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In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."

•

WEEK 1

•

Genesis 1
to
Genesis 28

Consider

- 1 What do you learn about God and His character in these verses?
- 2 Where is Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the gospel?
- 3 How might you apply these verses to your life?

DAY 1 • Read Genesis 1–4

DAY 2 • Read Genesis 5–10

Say or write your prayer:

Consider

- 1 What do you learn about God and His character in these verses?
- 2 Where is Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the gospel?
- 3 How might you apply these verses to your life?

DAY 3 • *Read Genesis 11–16*

DAY 4 • *Read Genesis 17–20*

Say or write your prayer:

Consider

- 1 What do you learn about God and His character in these verses?
- 2 Where is Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the gospel?
- 3 How might you apply these verses to your life?

DAY 5 • *Read Genesis 21–24*

DAY 6 • *Read Genesis 25–28*

Say or write your prayer:

Genesis moves quickly. In the first few chapters, we see God created the world, animals, and humans. In creating humans, the Lord did something that affected the way we interact with Him, view one another, and participate in the world: God created humans in His image (*imago Dei*). But then the first humans made a mess of things. After the fall of the first man and woman came shame, jealousy, sibling rivalry, murder, and death. Corruption rose on the earth, and God exacted His righteous justice. Just when it seemed all was lost, new life and promises—great and glorious promises—burst onto the scene. We could spend the rest of our days learning about the first few chapters of Genesis—the beginning of the epic story of redemption. God begins His display of love and mercy from the beginning: creating all things and calling them good, providing for and caring for our fallen ancestors. It’s a great story—a true story—and we’ve only just begun.

I’m more convinced than ever that if you can grasp what’s happening in Genesis, you’ll better understand the entire Bible.

Let’s keep reading!

IDEAS
FOR YOUR
REST DAY

Catch up on any missed reading.

Pause to study a text or chapter using your favorite Bible study method.

Identify a person or situation in the text, and learn more about their story.



•

WEEK 2

•

Genesis 29
to
Genesis 50

Consider

- 1 What do you learn about God and His character in these verses?
- 2 Where is Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the gospel?
- 3 How might you apply these verses to your life?

DAY 1 • *Read Genesis 29–31*

DAY 2 • *Read Genesis 32–36*

Say or write your prayer:

Consider

- 1 What do you learn about God and His character in these verses?
- 2 Where is Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the gospel?
- 3 How might you apply these verses to your life?

DAY 3 • *Read Genesis 37–40*

DAY 4 • *Read Genesis 41–43*

Say or write your prayer:

Consider

- 1 What do you learn about God and His character in these verses?
- 2 Where is Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the gospel?
- 3 How might you apply these verses to your life?

DAY 5 • *Read Genesis 44–47*

DAY 6 • *Read Genesis 48–50*

Say or write your prayer:

Unmerited Forgiveness

The story of Joseph and his brothers is pretty wild. I can't imagine being sold into slavery by my own flesh and blood. What's odd is that the brothers seemed to think they were doing Joseph a favor by not killing him and instead selling him (Gen. 37:25–27). How often, I wonder, do we excuse our wrongdoings too? Who needs a television drama when you've got the book of Genesis? There are a lot of details in this story to help us understand the history of Israel; however, I was struck by Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers.

We often hear his words paraphrased: "What man planned for evil, God planned for good" (Gen. 50:19–20). What's remarkable is that Joseph had faith throughout *all* of his sufferings, even before he knew the end of the story. He didn't deny the Lord. His faith, from what we can tell, did not falter. And although Joseph's words have, unfortunately, become a cliché, we know they're true. We can rightly point to Romans 8:28 and proclaim, yes, all of God's plans are good and for our good!

But Joseph not only points us to the One he trusted to provide (God), Joseph also provided for his brothers (Gen. 50:21). He comforted them and spoke kindly to his brothers. Joseph's radical display of love and forgiveness points us to Jesus. Jesus not only forgives sin and pours out grace to the undeserving (Eph. 2: 8–10), He rewards those who follow Him (Heb. 11:6). Unmerited forgiveness, undeserved favor, unearned gifts—all are ours because of our Lord.

IDEAS
FOR YOUR
REST DAY

Catch up on any missed reading.

Pause to study a text or chapter using your favorite Bible study method.

Identify a person or situation in the text, and learn more about their story.



•
WEEK 3

•
Exodus 1
to
Exodus 21

Consider

- 1 What do you learn about God and His character in these verses?
- 2 Where is Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the gospel?
- 3 How might you apply these verses to your life?

DAY 1 • *Read Exodus 1–4*

DAY 2 • *Read Exodus 5–8*

Say or write your prayer:

Consider

- 1 What do you learn about God and His character in these verses?
- 2 Where is Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the gospel?
- 3 How might you apply these verses to your life?

DAY 3 • *Read Exodus 9–11*

DAY 4 • *Read Exodus 12–14*

Say or write your prayer:

Consider

- 1 What do you learn about God and His character in these verses?
- 2 Where is Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the gospel?
- 3 How might you apply these verses to your life?

DAY 5 • *Read Exodus 15–17*

DAY 6 • *Read Exodus 18–21*

Say or write your prayer:

God is a God of justice. The Egyptians enslaved Israel. Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not let the Israelites go. So, God displayed His justice through the plagues. Often, it seems, the plagues are told like a fairy tale—cartoonish Bible stories. But if we take a moment to consider all that we profess about the Word of God, then we must believe that these events not only happened but affected all of Egypt. I imagine if a water system turned to blood today, there'd be an outcry and sense of desperation; many would turn to God and pray for mercy. But no doubt there would be the questions: "Did God really do that?" "How could God be sovereign and allow this destruction?"

I don't pretend to know all of God's ways. As the hymn writer William Cowper wrote:

*"God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm."¹*

His ways are not our ways (Isa. 55:8–9). And we know that God cannot sin, for He is righteous and holy. What is clear through the sending of the plagues and what appears to be the point is this: God is real and there is no one like our God (Ex. 7:17; 8:10; 9:14b).²

Understanding all of God's attributes enables us to worship Him rightly. Understanding the seriousness of sin against our holy, just God brings us to our knees in thanksgiving for Christ, our Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7).

**IDEAS
FOR YOUR
REST DAY**

Catch up on any missed reading.

Pause to study a text or chapter using your favorite Bible study method.

Identify a person or situation in the text, and learn more about their story.

Three times in the year you
a feast to me. You shall keep
of Unleavened Bread. As for
you, you shall eat unleavened
seven days at the appointed
month of Abib, for in it you
of Egypt. None shall appear
empty-handed. You shall bring
of Harvest, of the firstfruit
labor, of what you sow in the
shall keep the Feast of Ingathering
end of the year, when you
the field the fruit of your labor
times in the year shall all
appear before the Lord God

•

WEEK 4

•

Exodus 22
to
Exodus 40

Consider

- 1 What do you learn about God and His character in these verses?
- 2 Where is Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the gospel?
- 3 How might you apply these verses to your life?

DAY 1 • *Read Exodus 22–24*

DAY 2 • *Read Exodus 25–27*

Say or write your prayer:

Consider

- 1 What do you learn about God and His character in these verses?
- 2 Where is Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the gospel?
- 3 How might you apply these verses to your life?

DAY 3 • *Read Exodus 28–30*

DAY 4 • *Read Exodus 31–34*

Say or write your prayer:

Consider

- 1 What do you learn about God and His character in these verses?
- 2 Where is Jesus in these chapters? Where do you see the gospel?
- 3 How might you apply these verses to your life?

DAY 5 • *Read Exodus 35–37*

DAY 6 • *Read Exodus 38–40*

Say or write your prayer:

Exodus has a complicated ending. On the one hand, the tabernacle is completed and the people of God enjoy the power of God on display. In a brief but momentous mention, we read that Moses could not enter the tabernacle. Did you catch that in Exodus 40:35? Moses could not be in the presence of God's glory and power. What happened?

The people broke the first and second commandments of the Ten Commandments (see Ex. 32). God was angry and wanted to wipe out His people, and Moses, playing the role of mediator between the Israelites and God, appealed to the Lord. Moses asked the Lord to remember His covenant with Abraham and to consider how the Egyptians would view His actions (Ex. 32:11–13). The Lord heard Moses's pleas and relented. But the damage was done. When all was said and done, not even Moses could enter the tabernacle in Exodus 40 when God's glory filled it. Even though God was finally making a way for His people to access His presence, the laws, priesthood, sacrifices, etc. were an ongoing reminder that sinful people cannot have unhindered access to a holy God.

We know the end of the ultimate story where the curtain will be torn—but doesn't the anticipation excite you? Can't you see how each book builds on the other and how all of it thus far ties together? Let's keep reading!

IDEAS
FOR YOUR
REST DAY

Catch up on any missed reading.

Pause to study a text or chapter using your favorite Bible study method.

Identify a person or situation in the text, and learn more about their story.

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