



GENESIS

PART 2

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Tips for Studying the Bible

Read the entire passage a few times before starting.

Read it in another translation, too. If you usually read out of ESV, try reading a different version, like NASB or NIV.

Use these three steps when studying the Bible:

Step 1: Observation—What does this passage say?

Step 2: Interpretation—What does this passage mean?

Step 3: Application—What am I going to do about what this passage says?

We have left a small section at the beginning of each week for notes. Before answering any questions, take time to mark your observations, interpretations, and applications for the chapter.

Observation	What does the text say? What does the text say about God? About me? About the world? Who is it written to? What are the verbs/actions? What are some cause and effect relationships? What are some repeating words/phrases? Who is speaking? What is being said? Where is this happening—in what context?
Interpretation	What does the text mean? What is the historical/cultural background? Look up specific words/definitions. Ask the “why” questions. Why is this instruction being given?
Application	How does this apply to my life? Are there specific commands to obey? How does this relate to my circumstance? Is there an example to follow? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a call to action?

***NOTE: Interpretation is finding out what the text means, NOT what it means to you.**

There is only one meaning to the text. It can have a personal application for you, but its meaning is consistent. Before we can understand how it applies for us today, we must first understand what it meant in its original context.

Pray

Pray that God would give you wisdom and insight, and courage to obey what the text says.

Intro: Genesis 1-11

History

The book of Genesis is a book about beginnings. Written by Moses, along with the other books of the Torah, it records the events that took place in both the beginning of creation of the world, as well as the beginning of the creation of the nation of Israel. It is divided into two parts:

Part 1: Genesis 1-11 is known as the “planks.” These planks are the foundation for all of which our faith is built upon. It consists of the creation of the heavens and earth, the creation of man, sin, redemption, generations, judgment, nations, races, and civilizations.

Part 2: Genesis 12-50 is known as the “patriarchs.” This part tells the story of the fathers of our faith, the beginning of the nation of Israel. It is the story of the calling of Abraham that sets apart a nation and points us to Jesus.

Review

Prior to starting Genesis: Part 2, go back and review Genesis: Part 1 (Planks). Fill in the chart below with a word or short phrase to summarize the first 11 chapters of Genesis.

Genesis 1	
Genesis 2	
Genesis 3	
Genesis 4	
Genesis 5	
Genesis 6	
Genesis 7	
Genesis 8	
Genesis 9	
Genesis 10	
Genesis 11	

Notes

Week 1: Genesis 12-15

Go Risk Trust

These words encapsulate the life of Abraham (whose name God changed from Abram), the patriarch of our faith, the father of the nation of Israel.

The Lord called him to GO to a land that He would reveal as Abraham was going. He asked him to risk all that he had—comfort, shelter, relationships—all that was known for the unknown. Yahweh asked him to trust that He had a plan, a place, a purpose, and a blessing for him.

Abraham responded with faith and obedience, struggle and confusion, courage and hope. Abraham did not wait for God to reveal every detail of the promise. Abraham did not *wait to see* before he would *move*. He did not wait to *know* before he would *believe*; he responded to the call by *going*.

Faith and action
Courage and confusion
Trust and obedience

God called him to “go,” and he went.

It was from Abraham’s first steps that we see the path to Christ today. His obedience was the beginning of a nation that would be set apart by God as something different, something holy, and something we as the church would be grafted into.

Abraham walked into the unknown by trusting God at His word.

Day 1: Genesis 12:1-3

1. Read Genesis 12. Record at least five observations below (see page 3 for “observation”).

*Examples – God's first command to Abram is “go”
God repeatedly says, “I will...”*

2a. List the things God was asking Abraham to leave behind according Genesis 12:1.

2b. What were the things God was promising in return according to verses 1-3?

2c. What was Abraham's response to the call according to verse 4?

3. Share about a time God called you to something in which you didn't have all of the details figured out. How did your response compare/contrast to Abraham's?

4a. Abraham trusted God at His word, God told him to go, and he went. Notice, it wasn't in himself that Abraham was trusting. Who was promising all of the things?

1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you; **2** and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; **3** and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

4b. What phrase is repeated in these verses? _____

The reason Abraham responds with obedience is not because he believes in himself or knows all of the details that are about to happen. He responds with trust because God will show him the path and God will bring forth all of these promises. We can trust God’s call on our life because we can trust Him to bring about His plan and His purposes.

5a. Do you struggle with worry or control? In what ways?

5b. How can you grow to be more like Abraham in response to God’s call to the unknown? How do Jesus’ words in Matthew 6:25-34 help in our response?

Day 2: Genesis 12:4-19

6. List the people that went with Abraham below.

What was the progression of where they traveled in verses 12:4-10? List the places they went, from starting place to ending place.

7. In your own words, summarize what happened in 12:11-19.

Genesis 12 records two ways God tested Abraham's faith. Test #1 from God to Abraham was "go." God called and asked Abraham to go.

8a. Test #2 from God was "trust." According to verses 12:11-19, did Abraham pass the test of trusting God?

8b. What sin caused him not to trust God in these passages?

Fear can be crippling. It's in fear that we tend to become paralyzed or full of doubt. Fear of man can be one of the primary reasons we don't move forward in obedience to God.

9. In what ways do you struggle with fear? Or fear of man (aka, people-pleasing)?

10. What truth from God's Word can you preach to yourself to replace fear and move forward in obedience? Write the scripture below:

Day 3: Genesis 13 and 14

11. Read Genesis 13 and record observations below.

12. What was the conflict in 13:6-7? What was the resolution according to 13:8-11?

Problem (13:6-7)	Resolution (13:8-11)

13. What two factors determined the land Lot chose (13:10-11)? Fill in the spaces below:

10 Lot _____, that it was well watered everywhere—*this was* before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar. **11** So Lot _____ all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.

14. Write out what you know about the land Lot chose (Sodom).

As we study Lot's life, we will see in just a few chapters how his greed and lust for more will lead him right up to the edge of sin and destruction. Greed is subtle, and starts in the heart (see Matthew 6:21).

15. In what ways do you struggle with greed? In what areas of your life are you striving for "more," instead of being content?

16. How can you begin to let God change your heart to become more sacrificially generous with your time, talents, and treasures?

17. What does the Lord tell Abram in verses 14-17?

18a. Read Genesis 14. According to verse 14:12, who was living in Sodom and taken captive from enemy armies?

18b. Why is this significant?

18c. What type of people live in Sodom? (Reread Genesis 13:13).

18d. What does this teach us about Lot and the desires of his heart?

19. According to verses 14:13-16, what was Abram's response to the news that his nephew had been taken?

20. Read Genesis 14:17-24. Compare and contrast the response to the king and the response of Abraham after the war is over.

King of Sodom	Abram

20b. What does Abram's response tell you about his character?

Digging Deeper: What new character shows up in Genesis 14:18?

Who was Melchizedek? (For more information on Melchizedek, read Psalm 110, Hebrews 5:1-11, 6:13-7:28.)

What is his relationship to Jesus?

Day 4: Genesis 15

21. Read Genesis 15. Write out what the Lord told Abram in 15:1:

Do not fear. The Lord will call us to a life of risk, a life of trust, and a life of faith. When things are hard or we don't understand our circumstances, our default posture of heart will be fear.

22a. What ways are you walking in fear right now?

22b. How does God comfort Abram during a time of fear? What does He remind Him of in this verse?

“I am a _____ . Your _____ shall be great.”

23a. The way to fight fear is to rest in God’s character. Knowing who God is helps us to trust Him in the hardest places of our lives. List out what you know about God’s character:

23b. How could remembering these specific details about God’s character change the way you currently face the fears you mentioned in 22a?

24a. Why was Abram discouraged in verses 15:3-4?

24b. What did God remind Him of in verse 15:5?

25a. Write out verse 15:6.

25b. What did Abram do *prior* to being counted righteous?

Abram believes in what He has not seen, and is counted righteous. God not only comforts Abram with a reminder of who He is (our shield), but of what He promised: “Your reward will be great.” When we anchor deeply into who God is and keep our eyes on the promise of our reward in heaven, our faith becomes greater than our fear. Notice, God did not reveal the details of the plan. God did not change His circumstance so He was no longer afraid, but God did remind Him of who He is and what is coming in the future.

26. List some of the things God has promised you in Christ that you can call to mind when battling fear.

27. What is spoken to Abram in verses 15:12-16?

28a. What two things appeared in verse 15:17?

28b. What was the result? “On that day the Lord made a _____ with Abram.”

29. Write the definition of *covenant* below (use a Bible dictionary, commentary, or information from last semester).

Covenant:

30. List the things promised to Abram according to the covenant made in Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 15:

31. According to Hebrews 7:22, “Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.” In Christ Jesus, we are promised the New Covenant, which is prophesied about in Jeremiah 31:31-33 and fulfilled through Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Read Jeremiah 31:31-33 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. What do these passages teach us about the New Covenant?

Not only is Jesus the better covenant, He is the promise that is referenced here regarding the “seed” to Abraham. Jesus is the fulfilled promise from Genesis 3:15 and Genesis 15.

32a. Read Galatians 3. What correlation do you find between Abraham and Jesus?

32b. How does Jesus fulfill the promise to Abraham?

This is the Good News, the Gospel...that Jesus is the “seed” promised in Genesis 15 and Genesis 3:15, the seed that has crushed the serpent’s head and the seed coming from a line of descendants of Abraham. He has conquered sin, Satan, and death, and promised us forgiveness, freedom, and new life. Jesus was the plan from the very beginning and Abraham’s faith, trust, and obedience are a part of this plan. Abraham can’t see into the future, but believes it will happen one day, and that’s what makes him righteous before the Lord.

As we close this week’s study, we leave at the point in the story when Abram is filled with fear, doubt, confusion, and terror, and sees no evidence of God’s fulfilled promises to Him. God responds with a reminder of who He is and what He’s promised. God has yet to bless Abram with descendants or let him inhabit the land, but strengthens him with a covenant that God will do what He says He’ll do.

33. Share about a time God met you in a time of fear, doubt or confusion:

34. Summarize this week's study in a few sentences below.

35a. What was challenging for you this week?

35b. What was encouraging from this week's study?

36. How will you live differently in light of what you learned this week?

Write out a closing prayer after spending time studying this week.

Notes

Week 2: Genesis 16-20

From hearing God's voice to go...to wondering if God even hears. This week, we'll see a reminder of the covenant given to Abram, doubt and wondering if what was promised will ever be fulfilled, a God who sees, and a God who hears. These chapters are a reminder that God is faithful to fulfill His promises, in His way, and in His timing.

Day 1: Genesis 16

1. Review notes and lessons from last week. Share the two most impactful verses or lessons from Week One's study below:

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2. Read Genesis 16. Record 3-5 observations below.

3a. At this point in the story, what has God promised Abraham prior to Genesis 16? (Hint: Genesis 12:1-3)

3b. What is the problem Abram and Sarai are facing?

4a. How much time has passed between God's promise to Abram and Sarai's plan in verses 16:1-4?

4b. How does Sarai suggest they help the Lord in fulfilling God's promise to them?

This is a lesson of “taking matters into your own hands.” While it was customary in biblical times to give your maidservant to your husband to conceive children, it was not what the Lord had commanded. There was also a significant amount of time that had passed, and while they believed the promise to be true, Sarai’s faith had waned.

5. Have you experienced a season of waiting on the Lord? What are some ways you grew discouraged in the wait? Share below.

It’s in our waiting that we are most tempted to despair, lose hope, and take matters into our own hands.

6. What were the relational ramifications of Sarai’s plan?

Sarai & Abram

Sarai & Hagar

7. What is the lesson here for us in Sarai’s response and plan to move forward apart from God?

8a. List some of the ways God responds to Hagar after He finds her in the desert.

8b. What does this reveal about His character?

9. Verse 13: *El Roi* means the God who _____. It is here that Hagar, after being told as a maidservant to help Sarai bear children, is now cast out into the desert, alone and mistreated. Yet God goes to her and sees her. Often in our pain, we feel isolated, unknown, and unseen.

10. Is there something in your life that currently makes you feel unknown, isolated, or unseen?

11a. List the ways knowing El Roi, the God who sees, brings you comfort in your pain.

11b. How can you take steps to respond to God in your pain? Who can you let into your life to walk with through your suffering?

Digging Deeper: The Roots of Islam

There are some significant places and names given in this passage, both of which relate to the origins of the religion of Islam. According to Islamic doctrine, Ishmael is believed to be the true promised son of Abram and therefore, Islam is the true religion of the world. Muslims believe it was Ishmael who was to receive the blessing from God and Abram, not Isaac. Muhammad was the prophet who dictated the Qur'an, however, according to Islamic belief, it originated in Mecca (Medina) in this part of the story of Genesis.

Genesis 16:7 says of Hagar, "Now the angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur." This well still exists today, in Mecca. Part of the pilgrimage for Muslims is to visit this well, known as the Zamzam well in Saudi Arabia. Unlike the Judeo-Christian belief that Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac are the chosen ones of God, Islamic doctrine teaches it is Abraham, Hagar, and Ishmael.

What do we learn about Ishmael according to Genesis 16:11-12?

What is the meaning of the name Ishmael?

How does knowing Ishmael and the roots of Islam help you better understand the tension between Muslims, Jews, and Christians today? How does it help you understand the war over the land of Israel today?

Day 2: Genesis 17

12. Read Genesis 17:1-2 and fill in the blanks below:

“1 ____ am God Almighty; Walk before _____, and be blameless. 2 “_____ will establish _____ covenant between _____ and you, And _____ will multiply you exceedingly.” (ESV)

13. According to the verses above, who does all of the work in this covenant? Why is this significant?

14a. Summarize verses 4-21 below:

What covenant is made?	What will God do?	What is Abraham instructed to do?

14b. What change happens in verses 5 and 15 to Abram and Sarai? Why is this significant?

15. Can you think of others in Scripture who are given new names by God?

16. While we may not have been given new names by God, we have certainly been given a new identity in Christ. Read Galatians 2:20, 1 Peter 2:9, and 2 Corinthians 5:17. What does it mean to be given a new identity in Christ?

17. What is promised to Abraham in 17:16? What is his response in 17:17?

18. Why would he respond with laughter?

Day 3: Genesis 18

Read Genesis 18.

19. What does Sarah overhear in verse 18:10? What is her response in verses 18:12-15?

20a. What was different about God's response to Sarah's laughter (18:13-15)?

20b. What might be the reason she laughed? (Hint: What does the Lord ask her in 18:14?)

Doubt. While we may not laugh out loud as Sarah did, we laugh and doubt on the inside. Is God really who He says He is? Can He really do what He says He can do? Is God really *good*? Is He really good to *me*?

21a. In what ways do you struggle with doubt?

21b. How does God respond again to doubt? Write the first part of 18:14 below.

22. God always takes us back to His character and His power. In what ways can you remember God's character and power in times of doubt?

Read Genesis 18:16-38.

23a. After finishing his conversation with Abraham and Sarah, to whom/where does the Lord turn His attention according to verses 20-21?

23b. What did we already learn about Sodom from Genesis 13:13?

24a. What can we learn about God from the conversation He has with Abraham in 18:22-33?

24b. What is the key question Abraham has for the Lord regarding Sodom in verse 23?

24c. How does this question still get asked today? As Christians, what is our response to it? How does the truth in the good news of the Gospel of Christ answer that very question?

Day 4: Genesis 19

25. Read 19:1. Where was Lot?

The city gate was the prominent place for a man in the city. It meant he was well-known and respected, a man of influence and power in the city. And here was Lot, not near the city, not just *in* the city, but at the city gate. What does this say about Lot and his character?

Genesis 19 can be challenging to read and study because it contains much evil and depravity. Yet God chose to record it in the canon of Scripture for us to read through the ages.

26. Read Genesis 19. What does this chapter teach about?

The Depravity of Mankind:

The Justice of God:

The Seriousness of Sin:

The Mercy of God:

Again, like with Noah, God waits until just one righteous family remains and then judges the city with destruction. The reality is, we don't like to think or talk about a God of justice, a God who will punish sin and bring about judgment, yet it is just as true as His attribute of being compassionate, loving, and kind.

27a. What stirs in you when you think about God as judge?

27b. God is both merciful and just. How does understanding these two aspects of God's character change your view about sin? About God?

28a. Read Genesis 19:26. What does Lot's wife do in that verse?

28b. Why is that significant?

Jesus references this story in Luke 17:28-33 regarding His second coming. Verse 17:32 says, “Remember Lot’s wife.” Lot’s wife looking back must have been significant if Jesus mentions it again during the time of destruction. This look back was far more than curiosity about what was happening; it revealed a divided heart.

There is a mountain of salt in Israel to this day that is called “Lots’ wife.” In fact, it’s common for Hebrew fathers to bring their sons to that mountain and have them lick it as a tasteful illustration on having a divided heart. We can’t have one foot in Sodom and Gomorrah and another in God’s kingdom, looking back at sin and craving our old ways, while trying to flee. It will lead to our destruction. While we certainly are called to be light to those around us and love others, there is a difference between engaging culture, being like the culture, and compromising.

Take some time to really search your heart, and ask God to reveal to you where you’re looking to find satisfaction outside of God. Sin is finding our identity, comfort, or satisfaction in anything outside of God. This may mean drugs and alcohol, sexual immorality, materialism, body image, reputation, busyness, achievement, approval of others, etc. We keep one foot in the world, looking back at many different things.

29. What ways are you like Lot’s wife, looking back on your old life of sin with desire, rather than fleeing to God and the promise of new life?

30. Write out ways you can flee sin or stop finding satisfaction outside of God below. Write a prayer of confession and commitment below.

Day 5: Genesis 20

Read Genesis 20.

31a. Abraham's faith is tested again in verses 1-3. Does Abraham respond to the test faithfully?

31b. What does Abraham do regarding Sarah when confronted by Abimelech in verse 2?

32. How does God fix what Abraham did in this chapter?

What does Abraham do in verse 2?	How does God respond? (v.3-7)	How does Abimelech respond? (v.8-16)

33. In this chapter, we see Sarah passed around like a piece of property. In prior chapters, we see women handed over for bearing children (Hagar) and daughters offered to ravenous men for sexually explicit acts (Lot's daughters). What do the chapters we studied this week show us regarding cultural attitudes towards women?

34a. How is this different from how God sees women? Use Genesis 1:26-28 and Proverbs 31:10-31 as a reference.

34b. Women are valued, treasured, and created with dignity according to God. In what ways do you preach this to yourself as a reminder that you, too are created in the image of God, fearfully and wonderfully made?

Review

35. Summarize this week's study in a few sentences below.

36a. What was challenging for you this week?

36b. What was encouraging from this week's study?

37. How will you live differently in light of what you learned this week?

We started this week with a reminder of the promise that God will bless Abraham with descendants, and we end this week's study with this verse:

For the Lord had closed fast all the wombs of the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife (Genesis 20:18).

So it is in life. We long for something that is coming, something we have yet to see with our own eyes, but believe to be true, and we wait. We believe the promise, and we wait on its fulfillment. Next week...we see this unfold.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).

Write out a closing prayer after spending time studying this week.

Notes

Week 3: Genesis 21-26

A fulfilled promise, a continued lineage—descendants are born and the story continues. This week we see God fulfill His promise to Sarah, the result of strife between siblings, death of a matriarch, and hope from a marriage. The promise to Abraham of land, seed, and blessing is becoming more realized in these chapters, recorded to increase our faith and our hope in the unseen God.

Day 1: Genesis 21

1. Review notes and lessons from last week. Share the two most impactful verses or lessons from Week Two's study below:

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Read Genesis 21:1-8.

- 2a. What was fulfilled in the beginning of this chapter?
- 2b. Why did Abraham circumcise Isaac in 21:4? (Hint: Go back to 17:7-14.)
3. How has God surprised you with timing on something you'd been praying for or waiting for? Share your experience below.

Read Genesis 21:9-20

4. What story does this parallel from earlier in Genesis?

5a. Again, what is the result of the relationship between Sarah, Hagar, and Ishmael after Sarah's plan?

5b. Share about a time you acted on your own instead of waiting on the Lord. What were the results of that decision?

6. Who intervenes for Hagar? Write what you know about the "angel of the Lord."

7. Compare and contrast the ways God comforts Hagar in Genesis 16 to Genesis 21.

8. List the significant things that took place in 21:22-34 below.

Day 2: Genesis 22 and 23

The promise is fulfilled, the birth of Isaac occurs, and now the Lord leads Abraham into the most confusing place.

9. Read Genesis 22 and record your observations below.

10a. What is the Lord asking Abraham to do in this chapter?

10b. What do you think is going through Abraham's mind during this time?

10c. What do you think is going through Isaac's mind during this time?

11. What does this story show about Abraham's obedience and trust in God's word, even when He does not understand what is happening?

Trusting God's call on your life means obeying and taking next steps, even when you can't see the end result. This passage is showing us that if we truly believe, our life will not need to make complete sense before we obey. We may not see the end of the story, until we take step after step. It's not our job to have it all figured out, but to trust the One who does, and follow Him.

12. This story is not teaching us that God condones child sacrifice; it is pointing us to a greater sacrifice. What sacrifice is this pointing us to?

13a. According to 22:13, what does God provide as a sacrifice?

The perfect sacrificial lamb will come, and this story points us to a sacrifice of another Son, the promised One who is to come: Jesus. In Christ, He provides the ultimate sacrificial lamb.

13b. What does it mean that Jesus is the sacrificial lamb? (See John 1:29 and 1 Peter 1:18-21.) Write our a prayer of praise and thanksgiving in response to God's provision in Jesus.

14. Read Genesis 23. Fill in the chart below.

Who are the significant characters in this chapter?	
What are the significant events that happen?	
Where do these events happen?	
When do these events happen?	
Why did these happen?	

It is said of verse 23:20 that Abraham's purchase of the field and cave meant his descendants would own this land in perpetuity. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Rebekah, and Leah would later be laid to rest in this cave. This is important to remember as we continue to study the issue of "land" in the Abrahamic Covenant.

16a. In the "Hall of Faith" (Hebrews 11), there are only two women mentioned: Rahab, the prostitute, and Sarah, the matriarch of God's chosen people. Write out what is said of Sarah in Hebrews 11:11-12 below.

16b. After all we've seen negatively about Sarah (her mistreatment of Hagar, her doubt in God) why would she be mentioned?

17a. How does it strengthen your faith knowing imperfect doubters can be considered faithful?

17b. As we finish studying the life of Sarah, what lessons have you learned? In what ways have you been encouraged or challenged by Sarah's life?

Day 3: Genesis 24

18. Read Genesis 24:1-9. Where does Abraham send his servant to get a wife for Isaac? What is his warning in 24:3? Why is that important?

19. Read Genesis 24:10-14. What test is the servant to give according to 24:10-14? How much water would 10 camels need, and how did that test a woman in that day?

20. Read Genesis 24:15-26. What are the attributes of a godly woman Rebekah displays in 24:15-26?

21. In what ways do you display this kind of humble submission and servant's heart as a woman? In what ways do you struggle with humble submission and a servant's heart?

Read Genesis 24:27-61.

22. What is Laban's response in 24:50-51 to the servant's request regarding Rebekah?

23. What is Rebekah's response to seeing her future husband for the first time (24:64-67)?

24b. What does Rebekah's response further teach us about her character?

Day 4: Genesis 25-26

Read Genesis 25:1-11.

25. What significant event happens in 25:7-9?

26a. List the things said of Abraham about his life in 25:8.

26b. Record what is mentioned or commended about Abraham in other Scriptures:

John 8:56:

Hebrews 6:15:

Romans 4:18:

Galatians 3:6-9:

James 2:21-23:

Isaiah 41:8-9:

27. While it is morbid to think about, what kinds of things do you want said of your life? What would you want written down?

28. In what ways are you living today to help make those things come true? What steps do you need to take in order to begin living a life that is fulfilling and honoring to God?

29a. At the time of Abraham's death, did he see God's promise to him of many descendants, a great nation (land, seed, blessing), etc. come to fruition? Why is that significant?

29b. In what ways have you been encouraged or challenged by Abraham's life?

Read Genesis 25:12-34.

30. Who are the descendants of Ishmael? Isaac?

Ishmael	Isaac

30. According to 25:21, what did Rebekah have in common with Sarah?

31. List the things we know about Esau and Jacob from verses 25:22-34:

Esau

Jacob

32. Whom does Isaac favor? Why?

33. What do these verses teach us about Jacob's character?

34. How does this chapter end? What is the result of parents playing favorites and little brothers scheming?

Read Genesis 26:1-25

	Problem	Solution
26:1-5		
26: 6-11		
26:12-17		
26:18-22		

35a. What does the Lord remind Isaac of in 26:2-5?

35b. And again in 26:23-24?

35c. What does Isaac do in response to God's reminder?

Building an altar was building a place to mark and remember the Lord and His faithfulness. "Remember, do not forget" is a huge theme with the Israelite people. Isaac is only one generation after Abraham, and we see God reminding Him of the covenant He made with his father.

36. In what ways do you remember God's faithfulness and promises to you?

Day 5: Review

These chapters were full of covenants, promises, sibling strife, jealousy, favoritism, new life, and death. The first generation of God's chosen people, the first family of our faith, and it is already a complete mess. These chapters, these stories, teach us there is more to a life of faith than merely behavior. God uses messy people to make His way known in this world—crooked sticks to make a straight path. That should leave us with hope in the middle of our own chaos, grace in the struggle of our own sin, mercy in the midst of pain. The story isn't over yet.

Review

37. Summarize this week's study in a few sentences below.

38a. What was challenging for you this week?

38b. What was encouraging from this week's study?

39. How will you live differently in light of what you learned this week?

Write out a closing prayer after spending time studying this week.

Notes

Week 4: Genesis 27-32

Lies, deceit, a love triangle and a wrestling match. This week we'll watch the deceiver get deceived and pain that comes from dishonesty, jealousy, and greed.

Day 1: Genesis 27

1. Review notes and lessons from last week. Share the two most impactful verses or lessons from Week Three's study below:

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2a. Read Genesis 27. Summarize the story below.

2b. What sin did each family do wrong in this story?

Isaac:

Rebekah:

Jacob:

Esau:

3. According to 27:41-45, what were the relational ramifications between Jacob and Esau?

4. Family drama, lies, deceit, favoritism, grudges, and we are only in the third generation of the chosen family of God. What does this teach about God? His people?

A perfect God, using imperfect people, brings about His sovereign plan and redemption for mankind.

5a. How does knowing God uses imperfect people encourage you?

5b. What imperfections are you hiding that you can bring to the light and find freedom? What mistakes have you made that you can ask God to forgive and redeem?

Day 2: Genesis 28

Read Genesis 28:1-9.

6a. What is commanded in 28:1? Where else do you find this in Genesis?

6b. Why is this important?

7a. What is Esau's response in 28:8-9 to the command not to marry daughters of Canaan?

7b. What does this say about his character?

8. Read Genesis 28:10-22. What did the Lord say to Jacob in his dream?

9. What was Jacob's response after waking up (28:17-22)?

10. What are some conclusions you can draw about Jacob's faith based on his response in 28:20-21?

While Jacob sets up a pillar to remember the Lord, his faith still seems conditional; he is still ambivalent about his commitment to God. There is a part of all our hearts that believes, “God, if you do this _____, then I’ll fully give you my life or hand over my heart.”

11. How does this Jacob type of faith contrast to the faith we see in Abraham?

12a. In what ways do you put conditions on God? Although you may not be consciously saying it out loud, what might you be placing in that blank listed above?

12b. Are there areas of your life you waver in your commitment to Him? Share below.

13. Have you truly surrendered your life and submitted your heart to God, without condition? Or do you still struggle fully believing God and trusting Him as the Lord of your life?

Day 3: Genesis 29 and 30:1-24

Read Genesis 29. What is your initial reaction to the narrative played out in this passage? Write your observations below.

14. Describe Jacob's response to Rachel in 29:9-12.
15. What is Laban's response to Jacob's request in 29:15-20?
- 16a. What does Laban do to Jacob in 29:24-30?
- 16b. How is this similar to what Jacob did to Esau?
17. Compare and contrast Rachel and Leah below.

Rachel

Leah

18. This is the third matriarch we see suffering from barrenness. Why is this significant?

19. In 29:31-35, your heart breaks for Leah. What is her struggle? Why is she suffering?

20. List the name of her children and their meanings below:

21. Are you able to personally identify with the struggles and suffering of Rachel or Leah? How so? How might you be able to say, "This time, I will praise the Lord," in the midst of your struggles?

Read Genesis 30:1-24.

Tension, bitterness, jealousy...the relationship between Jacob and his wives was quickly going from bad to worse.

22a. What is Rachel's response to her barrenness in this chapter?

22b. How did her response in suffering further perpetuate the tension in the relationship with her husband and sister?

23a. How do you respond during suffering? Are you prone to bitterness and jealousy?

23b. How can you remember to look to Christ in times of pain?

Day 4: Genesis 30:25-43 and 31

Read Genesis 30:25-43.

24a. What is Jacob's request in 30:26? Why do you think he asks this of Laban?

24b. How does Laban respond initially? Why do you think he wants Jacob to stay?

25a. How do they settle the dispute (30:31-33)?

25b. How does Laban try to deceive Jacob once again (30:34-36)?

25c. How is Jacob's situation, after 20 years with Laban, described at the end of the chapter (30:43)?

Read Genesis 31:1-16.

26. What caused Jacob to finally leave?

27. What did Rachel and Jacob do in 31:19-20?

Read Genesis 31:22-55.

28. Why does Laban pursue Jacob with such a vengeance? What is he after?

Counterfeit gods, false idols—another theme that is prominent throughout the Old Testament, one that gets awfully close and occasionally mixed in with the Israelites' faith.

29a. How does Rachel avoid having her saddle searched (31:35)?

29b. What does this say about how God views idols?

Idolatry is not something we think we practice today, yet we have idols in our hearts and idols in our lives all over the place.

Idolatry is _____.

30. What are some things you place value or worth in that are higher than God? What holds a more prominent position in your life than God?

Tim Keller says even good things can become idols when they become ultimate things and take the place of God. He defines an idol as, "...anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give" (Counterfeit Gods, xvii).

31. What good things in your life may have higher priority in your life than God?

32a. Read the list on the next page to help identify potential idols in your life. Which of these do you resonate with? Why?

20 Questions to Identify Potential Heart Idols in Your Life (*Counterfeit Gods* by Tim Keller)

Life only has meaning/I only have worth if . . .

1. “I have power and influence over others.” (Power Idolatry)
2. “I am loved and respected by _____.” (Approval Idolatry)
3. “I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life.” (Comfort Idolatry)
4. “I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of _____.” (Control Idolatry)
5. “People are dependent on me and need me.” (Helping Idolatry)
6. “Someone is there to protect me and keep me safe.” (Dependence Idolatry)
7. “I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone.”
(Independence Idolatry)
8. “I am highly productive and getting a lot done.” (Work Idolatry)
9. “I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and I am excelling in my work.”
(Achievement idolatry)
10. “I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions.”
(Materialism Idolatry)
11. “I am adhering to my religion’s moral codes and accomplished in its activities.”
(Religion Idolatry)
12. “This one person is in my life and happy to be there, and/or happy with me.”
(Individual Person Idolatry)
13. “I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and am living by a self-made morality.”
(Irreligion Idolatry)
14. “My race and culture is ascendant and recognized as superior.” (Racial/cultural idolatry)
15. “A particular social grouping, professional grouping, other group lets me in.”
(Inner Ring Idolatry)
16. “My children and/or my parents are happy, and happy with me.” (Family Idolatry)
17. “Mr. or Ms. ‘Right’ is in love with me.” (Relationship Idolatry)
18. “I am hurting, or have a problem; only then do I feel worthy of love or able to deal with guilt.” (Suffering Idolatry)
19. “My political or social cause is making progress and I am ascending in influence or power.”
(Ideology idolatry)
20. “I have a particular kind of look or body image.” (Image idolatry)

32b. What steps do you need to take to annihilate the idols in your life?

God is ferociously opposed to idols that try to steal His glory and honor in our lives. He will do whatever it takes to help us see what we have placed on the throne of our lives other than Christ. Jesus is not only our Savior, but also our Lord. He becomes our master and we surrender to His plan for our lives. The transition between this week to next will show Jacob's process of surrendering completely to God slaying the idols in his life.

Day 5: Review

33. Summarize this week's study in a few sentences below.

34a. What was challenging for you this week?

34b. What was encouraging from this week's study?

35. How will you live differently in light of what you learned this week?

Write out a closing prayer after spending time studying this week.

Week 5: Genesis 32-36

Wrestling with God should leave us forever changed. Like Jacob, he was touched by God and walked with a limp for the remainder of his days. His name was changed along with his heart. We can learn much from Jacob's wrestling and humble submission in the chapters that follow.

Day 1: Genesis 32

1. Review notes and lessons from last week. Share the two most impactful verses or lessons from Week Four's study below:

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Read Genesis 32:1-21.

2a. If you remember from last week, where was Jacob coming from?

2b. What was Jacob told in 32:6?

2c. What was his response in 32:7-8?

2d. Why would he fear Esau?

3. Jacob's initial response is emotional and fear-driven. After that, how does he respond in 32:9-12?

4a. When you are faced with unknown circumstances, are you more likely to respond with fear/emotions, or with prayer?

- 4b. What can we learn from Jacob's example here?
5. How does Jacob do in 32:13-21? Was this a good plan? Why or why not?

Day 2: Read Genesis 32:22-32

6. Describe the scene 32:24-25.

7. What is Jacob's request in 32:26?

Don't you love the audacity! Jacob demands a blessing after wrestling with God!

8. What significant event happens in 32:28? Why is this important?

9. Write the name of the place Jacob marks and it's meaning below:

10. What was the result of Jacob's wrestling with God in 32:32?

All of us who have wrestled with God will leave marked or changed. While we may not "walk with a limp," something about our lives should be marked forever after encountering God.

11a. When others see your life, in what ways would they see you have encountered God?

11b. How is your life different now after you've come to know the Lord?

Read Genesis 33:1-15

12. Write out three to five observations below.

13. What was surprising about the meeting between Jacob and Esau?

14. Go back and reread 32:9-12. What was it Jacob did in these verses?

So often we cry out to God in fear. We pray, we ask, we seek, we knock, and then we are surprised when He actually does answer. Or we don't realize His protection or deliverance was an answer to prayer.

15. Share about a time you were surprised by an answer to prayer.

Day 3: Read Genesis 34:1-31

16. What happens to Dinah in this chapter?

17. Fill in the chart below with how each of the men in this chapter sinned regarding what happened to Dinah:

Shechem (v.2-4)	
Jacob (v.5)	
Hamor (v.6-12)	
Simeon & Levi (v.13-31)	

18. What does this chapter say about Jacob's fathering, both to Dinah and his sons Simeon and Levi?

19a. Count how many times God is mentioned in this chapter: _____

19b. Why is that significant?

This is one of those chapters that is hard to read, and even harder to study. However, it shines a light on how we as humans, apart from God, will live. We will pursue our own lusts/desires/wants, rather than defending those who were wronged. We shrink back, and when we take matters into our own hands, giving way to our anger, devastation occurs. None of this is done with a heart after God.

20a. How can you guard your heart and mind to seek after God rather than your own selfish desires?

20b. If you've been wronged, how can you trust God and keep from seeking vengeance on your own? Consider the wisdom from God's Word regarding this in Romans 12:19 and Proverbs 20:22.

Read Genesis 35:1-8

21a. What were the people of Jacob's household told to do in 35:2?

21b. Why would they have foreign gods in their home?

21c. What does this say about Jacob's spiritual leadership in his home?

22a. What does Jacob do in 35:7?

22b. How is this different from the first time he was in Bethel (Genesis 28:22)?

Day 4: Genesis 35

Read Genesis 35:9-15.

23. What does God tell Jacob in this passage?

24. What is Jacob's response?

25. Over and over we see that after the Lord speaks, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all built a pillar, an altar, or some type of "rocks of remembrance" to mark the place or the moment. What can you learn from this?

Read Genesis 35:16-29.

26. List the significant events that occurred in these verses.

27. Where was Rachel buried? Why is that significant?

The last of Jacob's sons was born, his father has died, and his wife has died. The sin and suffering of God's chosen people and first family were great. Being a part of God's chosen people, being adopted into His family, doesn't mean we will be spared from pain. It *does* mean we can know the Healer and the Comforter in a greater and deeper way, because we are His children.

28. How have you known God the Comforter in a season of sin or suffering in your own life?

29. This chapter ends with a genealogy, one that is significant throughout the rest of the Bible. Fill in the family chart of Jacob below:

Leah	Zipah (Leah's Servant)	Bilhah (Rachel's Servant)	Rachel
1.	1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.	2.
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

30. After studying Jacob and his family, what are some major insights you have? Share two or three below.

Day 5: Genesis 36

31. Read Genesis 36. Why do you think Esau's descendants are recorded with such detail?

32a. Who had more descendants at this point in the genealogies?

32b. Why? How is that significant?

33. Often we look at those outside of promises of God and see their blessing, and struggle to understand why they would receive blessing. Have you watched those far from God receive blessing? How did that make you feel?

We can't always trust that what we see is the full picture. Circumstances don't always determine favor with God.

Record what Isaiah 55:8-9 says below.

34. How is that comforting when we can't understand what we see around us?

While there is perceived blessing on earth (comfort, riches, descendants), we know the true blessing—the greatest blessing—is knowing Christ. Earthly blessing does not always equal eternal blessing.

35. Do you tend to “count your blessings” more on material/earthly things, or on heavenly eternal things?

36. What eternal blessings have we been given through Christ?

37. Read Psalm 37:7-11. Record your observations and insights below.

So much of God's story is written to help us see His faithfulness beyond the present circumstances. These chapters are recorded to remind us that we have a greater hope than this earth; we are a part of a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

Review

38. Summarize this week's study in a few sentences below.

39a. What was challenging for you this week?

39b. What was encouraging from this week's study?

40. How will you live differently in light of what you learned this week?

Write out a closing prayer after spending time studying this week.

Notes

Week 6: Genesis 37-42

Favoritism continues in the lineage of the family of God, and doesn't stop with Jacob and his sons. Joseph pays an awful price for his father's favoritism in these chapters. Through it all, God is faithful to not only remember Joseph, but also redeem him.

Day 1: Genesis 37

1. Review notes and lessons from last week. Share the two most impactful verses or lessons from Week Five's study below:

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Read Genesis 37:1-36.

2. How old was Joseph according to 37:2?

3a. How is Jacob's love for his son Joseph described in this passage?

3b. How do you think that made Jacob's other sons feel?

4a. Describe Joseph's dreams below.

4b. What was his father's response to these dreams?

5a. What were the responses of Joseph's brothers to his dreams?

5b. Why do you think they responded this way?

5c. Do you think it was wise for Joseph to share his dream with his family? Why or why not?

6a. What did Joseph's brothers plot to do to him?

6b. Why would they do something like this? What does this say about their thoughts about Joseph? Their character?

7. Record the responses of Judah, Reuben, and Jacob below.

Judah:

Reuben:

Jacob:

8. What happens to Joseph by the end of the chapter? Where is he headed?

Day 2: Genesis 38

Read Genesis 38:1-30.

9. The main male character in this chapter is _____. Record what you know about him (and his significance in the storyline of Scripture) below:

10a. Describe what happens in 38:6-11.

10b. Why did both Er and Onan die?

11. What is Judah's response to Tamar in 38:11? How do you think this made her feel?

It is hard to understand in today's context what it meant to be a widow in biblical times. For most women, this meant they were stripped of value, provision, and even dignity. They were the most vulnerable in the society, and needed to be under a man's care. While it was gracious of Judah to keep her in his home, there was still a hint of selfishness in him by not having her remarry and pursue bearing children.

12. What did this mean for Tamar? Does that background give you any insight into why she does what she does in 38:12-30?

13. How did Tamar deceive her father-in-law?

14a. What was the hypocrisy in Judah's response to the news of Tamar being pregnant (38:24)?

14b. How does he respond after he realizes it was him that got her pregnant?

15a. Has there been a time when you have been hypocritical as Christian and when you judged another's sin more harshly than your own?

15b. What lesson does this teach us about our own hypocrisy?

16. List the names of Tamar's two children:

Day 3: Genesis 39

Read Genesis 39:1-6.

17. Just a few chapters ago, where was Joseph left by his brothers?
18. Joseph's story starts in a pit. Darkness, despair, betrayed by family—he was left for dead. According to 39:4-6, where is Joseph now?
19. Read Genesis 39: 7-23. Summarize what happens in this story below.

20. In what ways is Joseph wronged?

21. What does this passage teach us about his character?

22. From the pit, to the highest place of service in Potiphar's house, to prison, yet what phrase is repeated about Joseph and the Lord in 39:21, 23?

While Joseph's circumstances may not show it, the Lord had favor with Joseph and was with him. In times of suffering, God may not change our circumstance but He will offer His presence.

- 23a. Do you trust that God sees you, hears you, and is with you, even in the “pit” and the moments of despair?
- 23b. In what ways can you trust God in the darkest places of your life and lean into His presence?

Day 4: Genesis 40

Read Genesis 40:1-20.

24. Who is brought into prison with Joseph in this chapter?
25. How is he able to help them?
26. What does 40:8 teach us about Joseph's character and view of God?
27. Did Joseph accurately interpret the dream?
28. What was his request for interpreting the dream? Was his request fulfilled according to 40:23?

This chapter is a lesson on using your gifts that God has given you, regardless of your circumstance. Here Joseph is wrongfully imprisoned and forgotten, yet uses his gift to point to God and His power.

29. How can you use your gifts to serve others and point to the Lord, even in the midst of difficult circumstances and suffering?

Read Genesis 41:1-37.

- 30a. According to 41:1, how much time had passed since Joseph's last interpretation?

30b. Describe what you think Joseph might have been feeling during that time?

31. Summarize Pharaoh's dream and Joseph's interpretation below:

Pharaoh's Dream	Joseph's Interpretation

Day 5: Genesis 41

Read Genesis 41:38-49.

32. What is Pharaoh's response to Joseph's interpretation?

33. Record what is said in 41:40-41.

From the pit to _____.

That is how the Lord redeems. He doesn't just bring you out of the pit, but places you at His table, in His home.

34a. What are the names of Joseph's two sons and their meanings?

34b. What insight about Joseph's view of God and view of his own life do we gain from the meaningful names of his sons?

35. What part of Joseph's life most resonates with you in this season? Why?

Betrayal and the pit?

Waiting and imprisonment?

Stepping out in risk using your gifts?

Redemption?

36. In what ways does seeing Joseph's life—both the horrible suffering and the glorious redemption—encourage you?

Most of our “glory stories” won’t start from the mountaintop. Like Joseph, they begin in a pit. Joseph’s story starts in a pit, abandoned by his family, left for dead, yet we see God use this lowly, painful, desolate place and redeem him to a position of honor and significance. Joseph’s story comforts us in our own pit, and points us to a greater Redeemer, Christ Jesus who redeems us to a place of glory for all of eternity.

Review

37. Summarize this week's study in a few sentences below.

38a. What was challenging for you this week?

38b. What was encouraging from this week's study?

39. How will you live differently in light of what you learned this week?

Write out a closing prayer after spending time studying this week.

Notes

Week 7: Genesis 42-50

A horrible and painful circumstance is met with mercy, grace, and forgiveness in these chapters. Joseph shows us the heart of Christ in his response to seeing his brothers, humbling us as we consider our response toward those who do us harm.

Day 1: Genesis 42 and 43

1. Review notes and lessons from last week. Share the two most impactful verses or lessons from Week Six's study below:

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Read Genesis 42:1-28.

2. Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt?
3. How does 42:6 relate to the dream Joseph had in Genesis 37?
4. Why do you think Joseph didn't reveal himself once he recognized his brothers?
- 5a. What does Joseph have his brothers do in 42:18-28?
- 5b. What does Joseph do in 42:24? What does this teach us about his heart towards his brothers?
6. Read Genesis 42:29-38. What is Jacob's response to his sons after hearing what they were told?

7a. Read Genesis 43:1-15. What is Jacob's response to his sons' request?

7b. How does he feel about sending Benjamin? What does this say about his love for his him? What does this also say about the fear and grief that still remained in him?

8. Read Genesis 43:16-34. Describe the scene below.

9. What is Joseph's response to seeing his brother Benjamin in 43:30? Why do you think he responded that way?

9a. Even though it's been two decades since he was sold into slavery, Joseph's emotions are quickly and deeply provoked in these interactions. Have you experienced this? Has there been a situation or conversation that surprisingly reloaded the raw emotions of past pain or grief?

10a. What does Joseph do in 43:34 for Benjamin?

10b. How do you think that made his other brothers feel?

10c. Why would Joseph test his brothers in this way?

11. What does Joseph's interaction with his brothers (who betrayed him and left him for dead) teach us about his character?

Day 2: Genesis 44

Read Genesis 44.

12. How does Joseph test his brothers one last time?

13. Who speaks up and intercedes for his brother?

14. Judah, the same man who, a few chapters earlier, committed a heinous sin, is now offering his own life for his brothers. What is this a picture of? What does the sacrifice of one life for another point us to in the New Testament?

Read Genesis 45.

15a. Describe how Joseph responded to his brothers in 45:1-3.

15b. Why do you think he responded like that?

16. In what ways does he reassure his brothers he is not angry with them?

Forgiveness, especially towards family members, can be very difficult. It is a struggle to forgive those closest to us, some of which have done a lot less than leaving us for dead and lying to our relatives about it.

17. In what ways have you struggled to forgive someone close to you? Write down a specific example (and name) below.

18a. How does Joseph's understanding of who God is and how He works in 45:5-8 impact his ability to forgive? How can you look to Joseph as an example here?

19a. Do you remember who was with Joseph in this time of suffering (39:21, 23)?

19b. Can we forgive the unforgiveable apart from the help of the Lord?

19c. How can you ask God to help you forgive the person who has wronged you?

20. Joseph does not only forgives his brothers in Genesis 45. What else does he do?

21. What does this teach us about God's forgiveness? (Read Ephesians 1 for more detail).

22. Read Genesis 46. What significant move happens in this chapter?

23. What was told to Jacob to make this happen? By whom? (46:2-4)

Day 3: Genesis 47

24a. Read Genesis 47:1-12. What was Pharaoh's response to Joseph's family coming to Egypt?

24b. Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

25. Read Genesis 47:13-26. What was the problem in the land? How did Joseph find a solution?

Problem	Joseph's Solution

26. List the ways God used Joseph and his gifts to exalt him to a place of highest leadership in the nation, to save an entire generation?

Do you see the beauty in this? Imagine Joseph sitting in prison for two years waiting on God, feeling alone, forgotten, and isolated. His circumstance then would have never pointed to his future to be the most key figure in saving a generation.

While we may not be the right hand man to the key, we must be willing to see that God uses all things (suffering, experiences, gifts, places, and people) for our good and His glory.

27. Let's take a lesson from Joseph's life and fill in the chart below to reflect personally on how God might use all these different areas of our own story to discover the part we play in His story.

<u>Suffering</u> What suffering have you walked through in your own life?	<u>Experiences</u> What experiences have you had that have shaped you?	
<u>Gifts</u> What gifts have you been given to steward?	<u>Places</u> Where do you live, work, and play?	<u>People</u> Who is around you or in your life currently? What relationships matter to you?

(*This is adapted from Jennie Allen's study, Restless, on the life of Joseph. For a more in-depth study on his life and the threads God has placed in your own, read her book Restless or consider her eight-week bible study on the life of Joseph.)

28. As you begin to look at these unique areas of your life on the chart, are you beginning to see a theme? What sticks out to you? What is eye-opening? Record your observations below.

29. Now, begin to dream about how God might use these things in your life to help others and advance the Kingdom.

30. Pray. Write out a prayer after reflecting on the steps above, asking God to reveal a path for you and surrendering your life, your suffering, gifts, experiences, etc. to Him.

Day 4: Read Genesis 47:27-48:22

31. What is Jacob's request in 47:29-31? Why is that significant?

32a. What does Jacob do with Joseph's sons in 48:8-22?

32b. What does this correlate to earlier in the book of Genesis?

32c. Why would Jacob do this?

Read Genesis 49.

33. The Twelve Tribes of Israel. Fill in the chart below with the words/blessings Jacob gave to his sons:

Reuben	
Simeon & Levi	
Judah	
Zebulun	

Issachar	
Dan	
Gad	
Asher	
Naphtali	
Joseph	
Benjamin	

34. Where does Jacob want to be buried according to 49:29-33? Why is this significant?

Day 5: Genesis 50

35. Read Genesis 50. What do Joseph's brothers begin to fear after their father passed away?

36. How does Joseph reassure them?

37a. Write out Genesis 50:20 below.

37b. Write about a time when this verse was true in your life.

38. What is Joseph's final request in 50:24-26?

The book closes at the death of our final patriarch. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph—the fathers of our faith, men who lived imperfect lives, but died with faith in a perfect God. Their lives serve as rocks of remembrance for us, to remind us it is not our mistakes, our circumstances, our suffering, or our sin that define us; it is our faith and trust in God. Through Christ and Christ alone we are redeemed and made new. It is in surrendering our lives to His that we find our way. He is our hope, He is our joy, He is the God who sees, the God who redeems, the God who is faithful. To Him we look, we remember, we press on, and we hold fast.

The God who creates something out of nothing, who breathes life into all of creation, who calls out a nation, and who builds a kingdom out of a mess of a people—that is the God we serve and the God we love.

39. Which life in Genesis 12-50 impacted you the most?

40. How did the Gospel become more real to you during this study?

41. List at least three new insights you had during your study time.

42. What challenged you the most in your study of Genesis?

Close in prayer. Write out a prayer with the lessons you learned from His word this semester.

Notes

What Is the Gospel?

by R.C. Sproul

There is no greater message to be heard than that which we call the Gospel. But as important as that is, it is often given to massive distortions or over-simplifications. People think they're preaching the Gospel to you when they tell you, "You can have a purpose to your life," or that, "You can have meaning to your life," or that "You can have a personal relationship with Jesus." All of those things are true, and they're all important, but they don't get to the heart of the Gospel.

The Gospel is called the "Good News" because it addresses the most serious problem that you and I have as human beings, and that problem is simply this: God is holy and He is just, and I'm not. And at the end of my life, I'm going to stand before a just and holy God, and I'll be judged. And I'll be judged either on the basis of my own righteousness—or lack of it—or the righteousness of another. The good news of the Gospel is that Jesus lived a life of perfect righteousness, of perfect obedience to God, not for His own well-being but for His people. He has done for me what I couldn't possibly do for myself. But not only has He lived that life of perfect obedience, He offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice to satisfy the justice and the righteousness of God.

The great misconception in our day is this: that God isn't concerned to protect His own integrity. He's a kind of wishy-washy deity, who just waves a wand of forgiveness over everybody. No. For God to forgive you is a very costly matter. It cost the sacrifice of His own Son. So valuable was that sacrifice that God pronounced it valuable by raising Him from the dead—so that Christ died for us and was raised for our justification. So the Gospel is something objective. It is the message of who Jesus is and what He did. And it also has a subjective dimension. How are the benefits of Jesus subjectively appropriated to us? How do I get it? The Bible makes it clear that we are justified not by our works, not by our efforts, not by our deeds, but by faith—and by faith alone. The only way you can receive the benefit of Christ's life and death is by putting your trust in Him—and in Him alone. You do that, and you're declared just by God, you're adopted into His family, you're forgiven of all of your sins, and you have begun your pilgrimage for eternity.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me.