

January
2024

What Happened in the Beginning?

The Book of Genesis

A Family Study from Today in the Word

This Family Study is a companion to the *Today in the Word* devotional *In the Beginning: Genesis, Part One* (January 2024). The whole family can learn from God's Word together. In each of the four weeks, you will:



Read

Read a passage
in the Bible



Understand

Understand the biblical
text in a deeper way



Imagine

Imagine the lesson
with hands-on activities

About Genesis

Genesis, the first book in the Bible, tells the story of how the world began! In it, we get a front-row seat to God's creative work. We also get our first look at who God is and can marvel at His power and mighty ways. Genesis can help you teach your children about God and how He keeps His covenant with His people through all generations.



This *Today in the Word* family study was written by Moody Bible Institute students Haylee Grindal, Annie Cornette, and Ashleigh Hildebrandt under the direction of Elizabeth Smith, Program Head and Associate Professor of Moody's Children and Family Ministry program. Please visit moody.edu/academics/programs/children-family-ministry for more information.

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10 Things to Know About Genesis

1

Everything written
in Genesis is true!

2

Moses, who led
the Israelites out of
Egypt and delivered the
Ten Commandments,
is the author.

3

Genesis is the
first of five books
written by Moses.

4

Genesis is also
the first book of the
Old Testament and
of the whole Bible.

5

It was written
about 1400 BC,
after the Israelites
left Egypt.

6

The book covers
2,400 years of
biblical history.
And it spans more
time than the other
65 books combined!

7

The word *Genesis*
in Hebrew is בראשית
which means
“beginning.”

8

Genesis was
originally written in
the Hebrew language.

9

Methuselah, the
oldest person who ever
lived (969 years old) is
Noah’s grandpa
(Gen. 5:27).

10

The ark Noah built
didn’t have a rudder
or a steering wheel!
The enormous vessel
was designed to float in
the flood, and it did!

Created with a Purpose!

Memory Verse

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



Read Genesis 1:1-31; 2:1-3

God created everything! God said that everything He created was “good.” Genesis 1:27 says that “God created mankind in His own image,” and “it was very good” (Gen. 1:31). God is the ultimate Creator, and He loves His perfect creation, as we see in the Bible. God created Adam and Eve to worship Him and to take care of everything He has created.



Understand

1. Who created everything?
2. When He was finished, what did God say about His creation?
3. Since we are God’s “mirror” how can we show others what God is like?
4. How are humans different from the rest of creation? Hint! Look in Genesis 1:27.
5. Read Genesis 2:20. What special job did God give Adam? If you had to name animals, what names would you choose? Would you call zebras “stripeys” or maybe call dogs “fluffy cuddlers?”
6. Read Genesis 2:1-3. What did God do on the seventh day? Why do you think it is important?



Imagine

If weather permits, take your children for a creation walk. Go to your backyard, a forest preserve, or even stroll around your house. If you need to stay inside, watch a nature video or have them close their eyes and imagine walking outside. Ask: What do you see? What do you hear? What do you smell? What can you touch? What did you learn? Have them note the colors, shapes, and sizes.

Encourage your children to use all their senses to enjoy God’s creation. With our eyes, we can see many beautiful colors! Have them try to find as many different colors as they can. Make it a competition to see who can find the most colors! When you return, draw a picture or write about everything you saw and learned. Have each child share their creation journals. Then, worship God by saying to Him, “Thank you, God, for _____.”



The Very First Sin

Memory Verse

*For as in Adam all die, so in Christ
all will be made alive.—1 Corinthians 15:22*



Read Genesis 3:1-7

Adam and Eve lived in perfect harmony with God in the Garden of Eden. They were given one rule: Do not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:16-17). A big snake talked to Eve. In reality it was Satan, the enemy of God. He convinced her to eat a piece of the fruit. Adam and Eve both disobeyed God and ate the fruit. They knew they had done wrong and hid from God. At that moment, sin entered the world. Sin brought death and a broken relationship with God.



Understand

1. What was God's command to Adam and Eve?
2. What was the name of the tree Adam and Eve were told not to eat from?
3. What did the snake say to Eve?
4. Read Genesis 3:8-13. What did Adam and Eve do when they realized they had sinned?
5. What was one of the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin?
6. Have you ever been told by a grown-up not to do something and then did it anyway? What happened because of that? What consequences did you face?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:22. How do we "all die" because of Adam? How does Jesus Christ make us alive?



Imagine

Parents, you can explain sin by bringing your child to a mirror. Have them look at themselves and remind them that they were made in the image of God. With a spray bottle, splash some water on the mirror. Show them how it is still them, but their image is distorted. After sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, we all became broken and sinful.

Use this opportunity to explain the gospel! Jesus, God's Son, came to earth as a man (Phil. 2:7), died on the cross for our sins (Rom. 5:8), and then rose from the dead (Rom. 1:4). The penalty for sin is death (Rom. 6:23). But because Jesus died, our punishment was paid (1 John 2:2). He gave His life, so we can live with Him forever in Heaven (John 3:16). To accept this gift, you must believe that Jesus is your Lord and Savior (Rom. 10:9-10).



God's Big Promise

Memory Verse

*And Noah did all that the
LORD commanded him.—Genesis 7:5*



Read Genesis 6:18-22; 9:7-17

As the number of people on the earth grew, so did their wickedness. God told Noah to build a big boat called an ark and to put two of every creature on it, along with Noah's family. Everyone thought Noah was crazy to do it, but Noah obeyed what God commanded. Just as God had said, a huge storm came and flooded all of the earth. Once the flood waters went down, God made a special promise called a covenant with Noah and promised that He would never flood the earth again. God made a sign to remember the covenant by—a rainbow in the sky!



Understand

1. What did God ask Noah to do?
2. How do you think Noah felt after hearing what God had commanded him to do?
3. What did the people think about Noah's obedience to God?
4. How can we obey God as Noah did?
5. What did God promise to Noah?
6. What did God use as a sign of His covenant with Noah?



Imagine

Parents, with your child you can make a rainbow using DIY washable window paint to remember the promise God made to Noah. You'll need: water-based paints, dish soap, flour, a couple of small containers, and a paintbrush. Help your child mix equal amounts of water-based paint and dish soap. Do this for each color of your rainbow.

Choose a mirror or window to paint on. (This type of paint wipes off with soap and water.) Use the paint to create a rainbow. Be sure to add thin layers and let the paint dry thoroughly before touching or adding more paint. If no window or mirror is available, have your children draw or paint a rainbow on a piece of paper and hang it up in your house as a reminder of God's promise. Whenever you see a rainbow after a storm, or the rainbow you painted, you can remind your child of God's promise.



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New Name, New Promise

Memory Verse

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to Him as righteousness.—Genesis 15:6



Read Genesis 15:1-21; Genesis 17:1-8

Abram was worried he would not have a child. He was 100 years old! But God told him he would have many children, as many children as there are stars in the sky. God was so kind He also promised Abram that his future generations would receive a new place to live. God made another promise to Abram, and changed his name to Abraham, meaning “father of nations.”



Understand

1. Why was Abram worried he wouldn't have a child?
2. How old was Abram when God promised him a child?
3. What promises did God make to Abram?
4. Why did God tell Abram to count the stars?
5. Why did God change Abram's name, and what was it changed to?
6. What did Abraham's new name mean?



Imagine

On a clear night, go outside and look up at the stars. Do you see how many there are? Try counting them! God promised Abraham that his future generations would be as many as the stars!

If you live where the stars aren't very visible or if the night is very cold or cloudy, show your child a starry sky on the internet and research together all about the stars. There are even websites, such as “Google Sky,” where you can get a live image of the stars.

You can also “create” a starry sky at home. Take a Styrofoam cup and help your child poke a few holes in the bottom of the cup. Go into a room and shut out the lights. With the bottom of the cup facing upward, put a flashlight on the inside of the cup, and let it shine onto the ceiling. The light coming through the holes will create the illusion of the stars in the sky. Talk with your child about God as our Creator and the promise He gave to Abraham that came true! We can trust His promises today.

