

STUDY

Genesis Bible Study Questions and Answers (Free PDF)

An 11-session walk through Genesis, from creation to Joseph, with open questions for your own answers. Free to print, no sign-up.

An 11-session study of Genesis for groups or solo reading.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24 (NIV)

The study guide

SESSION 1 • GENESIS 1:1-2:3

In the Beginning

God makes and orders all things by his word, calls it good, and rests on the seventh day. The opening chapter sets the rhythm for everything that follows.

1. What does God say about his creation at each stage, and what does the repeated word good tell you about the world he made?

2. Why might it matter that God creates by speaking rather than by struggle or conflict, the way other ancient creation stories tell it?

3. Where in your own week do you most need to trust that the God who ordered creation can order what feels chaotic to you?

SESSION 2 • GENESIS 2:4-3:24

The Garden and the Fall

God forms the man and woman, gives them work and marriage in Eden, and then watches the first sin pull the world out of joint and out of the garden.

1. What does God give the man and woman in the garden before anything goes wrong, including their work and their marriage?

2. How does the serpent reframe God's command, and what does that reveal about how temptation actually works?

3. Where do you recognize the same pattern of doubt, grasping, and hiding in your own life, and what would it look like to stop hiding?

SESSION 3 · GENESIS 4:1-5:32

Cain, Abel, and the Line of Promise

Sin spreads from the first family outward as Cain kills Abel, yet God preserves a line of promise running quietly through the generations.

1. What does God say to Cain before the murder, and how does Cain respond to the warning?

2. Why do you think Genesis slows down to list whole generations here, and what is it showing you about how God keeps a promise alive?

3. When you feel like sin is winning in your family or your story, where can you look for the quiet line of grace God is still keeping?

SESSION 4 · GENESIS 6:1-9:29

Noah and the Flood

Human evil grows until God brings judgment through the flood, preserves Noah's family, and binds himself by covenant to never again destroy the earth this way.

1. What reasons does Genesis give for the flood, and what does God's response show about how seriously he takes evil?

2. How does the covenant God makes after the flood, sealed with the rainbow, change the way you read the judgment that came before it?

3. Where do you need to hold both God's seriousness about sin and his commitment to mercy at the same time in your own life?

SESSION 5 · GENESIS 10:1-11:26

Nations and Babel

The nations spread across the earth, and humanity's pride at Babel scatters them, setting the stage for God to call one man out of the nations.

1. What are the people at Babel actually trying to do, and what does God's response tell you about their motives?

2. How does the scattering of the nations prepare the way for God's call of Abram in the very next chapter?

3. Where are you tempted to build a name for yourself rather than trust the name God wants to give you?

SESSION 6 · GENESIS 11:27-14:24

The Call of Abraham

God calls Abram to leave everything for a promise, and Abram's early journey tests his faith through famine, separation from Lot, and conflict.

1. What exactly does God promise Abram in Genesis 12:2-3, and what does Abram have to give up to follow it?

2. How does Abram's choice to let Lot take the better land show what he believes about God's provision?

3. What would it mean for you to step toward a promise of God you cannot yet see the whole shape of?

SESSION 7 · GENESIS 15:1-17:27**Covenant and Circumcision**

God formally binds himself to Abraham by covenant, credits Abraham's faith as righteousness, and gives circumcision as the covenant sign.

1. How does God reassure Abraham when he doubts, and what does Abraham do that God counts as righteousness?

2. Why does it matter that God, not Abraham, is the one who binds himself in the covenant ceremony of Genesis 15?

3. Where do you struggle to believe God's promise simply on his word, and what helps your faith hold on?

SESSION 8 · GENESIS 18:1-22:24**Promise, Mercy, and the Binding of Isaac**

Isaac is born as promised, Abraham pleads for Sodom, and then God tests Abraham with the hardest command of his life on Mount Moriah.

1. How does Abraham plead with God over Sodom, and what does the exchange show you about God's justice and mercy together?

2. What is being tested when God asks Abraham to offer Isaac, and how does God provide in the end?

3. When obedience to God costs you something you love, where do you find the trust to take the next step?

SESSION 9 · GENESIS 23:1-28:9**Isaac's Household and Jacob's Early Years**

The promise passes to a new generation through inheritance, blessing, and the long struggle between Jacob and Esau over the birthright.

1. How do Jacob and Esau each treat the birthright and the blessing, and what do their choices reveal about them?

2. Why do you think God lets the promise pass through Jacob, the younger and the deceiver, rather than Esau?

3. Where have you seen God work through flawed and complicated people, including yourself, to keep his purposes moving?

SESSION 10 · GENESIS 28:10-36:43**Jacob's Journey**

Jacob meets God at Bethel, works and is deceived in turn, wrestles with God through the night, and is renamed Israel as the covenant continues.

1. What does God promise Jacob at Bethel, and how does Jacob respond to the encounter?

2. Why does the all-night wrestling match leave Jacob both wounded and blessed, and renamed Israel?

3. Where are you wrestling with God right now, and what would it look like to hold on until the blessing comes?

SESSION 11 · GENESIS 37:1-50:26**Joseph and the Providence of God**

Joseph is betrayed, enslaved, and imprisoned, then raised to power in Egypt, where he preserves his family and forgives the brothers who wronged him.

1. How does Joseph respond to each setback, from the pit to Potiphar's house to prison, and where does he keep his trust?

2. What does Joseph mean in Genesis 50:20 when he tells his brothers that what they meant for evil, God meant for good?

3. Where do you need to trust that God is weaving good through a chapter of your life that still feels like harm?
