
Genesis

Tip

The Bible contains some amazing true stories; however, it is not simply a story book. The Bible is God's written revelation of His will to humanity. When you read the Bible, read with eagerness and persistence seeking to grow closer to God and better understand His purpose for your life.

The Bible as a Circle

God had a plan for human history in which He brought forth order from chaos. [Gen 1:1-5, Gen 2:15-25, Isa 9:6-7]

Man's sin sidetracked God's plan. Adam and Eve tried to cover their sins. God killed an innocent being to cover their sin. [Gen 3:1-23, Rom 5:12, Rom 8:20]

Ultimately, Jesus Christ will restore God's plan. [Rev 19:13-14, Rev 20:12-15, Rev 21:1-4, Rev 22:3-5, Eph 1:9-10]

Genesis: High-level Outline

generation	in the beginning Gen 1:1
degeneration	now the serpent Gen 3:1
regeneration	now the Lord Gen 12:1

Genesis: Key Events

Creation	Gen 1-2
The Fall	Gen 3-4
The Flood	Gen 5-9

The Babel Crisis	Gen 10-11
Call of Abraham	Gen 12-38
Descent into Egypt	Gen 39-50

Abraham: a Person of Faith

Abram's homeland, the land of Ur, was located in southern Mesopotamia in modern day Iraq. Abram first traveled northwest to Haran in modern day Turkey. Then he traveled southwest to the land of Canaan.

Note: Abram became Abraham.

Faith is following God when you don't know where you'll end up. [Gen 12:1-8, Acts 7:3, Heb 11:8]

Faith is waiting on God when you don't see any difference yet. The key is to focus on worshipping God. [Gen 12:7-8, Gen 13:18, Gen 21:34, Gen 25:9-10, Heb 11:9]

Faith is believing God when your only evidence is God's Word. God is looking for people of faith. [Gen 14:14-24, Gen 13:6, Gen 15:5-6, Rom 4:2]

Pictures in Genesis

Genesis 22 is one of the richest prophetic pictures in the Bible. Abraham the ancient father (picture of God the Father) escorts his beloved son Isaac (picture of Jesus) to offer him as a sacrifice (picture of the Cross). The events even transpire on Mt. Moriah in the city of Jerusalem [2Chr 3:1] where Christ would be crucified.

The life of Joseph contains many prophetic parallels to Jesus including: his father's special love, predicting his future reign, his family's betrayal, not being recognized at his first visit with his family, revealing his true identity during his second visit, delivering the ones who betrayed him, and offering forgiveness.

Finding a Spouse: Isaac & Rebekah

God desires everyone contemplating marriage to seek an arranged marriage. God wants to arrange your life.

[[Gen 24:1-14](#), [Pro 3:5-6](#)]

God desires everyone contemplating marriage to be very patient and discerning.

- The servant waited to see if Rebekah was the one God picked.

- Rebekah got counsel from those closest to her.
- Rebekah had a choice (just as we have a choice whether or not to accept Christ).
[[Gen 24:15-26](#), [Gen 24:50-58](#), [1The 5:21-22](#)]

God designed human marriage to picture the heavenly marriage between Jesus Christ and the Church.

Abraham	God the Father
Isaac	Christ
the servant	Holy Spirit
Rebekah	the Church

[[Gen 24:61-67](#), [Eph 5:22-26](#), [Eph 5:32-33](#)]

Personal Reflection and Application

When God created, He made something from nothing. He created us. Therefore, we have no reason for pride. We exist because He created us. How does this understanding impact your life?

Read [Genesis 2:15-17](#). How do you react to someone telling you not to do something? What are some things you think you would enjoy that God doesn't want you to do? Have you considered that the reason for the restriction may be to protect you from harm?

Small Group Conversation Guide

Discuss the way you typically make decisions. For what types of decisions are you likely to seek advice from others? When are you most likely to seek direction from God? Read [Genesis 24:56-58](#).

When you are clear that God is directing you, the choice is still yours. What factors make you hesitate to simply say, "I will go"?

Leadership Principles from Genesis

Your Leadership Potential

Have you considered your leadership potential from God's perspective? Read [Genesis 6:8-18](#). God doesn't always choose the person with the most talent or social standing to take a key leadership role. He looks for those who walk with Him daily, who hear His voice, and seek to please Him.

Trapped in Misdeeds

Being a leader is a huge responsibility. Others look to you to set the example. Read [Genesis 12:10-13](#). It's bad when you behave poorly. It's worse when you ask others to lie on your behalf. Even the most celebrated believers can become trapped in misdeeds. Do you consider your own welfare above that of others? Do you let fear drive you to sin ([Luke 12:4-5](#)) or cause you to involve other people in sin?

Take the High Road

Why did Abraham take the high road in [Genesis 13:7-15](#)? Abraham let Lot take first choice because:

- He valued the relationship more than the possessions.
- He knew God had already given him more than he needed.
- He knew God was in control.

Are you able to see things from that perspective? If so, it will be easy for you to take the high road as a leader.

Testing for Readiness

God tests leaders to see if they are ready for the next challenge He has prepared for them. Tests vary by leader and by stage of growth. Often, God tests to see what the leader is willing to sacrifice to follow Him. Consider the test God gave Abraham ([Gen 22:1-18](#)). Think about what you are willing to sacrifice to follow God at this point in your walk with Him.

Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each group of chapters.

Try these:

01. The role God played in creation	02. The things God provided on earth
03. What factors caused the fall of mankind in the garden	04. How the sacrifices of Cain and Abel were different
06-09. What role faith played in the building and use of the ark	10-11. What role independence from God played at Babel
12. What role faith played in Abram's journey to Canaan	13-14. What role faith played in Abram's deliverance of Lot
15-17. What role faith played in Ishmael's / Isaac's births	17. What the purpose of circumcision was
18. How Abraham showed hospitality to his visitors	19. How the sinfulness of Sodom affected Lot's family
20-21. How Sarah responded to the birth of Isaac, who cared for Hagar and Ishmael in the desert	22. How many ways Isaac's sacrifice foreshadows Jesus
23-24. What Eleazar was doing when Rebekah appeared	25. What Esau traded his firstborn birthright for
26. What God promised to Isaac	27-28. What Jacob called himself when stealing the blessing
29-30. How Leah tried to get Jacob to love her	31. What stopped Laban from attacking Jacob
32. What Jacob called himself when wrestling the angel, the new name God gave to Jacob	33-34. What Jacob names the altar in Shechem and why
35-36. What Jacob does before making an altar at Bethel	37-38. Why Joseph's brothers hated him
39. What mistake Joseph made with Potiphar's wife, how much responsibility Joseph received in prison	40-41. How long the butler forgot about Joseph in prison, the significance of Joseph's son's names
42-45. What Joseph said was the reason he was sent in slavery to Egypt	46. What God promised Jacob if he moved to Egypt
47. Which grandson received Jacob's blessing	48-49. Which tribe was promised the king
50. How Joseph treated his brothers who betrayed him	