, he put the blessing of the scepter on his fourth born son, Judah, and Judah became the direct ancestor of Jesus. In Deuteronomy 21:15-17, Moses indicated that the firstborn son was to receive a double portion of his father's inheritance because he was the symbol of his father's strength.

Related Passages: Genesis 24:67, Genesis 25:21-28, Genesis 27:27-41, Genesis 32:9-10, Genesis 33:1-4, Genesis 34:13-31, Genesis 35:27, Genesis 38:12-26, Genesis 44:18-34, Genesis 48:12-22, Genesis 49:1-12, and Deuteronomy 21:15-17

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday: Genesis 24:67, Genesis 25:21-28, and Genesis 27:27-41
Tuesday: Genesis 32:9-10 and Genesis 33:1-4

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Wednesday: Genesis 34:13-31 and Genesis 35:27

Thursday: Genesis 38:12-26, Genesis 44:18-34, and Genesis 48:12-22

Friday: Genesis 49:1-12 and Deuteronomy 21:15-17

Study questions:

1. What was the Jewish rule concerning an inheritance for the firstborn son?
2. What kind of parents were Isaac and Rebekah?
3. Why did Jacob and Esau become enemies? What do Malachi 1:3 and Romans 9:13 mean when they say that God loved Israel and hated Esau?
4. What kind of parent was Jacob? What did he do to turn his sons against Joseph? What did Judah do to try to make things right for his father?
5. How did Rebekah break the rule of the firstborn? How did Jacob break the rule of the firstborn? How did Joseph break the rule of the firstborn? Who benefited from each occasion?
6. How can parents keep harmony within their families and among their children?

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: May 12, 2009

Title: Judah Became the Direct Ancestor of Jesus

Bible Passage: Genesis 49:1-12, Deuteronomy 21:15-17, Genesis 27:27-29, Genesis 48:12-22, Genesis 34:13-31, Genesis 38:12-26, and Genesis 44:18-34

Key Verse: "The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his."

In the Bible, things are not always as they seem that they should be, but they are always as God, in His sovereignty, would have them be. For example, in Deuteronomy 21:15-17, Moses indicated that the firstborn son was to receive a double portion of his father's inheritance because he was the symbol of his father's strength. But several times in the Book of Genesis, the firstborn son did not receive the father's blessing of the double portion. In Genesis 27:27-29, the younger brother, Jacob, received the blessing that had been intended for his old brother, Esau. In Genesis 48:12-22, their grandfather, Jacob, whose name God had changed to Israel, gave the firstborn blessing to the younger brother, Ephraim, instead of to the older brother, Manasseh. In Genesis 49:1-12, Jacob put the blessing of the scepter on his fourth born son, Judah, and Judah became the direct ancestor of Jesus.

Concerning the decision about Jacob and Esau, there was not a decision because Jacob had deceitfully cheated his older brother out of the blessings of the firstborn. Concerning the decision about Ephraim and Manasseh, Jacob did not explain why he had put the younger brother ahead of the older. But concerning the decision about Judah, the Bible is clear in that each of Judah's three older brothers had shown themselves unworthy to be the direct ancestor of the Lord. In Genesis 49:3-4, Reuben had defiled himself with one of his father's wives. In Genesis 34:13-31, Simeon and Levi had deceitfully dealt with Hamor and his son, Shekem. Concerning Judah, he did stumble in Genesis 38:12-26 but later repented and did the right thing, and in Genesis 44:18-34, he bravely offered himself to protect his younger brother. He was not perfect. But in several instances, Judah showed high integrity and a desire to do the right thing, and those are two examples that all Christians can follow.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: May 14, 2009

Title: How To Maintain A Stable Family

Bible Passages: Genesis 24:67, Genesis 25:21-28, Genesis 27:34-41, Genesis 32:9-10, Genesis 33:1-4, and Genesis 35:27

Key Verse: "Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with his four hundred men; so he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two maidservants."

Genesis 24:67, Genesis 25:21-28, Genesis 27:34-41, Genesis 32:9-10, Genesis 33:1-4, and Genesis 35:27 teach God's ideal for the family and talk about relationships within the family. Those passages discuss the lives of Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob. Isaac, the son of Abraham, and Rebekah were married, and they had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Both boys were born on the same day, but they were very different in personality and likes and dislikes. Esau was an outdoorsman. Jacob was more quiet and reserved. Esau liked to go hunting, but Jacob usually amused himself closer to home. A problem arose in their family, however, because Isaac preferred Esau and Rebekah preferred Jacob. Their parental favoritism became disruptive to the whole family, and it caused an unhealthy rivalry between the two boys.

Eventually, the boys grew into men, and their rivalry reached a climax. When Isaac was nearing the end of his life, he called his son, Esau, before him to receive the blessing of the elder son. However, Jacob deceived his father and his brother, pretended to be Esau, and stole his brother's blessing. The incident, which had been totally orchestrated by Rebekah, split their family. Isaac and Esau were very upset over what had happened, Esau wanted to kill his brother, Jacob had to flee for his life, and Jacob did not see his father again until much later in his life. What had begun innocently when the boys were young grew into something bad and destructive as they got older. Eventually, Jacob did return home and make peace with his brother, but many good years had been lost while they were at odds. When parents show favoritism among their children, they are inviting trouble. When awkward situations arise in families, they need to be handled quickly before they get out of hand. Life is very difficult, so God has given families to help people through.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Lesson 13: Joseph Saved his People (May 24, 2009)

- I. Critiquing Jacob as a Father
- II. Critiquing the Youthful Joseph (Genesis 37:1-36)
- III. Critiquing Joseph's Brothers (Genesis 37:1-36 and Genesis 45:1-7)
- IV. The Lord's Use of Esther (Esther 7:1-10)
- V. Seeing How the Lord is always near those that Trust Him

Main Focus of this Lesson: In many ways, Jacob was not a very good husband or father. He was married to Leah and Rachel, but he had always preferred Rachel to Leah. When Rachel gave him two sons, named Joseph and Benjamin, it was as though the six sons that he had had with Leah and the four sons that he had had with their two concubines did not exist. In Genesis 37:1-36, Joseph did not help the situation. In his youthful arrogance, he told his brothers about a couple of dreams that he had had. In the first dream, his brothers and he were binding sheaves of grain, and suddenly, their sheaves bowed down to his. In the second dream, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing to him. Both of his dreams suggested that his whole family would someday bow to him, and that inference infuriated his brothers. On one occasion, Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many colors, and the brothers used that coat in a plot to get rid of Joseph. They threw him into a cistern and then sold him to a band of Midianite merchants traveling to Egypt. The brothers returned the coat to their father and made it look like wild animals had killed Joseph. Jacob was devastated, but God used that whole scenario to provide for His people in the midst of a terrible famine. While in Egypt, Joseph was put into prison for a crime that he did not commit, but he was later removed and placed in a position of very high authority. As a principle leader in Egypt, he was able to prepare for the famine before it occurred. A short while later, in Genesis 45:1-7, his brothers came to him for food and, without their even knowing his identity, bowed to him to make their request. God, who does not always seem close, had worked in Joseph's life and had used him to save the world from the famine. The Lord is always close by to help those that trust fully in Him. In Esther 7:1-10, the Lord again worked in a background mode to protect His people from imminent doom.

Related Passages: Genesis 37:1-36, Genesis 45:1-7, and Esther 7:1-10

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	Genesis 37:1-12
Tuesday:	Genesis 37:13-24
Wednesday:	Genesis 37:25-36
Thursday:	Genesis 45:1-7
Friday:	Esther 7:1-10

Study questions:

1. Why did Jacob show so much favoritism to Joseph?
2. Was Jacob a good father? Had he been a good brother to Esau?
3. Why did the Lord choose to use Jacob and Joseph when they both had so many obvious character flaws? How did the Lord humble Joseph?
4. In examining Jacob and his sons, how did the Lord deal with them as a Father rather than as a super Cop?
5. How did the Lord use Esther to save His people?
6. When he was given the opportunity, what important economic principle did Joseph use to ensure that the known world would not be wiped out by the approaching famine? What can we learn from that.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: May 19, 2009

Title: Joseph had a Coat of Many Colors

Bible Passages: Genesis 37:1-36

Key Verse: "Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him."

In many ways, Jacob was not a very good husband or a very good father. His father-in-law, Laban, had tricked him into marrying Leah, Laban's older daughter, when he had really wanted to marry Rachel, the younger daughter. So, he worked out a deal with Laban so that he could also marry Rachel, and once he had done that, he did not care so much for Leah. His feelings for her did not grow through the years, and after they had been married for a while, he still loved Rachel much more.

Problems arose because Leah gave Jacob six sons and a daughter while Rachel had not been able to give him any children. Finally, she bore him two sons, Joseph and Benjamin, and then, the problems grew even worse. Jacob had preferred Rachel to Leah from the beginning, and once Joseph was born, it was almost as though the other children did not exist. Joseph was Jacob's favorite, and he did not try to hide that fact from the others. Meanwhile, in Genesis 37:1-36, Joseph did not help the situation. In his youthful arrogance, he told his brothers about a couple of dreams that he had had. In the first dream, his brothers and he were binding sheaves of grain, and suddenly, their sheaves bowed down to his sheave. In the second dream, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to him.

Both of his dreams suggested that his whole family would someday bow down to him, and that infuriated his brothers. Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many colors, and the brothers used the coat in a plot to get rid of Joseph. They threw him into a cistern, and then, they sold him to a band of Midianite merchants that were traveling to Egypt. They returned the coat to their father and made it look like wild animals had killed Joseph. Jacob was devastated, but God used that whole scenario to provide for His people in the midst of a terrible famine.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Thursday: May 21, 2009

Title: Joseph Saved his People

Bible Passages: Genesis 45:1-7, Esther 7:1-10, Genesis 37:3, and Genesis 37:23-24

Key Verse: "But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance."

God does not always do things in obvious ways in peoples' lives, but He is always around watching over them. In the Book of Esther, His name was not mentioned anywhere in the Book, but in Esther 7:1-10, He was obviously watching over His people. He used Esther as the queen of the Mede-Persian Kingdom and a seemingly forgotten event, where Esther's cousin, Mordecai, had kept the king from being overthrown, to protect His people from certain doom. During the times of Jacob and his twelve sons, the land was suffering from a severe famine, and it looked as if everyone could or would perish. But once again, the Lord had already taken steps to protect the people of the known world by using an event that had initially been intended for evil.

As a young man, Jacob's eleventh son, Joseph, had been very arrogant. Based on a dream that he had once had, he told his older brothers that they would someday bow to him. He even said that his father would someday bow to him, too. Then, in addition to his being so arrogant, the situation was made even worse because Jacob openly preferred Joseph to his brothers. In Genesis 37:3, he gave his son a coat of many colors, and Joseph's brothers became so angry that they conspired against him. While in the field one day, in Genesis 37:23-24, they threw him into a cistern and left him for dead. But God, who knows the beginning from the end and who was overseeing everything, saw that he was removed from the cistern and carried to Egypt. While in that foreign land, he was put into prison for a crime that he did not do, but he was, then, removed from prison and placed into a position of high authority. As a leader in Egypt, Joseph was able to prepare for the famine before it ever occurred. A short while later, his brothers came to him to ask for food, and without their even knowing his identity, they bowed to him to make their request. God, who does not always seem close, had worked in Joseph's life and used him to save the world from the famine. He is always near to help those that trust in Him.

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Lesson 14: Joseph was a Type of Christ (May 31, 2009)

- I. God Often Intervenes in Peoples' Lives
- II. Joseph Was Betrayed By His Enemies
- III. Joseph Did What the Lord Wanted Him to Do
- IV. Joseph Did For Others What They Could Not Do For Themselves
- V. Joseph Was a Type of Christ

Main Focus of this Lesson: The Bible shares many instances where God intervened into the normal activities of human beings in order to bring His plan to pass. Three such occasions were in the lives of King Abimelech, Joseph, and Job. In Genesis 20:3, God came to Abimelech in a dream and warned him to stay away from Abraham's wife. In Genesis 45:1-7, Joseph shared with his brothers that their evilness towards him had been turned into good for all of Israel. In that instance, the Lord had allowed a particular evil to go in a special direction so that He could work it for good according to His plan. Finally, in the case of Job, in Job 1:12 and Job 2:6, God placed boundaries on the devil so that His plan for Job's life would still be accomplished, despite the hindrances of the devil. The Lord had His hand on Joseph because Joseph was a type of Jesus. In Genesis 45:8, when speaking to his brothers, Joseph said, "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt." Joseph matured a lot while in Egypt, and he could see the Lord's hand in what had happened to him. In Jesus' case, He, too, was doing what His Father wanted Him to do, and He was obedient even unto death on the cross. The second way that Joseph was like Jesus was that his enemies had betrayed him and sold him into slavery. In like manner, Jesus was sold to His enemies for thirty pieces of silver. The third way that Joseph was like Jesus was that he did for others what they could not do for themselves. He was put in charge of Pharaoh's household, and the Lord gave him the wisdom to prepare for the coming famine. Similarly, Jesus did for others what they could not do for themselves by becoming their sacrificial Lamb of God.

Related Passages: Genesis 20:3, Genesis 45:1-15, Job 1:12, Job 2:6, Romans 5:6-8, and I Peter 1:18-21

Five Day Recommended Reading:

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Monday: Genesis 20:1-3 and Genesis 45:1-15
Tuesday: Job 1:1-12
Wednesday: Job 2:1-6
Thursday: Romans 5:6-8
Friday: I Peter 1:18-21

Study questions:

1. How did the Lord protect Abraham and Abimilech in Genesis 20:3? How did He protect Job in Job 1:1-12 and Job 2:1-6? How and why did He protect Joseph in Egypt?
2. How was Joseph betrayed by his enemies? Who were his enemies? How does this compare to Jesus?
3. What did the Lord want Joseph to do? Was Joseph faithful? How does this compare to Jesus?
4. In what other ways did Joseph compare to Jesus?
5. What very important way does Joseph NOT compare to Jesus?

The Book of Genesis Lesson Plans

Daily Devotion for Tuesday: May 26, 2009

Title: Joseph was a Type of Christ

Bible Passages: Genesis 45:1-15, Romans 5:6-8, and I Peter 1:18-21

Key Verse: "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt."

Joseph, the son of Jacob and Rachel, was a type of Jesus in three ways, but he was unlike the Lord in one very important way. In Genesis 45:1-15, he had risen to an important position within the Egyptian Government, and he was literally overseeing the providing of food and nourishment to the people during a bad famine. But his rise to that rank had not been part of his plan. Instead, it had been part of the Lord's plan from the beginning.

Thus, the first way that he was like Jesus was that both were doing what God the Father wanted them to do. In Genesis 45:8, when speaking to his brothers, Joseph said, "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt." Joseph matured a lot while in Egypt, and he could see the Lord's hand in what had happened to him. In Jesus' case, He, too, was doing what His Father wanted Him to do, and He was obedient even unto death on the cross. The second way that Joseph was like Jesus was that his enemies had betrayed him and sold him into slavery. In like manner, Jesus was sold to His enemies for thirty pieces of silver. The third way that Joseph was like Jesus was that he did for others what they could not do for themselves. He was put in charge of Pharaoh's household, and the Lord gave him the wisdom to prepare for the coming famine. Similarly, Jesus did for others what they could not do for themselves by becoming their sacrificial Lamb of God.

The important difference between the two can be seen in Romans 5:6-8 and I Peter 1:18-21, and it is that Jesus voluntarily offered Himself as humanity's sin Sacrifice. He could have avoided the cross or even come down from the cross if He had so chosen. But unlike Joseph, He chose from the beginning of time to suffer His ordeal and to die for sinners so that they can be saved.

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Daily Devotion for Thursday: May 28, 2009

Title: God's Governing Activity

Bible Passages: Genesis 20:3, Genesis 45:1-7, Job 1:12, and Job 2:6

Key Verse: "The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD."

God is actively involved in preserving His Creation and in overseeing the works of His Creation, and those two activities combine together under the heading of providence. Through providence, He maintains the existence of His Creation, and He constantly oversees the intimate details of each person's life. How does God govern in the affairs of His people? At times, He performs miraculous or supernatural feats. When necessary, He is able to counter the natural laws of the universe and do things supernaturally. God is also the monotheistic Creator, and He does not have to battle any other eternal forces to have His way or to see His plan come to pass.

The Bible shares many instances where God intervened into the normal activities of human beings in order to bring His plan to pass. Three such occasions were in the lives of King Abimelech, Joseph, and Job. In Genesis 20:3, God came to Abimelech in a dream and warned him to stay away from Abraham's wife. In that instance, the Lord was literally holding Abimelech back from a potentially serious sin. Abraham had told the king a lie, and the king had already approached Abraham's wife, thinking that she was really Abraham's sister. In Genesis 45:1-7, Joseph shared with his brothers that their evilness towards him had been turned into good for all of Israel. In that instance, God had allowed a particular evil to go in a special direction so that He could work it for good according to His plan. Finally, in the case of Job, in Job 1:12 and Job 2:6, God placed boundaries on the devil so that His plan for Job's life would still be accomplished, despite the hindrances of the devil.

God has a plan for each person, and short of the individual's free will, nothing in this world will keep Him from accomplishing that purpose. The task for each individual is to surrender himself or herself to the Lord and to His plan.

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The End

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