

Purpose

- To learn the story of creation
- To learn how God turns bad to good
- To learn about Adam and Eve

Materials

- Bibles

Background Information

We are going to be teaching out of Genesis. Everything of significance starts in Genesis: life, the human race, marriage, the family, languages, civil government, technology, farming. Everything begins here except God. Genesis divides into two sections: the story of the human race and the history of the Hebrew race.

The word *Genesis* means beginning or origin. It is believed that Moses wrote the book of Genesis. Genesis was written for the benefit of the Israelites, but the messages fit today. The promises God made to the patriarchs are made know and the foundation is set for revealing God's love and how God uses Jesus to redeem mankind. It show us that the creation was perfect until man sins by listening to Satan instead of trusting God and obeying his plan. Adam and Eve's sin cause spiritual death and bring hate, violence, and disobedience into the world. God uses the flood to destroy mankind (except Noah) and erase that sin. Even after this the people defy God by building the tower of Babel. Even with all of this God continued to love man. The last part of Genesis (last 39 chapters) shows how God (through Abraham's family) directs history to establish the early stages in his plan to save the people and mend their fellowship with him.

The first 11 chapters cover the time from creation to scattering of people throughout the world. We will start first with creation.

CREATION –

Creation of the world took 6 days. We usually think off a day as 24 hours, but actually day was not established until the 4th day God created everything except man by just speaking it into existence, He created man by his own hands from the dust. Woman he created from man's side. The first day God created heaven and earth. It was dark but the Holy Spirit was hovering over the waters to protect what was done. The next day (day 2) created light and we have no proof that it came from any source we know of. God liked the light so he separated light from dark, making what we call day and night. God then (day 3) separated the water and made firmament or expanse. He separated the water so that some water was above and some below the firmament. He called it Heaven. The waters under the heavens were called seas and the land (he collected them together)

and called it earth. He created grass, herbs (plants) with seeds, and trees with fruit. On day 4 God divided day from night. He added seasons, days and years. The greater light ruled the day and the lesser light ruled at night. Day 5 God created the creatures of the sea and birds of the air. Living creatures that moved on the land were added on Day 6. God made man in their own image. Note that there is plural indicating the Trinity. He gave man dominion over all of the animals of the land, air and sea. God also sent water (rain) to cause growth to continue. He then breathed life into the nostrils of the man and he became a living being. On Day 7 he rested.

ADAM AND EVE

To the east God planted a garden. This probably was in Mesopotamia (Iraq) extending through Egypt and Ethiopia. Here he planted trees and plants of all kinds. In the middle of the garden he placed the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. A river flowed through the garden and to all four directions from the garden. He placed the man in the garden and told him to care for the garden and eat anything he wanted except the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge. If he eats from these he will die. God instructed man to name all the creatures he had created. When no mate was found for man he caused man to fall into a deep sleep. He removed part of the man's side and created woman. Because woman was taken from a man she is to leave her parents and unite with man (This is the reason for marriage). Both man and woman were nude but felt no shame for they had no sin. God intended the two to be companions.

God instructed Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit of just the two trees out of the entire garden. God did not want robots worshipping him, he wanted them to obey his commands willingly. God wanted the worship of intelligent beings that had made a deliberate, joyful choice to do what pleased him. Satan, God's adversary, wanted Adam and Eve to fail God's test, so he tempted Eve to disobey God's instructions about the tree. Adam and Eve now had a "lean" toward evil. Human beings became basically sinful. Sin separated Adam and Eve from God, and that separation caused them to be expelled from the garden. God then promised that someday he would restore human beings to a place of friendship with him.

The serpent being the most cunning beast talked Eve into eating of the tree. She then gave it to Adam and he ate. Then because they had sinned Adam and Eve became aware that they were nude and they were ashamed. They gathered fig leaves and made themselves coverings. When God came into the garden they hid. God asked why they hid and they told him they were naked. God asked them who told them they were naked and had they eaten of the forbidden tree. Adam excused himself by saying Eve gave it to him. Eve blamed it upon the serpent. God commanded the serpent to crawl upon the ground. He told Eve she would conceive children but have great pain. Her husband is to rule over her. Adam he banished from the garden and said he must toil for his food. He also was condemned to die and return to dust. God placed cherubim's to the east and a flaming sword to guard the garden. God caused the punishment because they did not accept responsibility for their actions. Death actually is a gift because it protects us from living with sin forever. God also gave them clothing from animal skins instead of the

scratchy fig leaves. Humans are not cursed. They were banished from the garden, but not banished from God. Humans created situation and brokenness but God provides healing.

Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Adam and Eve had another son (Seth). They also had several children later. Adam lived to be 930 years old. Seth had a son (Enosh) when he was 105 years, he later had several other children. Seth lived to be 912 years old.

Procedure

- Do handout 2-1
- Read 2-2, 2-3
- For fun 2-4