

Small Group Discussion Questions

Introduction

The book of **Genesis** lays the foundation for the Bible's story of redemption. It reveals **God** as the sovereign Creator, the giver of life, and the One who establishes His covenant with humanity. Through its powerful narratives, Genesis offers profound insights into **God's** character, His promises, and His unfolding plan for salvation.

Purpose of This Study

This small group study will guide you through key passages in Genesis, exploring themes of creation, faith, sin, grace, and God's covenant relationship with His people. Each set of study questions is designed to help you engage deeply with Scripture, encouraging both understanding and personal application.

Study Format

- The first **five questions** in each section focus on **understanding the passage**, helping you explore its context, meaning, and significance.
- The final **two questions** focus on **application**, prompting reflection on how these biblical truths shape your faith and daily life.

Spiritual Encouragement

As you journey through Genesis, take time to **pray**, **listen**, **and discuss** how God's Word speaks to you and your group. May this study **strengthen your faith**, **deepen your relationships**, **and draw you closer to the God of creation**, **covenant**, **and redemption**.

How to Use the Date References

The dates listed with each set of questions correspond to the **Sunday when one of our pastors will preach** from that section of Genesis. This guide is designed for your group to **discuss the questions in the week leading up to the sermon**, preparing your hearts and minds to engage with God's Word more fully.

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May 4, 2025

Genesis 1:1-2:3

- 1. What does this passage reveal about God's power and character as Creator?
- 2. How does the order of creation show God's intentionality and purpose?
- 3. What does it mean that humans are made in God's image (1:26-27)?
- 4. How is the Sabbath rest significant in this creation account?
- 5. How does this passage help you understand humanity's role in stewarding creation?
- 6. How can you reflect God's image more intentionally in your daily life?
- 7. What steps can you take to prioritize rest and reflect on God's provision?

May 11, 2025

Mother's Day

- 1. Proverbs 31:25-30 describes a virtuous woman. What qualities stand out to you in this passage, and how can we honor and encourage mothers who strive to live out these virtues?
- **2.** Exodus 20:12 commands us to "honor your father and mother." What are practical ways we can honor our mothers (or mother figures) beyond just Mother's Day?
- **3.** 2 Timothy 1:5 mentions Timothy's faith being influenced by his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois. How have the faith and prayers of mothers or spiritual mothers impacted your life?
- **4.** In Luke 1:46-55, Mary praises God for His blessings. How can mothers today cultivate a spirit of gratitude and faith in their daily lives, even in challenges?
- 5. Many biblical mothers faced difficulties (Hannah, Sarah, Mary, etc.). How does their perseverance encourage us in our own faith journeys, and how can we support mothers in our church community?
- **6.** Jesus showed great care for His mother, even from the cross (John 19:26-27). What does this teach us about the importance of caring for our mothers and older women in our community?
- 7. For those who may have complicated relationships with their mothers or struggle with Mother's Day (due to loss, infertility, or other pain), how can the church offer support and encouragement during this time?

May 18, 2025

Genesis 2:4-25

- 1. How does God's creation of Adam and Eve show His care and intentional design?
- 2. What does the garden of Eden reveal about God's provision for humanity?
- 3. Why is the creation of Eve described as a helper "fit for Adam" significant?
- **4.** How does the concept of "one flesh" shape our understanding of relationships and marriage?
- 5. How does God's intimate creation of humanity impact your view of yourself?
- 6. How can you cultivate healthy, God-centered relationships in your life?
- 7. How can you see your work or calling as part of God's purpose for you?

May 25, 2025

Genesis 3:1-24

- 1. How does the serpent's deception challenge God's word and authority?
- 2. What were the immediate consequences of Adam and Eve's sin?
- 3. How does God demonstrate both justice and mercy in His response to sin?
- 4. What does Genesis 3:15 reveal about God's plan for redemption?
- 5. How does this passage shape your understanding of sin and its consequences?
- 6. When you face temptation, how can you rely on God's truth to resist it?
- 7. How can you approach God with repentance instead of hiding when you sin?

June 1, 2025

Genesis 4:1-26

- 1. What do Cain and Abel's offerings reveal about their hearts toward God?
- 2. How does God warn Cain about sin, and what can we learn from His words?
- 3. What does Cain's response to God after his sin reveal about human pride?
- 4. How does God's protection of Cain reflect His mercy?
- 5. How does the line of Seth (4:26) show a return to calling on God?
- 6. What steps can you take to avoid jealousy or anger in your relationships?
- 7. How can you "call on the name of the Lord" more consistently in your life?

June 8, 2025

Genesis 5:1-6:8

- 1. What stands out to you about the genealogies and lifespans in this passage?
- 2. How does Enoch's walk with God (5:24) provide an example of faithfulness?
- 3. What does this passage reveal about humanity's increasing corruption?
- 4. How does God's grief over sin show His justice and love?
- 5. How does Noah's righteousness (6:8) demonstrate hope amidst sin?
- 6. How can you live faithfully in a culture that often turns away from God?
- 7. In what ways can you walk with God daily, as Enoch did?

June 15, 2025

Father's Day

- 1. In Ephesians 6:4, fathers are instructed to bring up their children "in the training and instruction of the Lord." What does this look like in today's world, and how can fathers fulfill this role effectively?
- **2.** Proverbs 20:7 says, "The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him." How does a father's integrity impact his family and future generations?
- **3.** God is often described as our Heavenly Father (Psalm 103:13, Matthew 7:9-11). What characteristics of God's fatherhood stand out to you, and how can earthly fathers reflect these qualities?
- **4.** Many biblical fathers had strengths and weaknesses (e.g., Abraham, David, Joseph, the father of the prodigal son). What lessons—both positive and cautionary—can we learn from their lives?
- 5. For those who may have had difficult relationships with their fathers, or for those who have lost their fathers, how does God offer healing and restoration? (Psalm 68:5 "A father to the fatherless...")
- **6.** In 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, Paul exhorts believers to "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." How does this apply to fatherhood and leadership in the family?
- 7. How can the church support and encourage fathers in their roles, whether they are biological fathers, spiritual mentors, or father figures to others?

June 22, 2025

Genesis 6:9-8:22

- 1. How does Noah's obedience to God set him apart from others in his generation?
- 2. What does the ark symbolize about God's plan to save and protect?
- 3. How does the flood demonstrate both God's judgment and mercy?
- 4. What does Noah's act of worship after the flood (8:20) teach us about gratitude?
- 5. How does God's covenant with Noah give hope for humanity?
- 6. How can you trust God more fully in the face of challenges or storms in life?
- 7. What acts of gratitude can you offer to God for His faithfulness in your life?

June 29, 2025

Genesis 9:1-29

- 1. What is the significance of God's covenant with Noah, marked by the rainbow?
- 2. How does God's command to "be fruitful and multiply" echo His original mandate?
- 3. What do Noah's actions after the flood reveal about human weakness?
- 4. How does this passage highlight the need for accountability in leadership?
- 5. What does the rainbow remind you about God's promises and faithfulness?
- **6.** How can you live as a covenant-keeper, reflecting God's faithfulness in your relationships?
- 7. In what areas of your life do you need to trust in God's unchanging promises?

July 6, 2025

Genesis 10:1-11:26

- 1. What does the table of nations in Genesis 10 teach us about the spread of humanity after the flood?
- 2. How does the story of the Tower of Babel reflect humanity's pride and desire for independence from God?
- 3. Why did God confuse the languages and scatter the people?
- **4.** How does this passage demonstrate God's sovereignty over human plans?
- 5. How do the genealogies in Genesis 11 connect humanity back to God's purpose?
- **6.** In what areas of your life might you be relying on your own strength rather than trusting God?
- 7. How can you live in a way that glorifies God rather than seeking self-promotion?

July 6, 2025

Prayer Service

- 1. In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus teaches the Lord's Prayer. What can we learn from this model prayer about how we should approach God in our own prayers?
- 2. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us to "pray without ceasing." What does it mean to have a lifestyle of prayer, and how can we cultivate that in our daily lives?
- **3.** James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." Have you ever experienced a time when prayer had a powerful impact in your life or the life of someone you know?
- **4.** In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus shares the parable of the persistent widow to encourage believers to pray continually. Why is persistence in prayer important, and how do we balance persistence with trusting God's timing?
- 5. Sometimes, it feels like God is silent or not answering our prayers. How should we respond in those seasons, and what does Scripture teach about waiting on God? (Psalm 27:14, Isaiah 40:31)
- **6.** Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us to present our requests to God with thanksgiving. How does gratitude shape our prayers and our relationship with God?
- 7. What are some practical ways we can strengthen our personal prayer lives and encourage one another to grow in prayer as a small group and as a church?

July 20, 2025

Genesis 11:27-12:20

- 1. What does God's call to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3 reveal about His plan for redemption?
- 2. How does Abram's obedience demonstrate faith in God's promises?
- 3. What does God's promise to make Abram a blessing mean for all nations?
- **4.** Why did Abram struggle with fear when entering Egypt, and how did it affect his actions?
- 5. How does God's protection of Abram despite his failings demonstrate His faithfulness?
- **6.** What steps of faith is God calling you to take in your life?
- 7. How can you be a blessing to others in your family, community, or workplace?

July 27, 2025

Genesis 13:1-15:21

- 1. How does Abram's response to conflict with Lot reflect his trust in God?
- 2. What does God's covenant with Abram in Genesis 15 teach us about His promises?
- 3. How does Abram's interaction with Melchizedek (14:18-20) reveal God's provision?
- 4. How does God reassure Abram of His promise despite Abram's doubts?
- 5. What does God's vision to Abram (15:1-6) teach about trusting in His timing?
- 6. In what areas of your life are you struggling to trust God's promises?
- 7. How can you seek peace in conflicts like Abram did with Lot?

August 3, 2025

Genesis 16:1-17:27

- 1. What does Sarai and Abram's decision to have a child through Hagar reveal about their faith and struggles?
- 2. How does God's response to Hagar demonstrate His care for the marginalized?
- 3. What is the significance of God's covenant sign of circumcision with Abram?
- **4.** How does God's promise to change Abram and Sarai's names reflect His covenant purposes?
- 5. What does God's interaction with Abram teach about His faithfulness even when we doubt?
- 6. How can you better wait on God's timing instead of taking matters into your own hands?
- 7. In what ways can you trust God to use your weaknesses for His glory?

August 10, 2025

Genesis 18:1-19:38

- 1. What does Abraham's hospitality to the three visitors teach about serving others?
- 2. How does God's conversation with Abraham about Sodom reflect His justice and mercy?
- 3. What do we learn about Lot's faith and character from his actions in Sodom?
- 4. How does God's rescue of Lot demonstrate His mercy even in judgment?
- 5. What warnings does this passage provide about living in a culture opposed to God?
- 6. How can you practice hospitality and intercessory prayer like Abraham?
- 7. In what ways can you live righteously in a culture that often rejects God?

August 17, 2025

Genesis 20:1-21:34

- 1. Why does Abraham repeat the same mistake in his interaction with Abimelek?
- 2. How does God protect Sarah and His promise to Abraham despite Abraham's failure?
- 3. What does the birth of Isaac teach us about God's faithfulness to His promises?
- 4. How does Hagar's story highlight God's care for the rejected and vulnerable?
- **5.** What does Abraham's treaty with Abimelek demonstrate about living at peace with others?
- 6. In what areas of your life do you need to trust God even when you've made mistakes?
- 7. How can you show care for others who may feel forgotten or marginalized?

August 24, 2025

Genesis 22:1-24

- 1. What does God's command to sacrifice Isaac reveal about Abraham's faith?
- 2. How does God's provision of the ram point forward to His ultimate provision in Christ?
- 3. What does this passage teach about trusting God even in the hardest circumstances?
- 4. How does Abraham's obedience demonstrate his belief in God's promises?
- 5. How does this story reflect God's faithfulness to His covenant?
- **6.** How can you trust God when He calls you to take steps of faith that seem difficult or unclear?
- 7. In what ways can you worship God through obedience in your daily life?

August 31, 2024

Genesis 23:1-24:67

- 1. How does Abraham's purchase of a burial site for Sarah demonstrate his faith in God's promises?
- 2. What does the story of finding a wife for Isaac reveal about God's guidance in decisions?
- 3. How does the servant's prayer for success reflect dependence on God?
- 4. What can we learn from Rebekah's willingness to follow God's plan?
- 5. How does this passage demonstrate God's faithfulness to His promises to Abraham?
- 6. How can you seek God's guidance in your own decision-making?
- 7. In what ways can you step out in faith, trusting God's leading in your life?

September 7, 2025

Genesis 25:1-34

- 1. What does Abraham's remarriage and the division of his inheritance teach about his priorities?
- 2. How does God's blessing on Isaac fulfill His promise to Abraham?
- **3.** What does the struggle between Jacob and Esau reveal about God's sovereignty and human choices?
- 4. How does Esau's decision to sell his birthright reflect misplaced priorities?
- **5.** What does this passage reveal about God's purposes, even through human imperfection?
- 6. How can you prioritize spiritual blessings over temporary desires in your life?
- 7. In what ways can you trust God's plan, even when it doesn't align with cultural expectations?

September 21, 2025

Genesis 26:1-28:9

- 1. How does Isaac repeat Abraham's mistakes, and how does God remain faithful to him?
- 2. What does Isaac's conflict over wells with Abimelek teach about peace and reconciliation?
- 3. How does God reaffirm His covenant to Isaac (26:24-25)?
- 4. What does Rebekah and Jacob's deception show about their faith and flaws?
- 5. How does Esau's response to losing the blessing highlight the consequences of poor decisions?
- 6. How can you seek peace and reconciliation in conflicts in your life?
- 7. What steps can you take to trust God's timing and avoid taking shortcuts in His plans?

September 28, 2025

Genesis 28:10-29:35

- 1. What does Jacob's dream at Bethel reveal about God's presence and promises?
- 2. How does God's reaffirmation of the covenant demonstrate His faithfulness?
- 3. What does Jacob's response (28:20-22) reveal about his understanding of God?
- 4. How does Jacob's work for Laban reflect God's plan for his life, even amid deception?
- 5. How does Leah's story reveal God's care for those who feel unloved?
- 6. How can you trust God's presence in difficult circumstances, as Jacob did?
- 7. In what ways can you find your worth in God rather than in the approval of others?

October 5, 2025

Genesis 30:1-32:32

- 1. How do Rachel and Leah's rivalry reflect human struggles with jealousy and trust?
- 2. How does God's provision for Jacob (despite Laban's manipulation) show His sovereignty?
- 3. What does Jacob's prayer before meeting Esau (32:9-12) reveal about his growing faith?
- **4.** How does Jacob's wrestling with God (32:24-32) reflect a turning point in his relationship with God?
- 5. What is the significance of Jacob's name change to Israel?
- 6. How can you bring your fears and struggles to God in prayer, as Jacob did?
- 7. What areas of your life might require surrendering control to God?

October 12, 2025

Genesis 33:1-35:29

- 1. How does Jacob's reconciliation with Esau reflect God's work in their lives?
- 2. What does Jacob's response to God's call to return to Bethel reveal about his faith?
- 3. How does God's reaffirmation of His promises (35:9-15) demonstrate His covenant faithfulness?
- 4. What do the deaths of Rachel and Isaac signify in Jacob's journey?
- 5. How does Jacob's spiritual renewal at Bethel set an example for us?
- 6. How can you seek reconciliation in strained relationships, as Jacob and Esau did?
- 7. What steps can you take to renew your commitment to God in your daily life?

October 19, 2025

Genesis 37:1-36

- 1. What does Joseph's relationship with his brothers reveal about family dynamics and jealousy?
- 2. How do Joseph's dreams foreshadow God's plan for his life?
- 3. How does the brothers' betrayal demonstrate the destructive power of envy?
- 4. What does Reuben's attempt to save Joseph teach about his character?
- 5. How does God's providence shine through Joseph's suffering?
- 6. How can you trust God when you face betrayal or unfair treatment?
- 7. In what ways can you avoid envy and celebrate God's blessings in others' lives?

October 26, 2025

Genesis 38:1-39:23

- 1. What does Judah's story in Genesis 38 reveal about human sinfulness and God's grace?
- 2. How does Tamar's boldness show her faith in God's justice?
- 3. What does Joseph's response to Potiphar's wife reveal about his integrity?
- 4. How does God's presence with Joseph in prison reflect His faithfulness?
- 5. How does this passage contrast Judah's and Joseph's responses to temptation?
- 6. How can you maintain integrity in situations where you are tempted to compromise?
- 7. What steps can you take to trust God's presence even in difficult seasons?

November 2, 2025

Genesis 40:1-41:57

- 1. How does Joseph's interpretation of dreams in prison reflect his trust in God's gifts?
- 2. What does Joseph's faithfulness in prison teach us about serving God in every situation?
- 3. How does Pharaoh's dream highlight God's control over nations and history?
- 4. What does Joseph's rise to power demonstrate about God's timing and purposes?
- 5. How does Joseph's wisdom in preparing for the famine reflect his reliance on God?
- 6. How can you use your gifts and abilities to glorify God in your current circumstances?
- 7. How can you remain patient and faithful while waiting for God's plans to unfold?

November 9, 2025

Genesis 42:1-45:28

- 1. How does Joseph's interaction with his brothers reveal his process of forgiveness?
- 2. What does the brothers' guilt and repentance teach us about accountability?
- 3. How does Joseph's recognition of God's plan (45:5-8) demonstrate faith?
- 4. What does this passage teach about reconciliation and God's sovereignty?
- 5. How does God use Joseph's trials to bring about His greater purposes?
- 6. How can you extend forgiveness to those who have wronged you?
- 7. In what ways can you trust God's sovereignty in difficult situations?

November 16, 2025

Worship Together Service

- 1. In John 4:23-24, Jesus says true worshipers will worship the Father "in spirit and truth."

 What does it mean to worship in spirit and in truth, and how can our church live this out?
- **2.** Acts 2:42-47 describes the early church's devotion to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. How do these elements shape a worshiping community today?
- **3.** Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages believers not to neglect meeting together. Why is corporate worship important, and how does gathering with others strengthen our faith?
- **4.** Psalm 100:1-2 tells us to "worship the Lord with gladness" and "come before him with joyful songs." What role does joy play in worship, and how can we maintain a heart of worship even in difficult times?
- **5.** Colossians 3:16 instructs believers to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to one another. How does music and singing contribute to our communal worship, and what impact does it have on our spiritual growth?
- **6.** Romans 12:1 describes worship as offering our bodies as living sacrifices to God. How can worship extend beyond Sunday services and become a way of life?
- 7. What are some practical ways our church can grow as a worshiping community, both in our corporate gatherings and in our daily lives?

November 23, 2025

Genesis 46:1-47:31

- 1. What does Jacob's decision to seek God's guidance before going to Egypt (46:1-4) teach us about trusting God's plan?
- 2. How does the detailed account of Jacob's family emphasize the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham?
- **3.** What does Pharaoh's favorable treatment of Jacob's family (47:5-6) reveal about God's provision?
- **4.** How does Joseph's management of the famine demonstrate wisdom and reliance on God's guidance?
- **5.** What can we learn from Jacob's blessing of Pharaoh and his acknowledgment of his life's hardships (47:7-10)?
- 6. How can you seek God's guidance when making significant life decisions, as Jacob did?
- 7. In what ways can you trust God's provision and timing, even in challenging circumstances?

November 30, 2025

Genesis 48:1-49:33

- 1. What is the significance of Jacob blessing Ephraim and Manasseh (48:8-20) and reversing their birth order?
- 2. How does Jacob's recognition of God's faithfulness throughout his life (48:15-16) reflect his relationship with God?
- **3.** What do Jacob's blessings over his sons in Genesis 49 reveal about their futures and God's sovereignty?
- 4. How does Judah's blessing (49:8-12) foreshadow the coming of the Messiah?
- **5.** What does Jacob's charge to bury him in Canaan (49:29-33) show about his faith in God's covenant promises?
- **6.** How can you acknowledge and trust in God's faithfulness in your own life journey?
- 7. In what ways can you speak blessings and encouragement into the lives of others, as Jacob did for his family?

December 7, 2025

Genesis 50:1-26

- 1. How does the mourning period for Jacob (50:1-14) reflect the deep respect and love his family had for him?
- 2. What does Joseph's continued care for his brothers, even after their father's death, reveal about his character (50:15-21)?
- **3.** How does Joseph's statement, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good" (50:20), highlight God's sovereignty and ability to bring good from evil?
- **4.** What does Joseph's dying request to have his bones carried back to Canaan (50:24-26) reveal about his faith in God's promises?
- **5.** How does this passage provide hope and assurance that God's plans will ultimately prevail?
- **6.** How can you trust God to bring good out of challenging or painful circumstances in your life?
- 7. What steps can you take to forgive others and trust God's sovereignty, even when wronged, as Joseph did?