**Introduction:** Have you ever considered the first 11 chapters of Genesis in terms of the sheer amount of time vs. the number of significant accounts given? Thousands of years pass between the Creation to the life of Abraham (Genesis 1 to 12), and in this span only five major accounts are described.

While God has not revealed his reasonings for this, one could infer a straightforward explanation: God revealed to mankind exactly what mankind needed to know. From Creation to Abraham, only five major accounts are given: **Creation**, **the Fall**, **Cain and Abel**, **The Flood**, and **the Tower of Babel**. These five accounts are not all that is included in the Genesis 1-11, but the focus that has been placed on these by the Holy Spirit is obvious. The first five weeks of this class are devoted to these “First Five”, as their selection by the LORD for inclusion and emphasis in the opening chapters of Genesis implies their importance to us today.

This lesson focuses on the first major account given in the book of Genesis: The Creation.

**BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER: Read the Text a minimum of three times!**

**Genesis 1.1-2.3**

1. **We Learn the Truth About God**

Genesis 1.1 is such a simple verse, just 10 words in most English translations. The original Hebrew of Genesis 1.1 is just SEVEN words. (Possibly a significant Biblical number?) Genesis 1.1 introduces us to God and establishes many facts about God that so many in the world have forgotten, ignored, or simply denied.

Genesis 1.1 refutes many popular doctrines that are believed and defended today, Atheism (no god), agnosticism (nothing can be known about God), polytheism (many gods), and even materialism (things are our “god”) are all met squarely by Genesis 1.1. The opening sentence of the Bible declares that not only does He Exist, but HE has created everything you know, including yourself!

1. **We See God’s Might and Mind**

When we read the account of The Creation, we are blown-away by the absolute power of God, as well as His absolute knowledge in how He shaped everything we know and can know. In the Six Days of Creation, you see not just brute-force demonstrations of power, but an elegance and a beauty that only the God of the scriptures can accomplish. In an instant, God creates all of physical reality and matter in Genesis 1.1 but notice the shape and condition of the creation in v.2. Beginning in v.3, God takes what has been made and shapes it into something that by the end He will describe as “*very good*”.

1. **We See the World Before Sin**

Our final point is simply to look at the Creation as it was when God ceased from it. Notice how many times in the creation account God calls His creation good. (Genesis 1.4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). When God was finished with the creation, it was perfection. All was good. There was no evil, no sickness, no crying, no death.

We look at this world and we bemoan how wicked it has become, how sinful, even in the BIBLE the word most commonly used to describe UNGODLY people is “*the world*”, isn’t it? The creation account shouts to us from off of these pages one clear message: God created all of this and it was VERY GOOD when He was finished with it! When we see what Sin has done to this world and to us, how could we want anything more than to be back in God’s presence again? What could we desire more than for God to create all things new once more?

**For Thought and Reflection**

1. What was there before created existence? (cf. John 1.1-3, Col. 1.17; Prov. 8.22-23; John 17.3; Rev. 1.8)
2. Write below the days of creation and what was created on each day.
3. Should the days of creation described here be thought of as six 24-hour days? (cf. Gen. 2.2-3; Ex. 20.11, 31.17)
4. What indications do we have in this text that man is different from other living things? Why is this important for us today?
5. How does this account reflect upon the worship of created things? (cf. Isaiah 44.6-28)
6. To whom was this creation account given first, and why is this account the very first thing they need to hear?
Why would this be a good starting point today for evangelistic efforts?

**Introduction:** This lesson tracks the initial corruption of mankind due to sin, the judgment passed down from God upon all the involved parties, and the incredible grace exhibited by God in the process.

**BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER: Read the Text a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 2.4-3.24)**

**For Thought and Reflection**

1. How would the bruising of head and heel described in Genesis 3.15 be fulfilled?
2. How does the judgment scene in Genesis 3 highlight God’s mercy as well as His severity?
3. Do we blame God for putting us in the situations that he does? How do we do so? Is this wise?
4. Man cowered in fear in the garden due to sin. How can we be rid of that fear and shame? (Luke 15.17-19, 1 Peter 2.4-6)
5. Do you see God’s commands as positive or negative? Do you see God’s commands as instructions as to how we should live, or prohibitions against living how we would like to live?

6. In what way is the concept of sacrifice established in Genesis 3?

7. Mankind was expelled from the garden so that they could not “*eat, and live forever*” (Gen. 3.22).
Furthermore, God defended the tree of life with “*cherubim and a flaming sword*” (3.24). Why?

**Introduction:** This lesson tracks the descent of mankind between their expulsion from the Garden of Eden and God’s decision to destroy His creation, beginning with the famous account of two brothers: Cain and Abel.

**BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER: Read the Text a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 4.1-6.8)**

**Cain and Abel (4.1-16)**

1. What are the differences between the two offerings?
2. What was the LORD’s warning to Cain? How did Cain respond?
3. What was the LORD’s curse upon Cain? How was grace extended to Cain?
4. What lessons would Israel learn from this account?

**Cain’s Descendants vs. Seth’s Descendants (4.17-26)**

1. What are the descendants of Cain noted for in this section?
2. How does Lamech exemplify the wickedness of Cain’s line?
3. How does the line of Seth contrast with the line of Cain?
4. Why is Seth, as a replacement for Abel, so significant to Moses’ original audience?

**From Adam to Noah (5.1-5.29)**

1. There are two names repeated in the line of Seth:
Enoch (4.17; 5.21-24) and Lamech (4.23-24; 5.28-29).
How are they different from their counterparts in the line of Cain?
2. What is the consistent pattern repeated throughout chapter 5?
3. In what ways does the account of Enoch (5.21-24) stand apart from the rest of the chapter?
4. The final hope of Cain’s line seems to rely on God’s curse growing worse and worse. What is the final hope of Seth’s line as expressed by Lamech in chapter 5?

**Man’s Wickedness Reaches Its Peak (6.1-8)**

1. What happens to blur and eventually eliminate the contrast between the two lines of Adam? Why would this be important for Israel to know and understand?
2. To what extent had man’s wickedness reached?
3. Describe how God’s mercy has been evidenced at every point of man’s judgment due to sin in the Genesis account so far.

**Introduction:** This lesson focuses on the fourth major account given in Genesis prior to Abraham, the Flood. While this is often a scene portrayed in children’s Bible class material, it is by no means a children’s story. A proper understanding of the Flood is critical for Christians today!

**BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER: Read the Text a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 6.9-9.17)**

**The Building of the Ark (Gen. 6.9-22)**

1. “*Noah walked with God*.” Who else walked with God, and how are these two connected?

2. What instruction did God give Noah, and how did Noah respond?

3. This is the first time we encounter the word “*covenant*” in Genesis. What does it mean?

4. What lessons would the wilderness wandering Jews learn from this account?

**The Flood (Gen. 7.1-8.19)**

5. What details within the text point to a worldwide flood?

6. What main point is made in 7.17-24? Why is this important to emphasize?

7. What does Peter claim this universal judgment by flood means for us? (2 Peter 3.1-13)

8. In 8.1, “*God remembered Noah*”. Show how this is an important connection between the Flood, the Exodus (Exodus 2.24; 6.5) and the arrival of Jesus (Luke 1.67-79).

**God’s Covenant with Noah (Gen. 8.20-9.17)**

9. In this text the value of human life is established. How is this done?

10. What did Noah do as soon as he left the ark?

11. What did God promise Noah and the rest of mankind? What was the sign of that promise?

12. What connections would Israel be able to make between themselves and the family of Noah?

**Connections between the Flood and the Creation**

As God judged the world, He recreated the world. We see a rebirth of creation through water. This has important implications for the original audience as well as for us today.

**How do the following passages parallel each other?**

* Genesis 1.2 and Genesis 8.1-2:
* Genesis 1.6-8 and Genesis 8.2b:
* Genesis 1.9 and Genesis 8.3-5:
* Genesis 1.20-23 and Genesis 8.6-12
* Genesis 1.24-25 and Genesis 8.17-19
* Genesis 1.26-28 and Genesis 8.16, 18
* Genesis 1.28 and Genesis 9.1-2

**Parallels between the Flood, the Exodus, and the Conquest of Canaan**

* Deliverance through water (Genesis 7, Exodus 14, Joshua 3)
* Establishment of Covenant (Genesis 9, Exodus 24, Joshua 8)
* Dread/Fear of God’s People (Genesis 9.2, Deuteronomy 2.25, Joshua 2.9)

**How do we parallel this today as Christians? (consider 1 Peter 3.18-22, 1 Corinthians 11.23-26)**

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: the larger reading, read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 9.18-11.26)**

**Canaan (9.18-27)**

1. Who is the primary focus upon in this section? Why is this important for the original audience of Genesis?
2. How is Noah portrayed in this section? How does this section recall the language of Adam as well as Cain?
3. What did Ham do, and what did Shem and Japheth not do?
4. Noah realizes what Ham has done (9.24), and yet the curse is pronounced upon Canaan. Why?

**The Clans of the Sons of Noah (10.1-32)**

1. What phrase is used in the lines of descent of all three sons?
2. What two lines are focused upon in chapter 10? How is this similar to chapter 5?
How is this important for the original audience of Genesis?
3. On a separate sheet, draw a family tree or build a chart of the descendants of Japheth, Ham, and Shem.
What names stand out to you in these tables?
4. Chapter 10 focuses three times on “*lands…clans…nations*”. When will we read of this again?
5. The incident at Babel actually occurs within the timeline of this table. What evidence for this is found here?

**The Tower of Babel (11.1-9)**

1. Note that the inhabitants of the whole earth “*journeyed east*” (NASB), and then built “*a city*”.
So far in Genesis, are these good signs or bad signs? Please give scripture to defend your claim.
2. Why did mankind decide to build a city and a tower? How did this violate God’s instructions, and how was it similar to Eve’s sin in 3.22-24?
3. In the flood account, we noticed a symmetry within the text, and a similar construction occurs within this section. What is the center element in this account?
4. What main lessons would Israel need to learn from this section?
5. How is the name “Babel” related to the city/nation of “Babylon”?

**Shem’s Descendants (11.10-26)**

1. Who were the notable descendants of Shem? How is this list different from 10.21-31?
2. This list differs in one key way from the genealogy from Adam to Noah (ch. 5). What is it?
3. How is 5.32 similar to 11.26 in the ordering of the sons? Why would this matter?

**Introduction:** This section of Genesis introduces us to Abram and the amazing promises made by the LORD.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 11.27-13.18)**

**Terah (11.27-32)**

1. What familiar phrase begins this section? What are the previous sections of Genesis?
2. How will Nahor and Milcah factor into the Genesis account later on?
3. What is the irony behind the meaning of Abram’s name?
4. How does this section agree with Acts 7.2-4?

**The Call and Response of Abram (12.1-9)**

1. Why was this section of Genesis of great importance to Israel? Why would it be important to us today?
2. What promises are made to Abraham here, and how has the reader already been introduced to those concepts in the text?
3. How do God’s promises seek to repair the damage that sin has brought to the world?
4. How did Abram respond to God’s promises and commands? (cf. Heb. 11.8-10)
5. What is Abram’s response to God’s promises once he arrives in Canaan? Why is this appropriate?
6. What lessons should the original readers (the wilderness-wandering Israelites) learn from this section?

**Abram’s Embarrassing “Exodus” (12.10-13.1)**

1. Genesis 12.10-13.1 is written in a chiastic (or symmetrical) arrangement.
Describe the pattern below, and then identify the central element in the story.
2. How does this account portray Abram? How does it call to mind previous sinful behavior in the text?
3. What similarities exist between this account and the Exodus of the Israelites?
4. What lessons would Israel need to learn from this section?

**Abram and Lot Separate (13.2-18)**

1. Describe how this section contrasts Abram and Lot.
2. In 13.11, “*Lot journeyed east*”. Why is this a bad sign, according to the text thus far?
3. Abram’s descendants are promised to be “*as the dust of the earth*” (13.16).
Why would this phrase be source of hope for Israel and for us today?
4. What lessons would Israel learn from this section?

**Introduction:** This section of Genesis follows Abram’s conquest and God’s ratification of His covenants.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 14-15)**

**Abram Rescues Lot (14.1-16)**

1. Where are these kings/kingdoms roughly located? What was the direction of their travel towards the region of Sodom and Gomorrah?
2. Why is this conflict, as well as the locations mentioned, important for Israel?
3. How is Lot’s connection with Sodom strengthened in this section? (compare 13.12 with 14.12)
4. Notice that v.11-12 and v.16 seem to describe the same thing twice, with one notable difference. What is that difference, and why is that relevant to the story of Abram? (hint: look back at 12.3)
5. What would the original audience need to learn from this section?

**God Chooses God Over Sodom (14.17-24)**

1. Where did the kings of Sodom and Salem meet Abram?
2. The names of both Melchizedek and Salem are significant here. What do they mean and how do these contrast with the king of Sodom?
3. Melchizedek blesses both Abram and God Most High. What does “bless/blessing” mean, and what is the difference between God’s blessings (Gen. 1.22, 28; 2.3; 9.1; 12.3) and man’s blessings (Gen. 9.26; 14.19)?
4. What is the significance of Abram’s paying of tithe to Melchizedek?
5. Why does Abram refuse the Sodomite king’s offer? Why is this significant?
6. What would Israel need to learn from this section?

**God Enters into Covenant with Abram (15.1-21)**

1. How is God’s promise to reward Abram connected with Abram’s decision in 14.22-24?
2. What parallels are there between the two conversations (v.1-5, 7-21)?
3. These two conversations are joined together by a phrase from the author in v.6.
Why is this phrase important? (Provide references)
4. What two promises of the three (cf. 12.1-3) are dealt with in this section?
5. What would Israel need to learn from this section?

**Introduction:** This section of Genesis follows two stories both involving God’s promise to provide an heir through Abram and Sarai. Contrasted in ch. 16-17 is the attempt by Sarai and Abram to improvise an heir by way of Hagar with God’s plan of establishing His covenant people through Isaac.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 16-17)**

**Abram, Sarai, and Hagar (16.1-16)**

1. What sort of structure do you see in the text? (Hint: v.1-6 is written differently than v.7-14)
2. What plan did Sarai establish to have children? What was the problem (or problems) with this plan?
3. What connections are there between this account and Genesis 3-4?
4. Hagar is found in the wilderness, by a spring of water on the way to Shur. Where is this? (Ex. 15.22)
5. How is Hagar’s faith contrasted with that of Abram and Sarai in this section?

Why might that be a surprise to the original audience?
6. How is Ishmael’s name, as well as the name Hagar calls God, a great comfort to Israel and to us?
7. What lessons would Israel learn from this account?

**New Names and the Sign of Circumcision (17.1-27)**

1. What are the structural elements of this text? How is it written?
2. What did Abram need to do to be in a covenant relationship with God? (Gen. 17.1-2)
3. With whom was God establishing His covenant?
4. You should notice some new names in ch. 17:
	1. Who receives these new names? (look carefully)
	2. New names often imply a change in status or circumstance. How does this happen here?
5. List the four aspects of God’s covenant with Abraham. (Gen. 17.6-8)
6. **The sign of the covenant is not the covenant itself**. What covenant was Abraham and his descendants to keep with God, and what would be the sign of that covenant?
7. What would Israel learn from this section? What must we learn from this section?

**Introduction:** This section of Genesis highlights two visits from strangers: the “three men” who visit Abraham under the Oaks of Mamre in Gen. 18, and two of those “men” who visit Lot in Sodom in Gen. 19. God’s promises to bless are contrasted with His promises to destroy, and important questions concerning God’s morality are raised

.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 18-19)**

**Three “Men” Visit Abraham (Gen. 18-1-15)**

1. Who were the “three men” that visited Abraham? (18.22, 19.1) (18.10, 18.22, 18.33)
2. Describe Abraham’s hospitality towards the three strangers.
3. Who is the focus of the conversation in v.1-15?
4. Give some of the parallels between this interaction and that in 17.16-19.
5. What would Israel need to learn from this account?
6. What specific connections do we have in the New Testament to this account?

**“They Looked Down Toward Sodom” (18.16-33)**

1. Four important phrases are given in v.17-19. What are they, and why are they important?
2. How does v.20-21 remind the listener of the Flood, and of Babel?
3. Abraham asks two questions in this section that help us understand the point of this entire passage.
What are the answers to those questions, and why would the listener need to know them?
4. What does Abraham have in common with Moses and Jesus in light of this passage?
(cf. Ex. 32.11-13, Psalm 106.23; Heb. 7.25)
5. What lessons would Israel need to learn from this passage?

**God Rescues Lot and Annihilates the Cities of the Valley (19.1-38)**

1. What connections are there between Lot’s behavior and Abraham’s in ch. 18?
2. Lot’s three-part plea with the Sodomites tells us much about his heart.
What are the three parts, and how has dwelling in Sodom influenced each one?
3. What effect does “living in Sodom” have on our ability to warn against God’s judgment? (Gen. 19.14)
4. How does the account of Sodom’s destruction highlight God’s mercy as well as his justice?
5. List at least five of the parallels between this account and the Flood account.
6. What lessons would Israel need to learn from this passage?

**Introduction:** This final lesson brings us to the climactic scene of Gen. 22: the ultimate test of Abraham’s faith.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 20-22)**

**Abraham vs. Abimelech (20.1-18)**

1. Give three ways this account is a “rerun” of an earlier incident in Genesis.
2. Why did God keep Abimelech from sinning with Sarah and keep him from death?
3. Did God take over Abimelech’s free will in preventing him from sinning further against Sarah?
If not, why not? (provide passages)
4. God would command the Jews to bring harsh judgment against the Canaanite peoples.
What lessons about God’s judgment in regard to the Canaanites were being taught in Genesis 20?
5. What other lessons should Israel learn from this account?

**The Fulfillment of the Promise and Removal of the Threat (21.1-21)**

1. In v.1, “*The LORD* ***visited*** *Sarah*…”. What does that term mean? (cf. Gen. 50.24, Ruth 1.6, Luke 1.68)
2. What caused Sarah to order Abraham to remove Hagar and Ishmael, and why?
3. Why did God permit Hagar and Ishmael’s removal?
4. What lessons would Israel need to learn from this passage?

**The Covenant at Beersheba (21.22-34)**

1. How does the sequence of stories in Gen. 18-21 foreshadow Israel’s own experience in Canaan?
2. How would this section reassure the wilderness-wandering Jews?
3. What lessons would Israel need to learn from this passage?

**The Sacrifice of Isaac (22.1-19)**

1. How does this account connect to the call of Abram in ch. 12?
2. What did Abraham believe according to Romans 4.17 and Hebrews 11.19?
3. Upon what basis was Abraham’s offspring going to enter the Promised Land? (22.16-18)
4. Give four reasons why God tests faithfulness. (Ex. 15.25, 16.4) (Ex. 20.20) (Deut. 8.2, 13.3) (Deut. 8.16)
5. What other lessons would Israel need to learn from this account?
6. How does this account point forward to the Cross?
(Hint: there’s a sermon on our website that can help with this question: Feb. 3rd, 2019)

**Abraham’s Nieces and Nephews (22.20-24)**

1. Why is it important that the reader learn at this stage of Abraham’s brothers’ family?
2. What lessons would Israel need to learn from this passage?

**Introduction:** This lesson examines the accounts of Isaac in Genesis prior to His blessing of Jacob over Esau.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 23.1-25.18)**

**Abraham’s Only Possession (23.1-20)**

1. What was Abraham’s only possession in Canaan?
2. How does the mention of Sarah’s age highlight her importance?
3. Who else would be buried alongside Sarah? (Gen. 49.29-32; 50.12-13)
4. Why did the original audience need to hear this? (cf. Gen. 50.24-26; Ex. 13.19)

**Isaac and Rebekah (24.1-67)**

1. What did Abraham require his servant to promise prior to returning to Mesopotamia?
Why would this be relevant to Israel? (Ex. 34.11-16; Deut. 7.34
2. How do Abraham’s instructions highlight his commitment to God’s promises?
3. Note especially Genesis 24:7. Then, considering Exodus 23:20-23; 33:2, what great message should the wilderness wandering Jews get from this account? (credit goes to E. Crozier for this question)
4. Give some of the admirable qualities of Abraham’s servant expressed in this section.

1. Note the blessing placed on Rebekah in 24.60.
Why would this be relevant to Israel?
2. How does Abraham’s servant refer to Isaac?
How do Christians imitate this sort of behavior today? (Heb. 1.2; Rom. 8.17; 1 Cor. 7.22, 8.6)

**Abraham and Keturah (25.1-6)**

1. How is Abraham’s vitality similar to that of Moses? (Deut. 34.7)
2. How is Abraham’s actions here indicative of his faith in God?

**The Death of Abraham (25.7-11)**

1. What is the tone of this description of Abraham’s death?
How is this different from what we’ve read so far, and what we will read conc. Ishmael in 25.17?
2. The text mentions Abraham’s dying in a “good old age”.
How is this a fulfillment of God’s promises, and who else in scripture is described to have done so?

**The Generations of Ishmael (25.12-18)**

1. How does this section of Genesis compare to the rest?
2. How has God proven Himself faithful in regard to Ishmael? (Gen. 16.10, 17.20)

**What other lessons are there for the wilderness-wandering Jews from this section?**

**Introduction:** This lesson examines the accounts of Isaac in Genesis prior to His blessing of Jacob over Esau.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 25.19-26.35)**

**Structure: Briefly describe the topic of each section below.**

|  |
| --- |
| * **25.19-26:**
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| * **25.27-28:**
 |
| * **25.29-34:**
 |
| * **26.1-5:**
 |
| * **26.6-11:**
 |
| * **26.12-22:**
 |
| * **26.23-25:**
 |
| * **26.26-33:**
 |
| * **26.34-35:**
 |

 **Questions:**

1. How do these two chapters contrast Jacob and Esau’s relationships with God and the family of Abraham?
2. How do these accounts from Isaac’s life compare with Abraham?
3. How is Gen. 26.11 a fulfillment of Gen. 12.3?
4. Describe at least two problems with Esau’s marriage.
5. What signs of future conflict between Jacob and Esau do we see in this section?
6. Why would the descendants of Jacob be given so much information about Esau?
7. What lessons should wilderness-wandering Israel learn from Esau?
8. What conditions did God place on Isaac in 26.1-5?
9. Why did Esau lose his birthright?
10. How would Israel enjoy the greater fulfillment of 26.22?
11. What other lessons would the wilderness-wandering Israelites need to learn from this section?

**Bonus Thought Question:**

Compared to the other Patriarchs, Isaac receives far less “airtime” in the book of Genesis.
Why could this be?

**Introduction:** This lesson begins the story of Jacob as a fugitive due to this infamous account of deception.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 27.1-29.30)**

**Structure: Briefly describe the topic of each section below.**

|  |
| --- |
| * **27.1-28.5**
 |
| * **28.6-9**
 |
| * **28.10-21**
 |
| * **29.1-30**
 |

 **Questions:**

**1.** How old was Isaac in Gen. 27.1? How many more years would it be until he dies?

2. What is symbolic about the actions of Rebekah in 27.15?

3. What is left out of Esau’s “blessing” that is mentioned in both of Jacob’s blessings?

4. Upon what does Isaac depend upon to make his decisions in 27.1-33? Why is this a problem?

5. How are the blessings of Jacob an echo of Abraham and Isaac’s blessings?

6. Who is the protagonist in 27.1-28.5?

7. How does Esau remind the reader of Cain in this account?

8. At what point are Jacob, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau all in the same place? What could this show us today?

9.. How does Isaac imitate his father’s example in this account?

10. Why did Esau marry again? (look at *who* he marries)

11. What promise did God make to Jacob in 28.13-15? Why would the Israelites need to hear this?

12. How would Israel experience the greater fulfillment of Jacob’s vow in 28.20-22? (Deut. 8.4, 29.5)

13. What does Bethel mean?

14. How is Laban’s deception of Jacob an example of Lex Talionis (eye for an eye)?

15. List the parallels and contrasts between Gen. 29 and Gen. 24.

16. Jacob ends up marrying twice. Based on earlier instances of this (Lamech, Abraham, & Esau, what should we expect to happen?

17. What would Israel need to learn from this account?

**Bonus Question:**
How is this section of Genesis a look forward into the Exodus account?

**Introduction:** This lesson highlights Jacob’s struggles with his wives, his kinsmen, and ultimately with God.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 29.31-33.20)**

**Structure: Briefly describe the topic of each section below.**

|  |
| --- |
| * **29.31-30.24:**
 |
| * **30.25-43:**
 |
| * **31.1-55:**
 |
| * **32.1-21:**
 |
| * **32.22-32:**
 |
| * **33.1-20:**
 |

 **Questions:**

1.How do the twelve sons of Jacob differ from the twelve tribes of Israel? (cf. Gen. 35.22-26, 48.5; Numbers 1)

2. Describe the family situation of Jacob in 29.31-30.24.

3. What can we learn about God in 29.31-30.24?

4. How do Rachel and Leah compare with one another?

5. How and why did Jacob acquire great riches?

6. How has deception been a recurring theme since ch. 27?

7. How does the account in 30.25-43 tell us (and Israel) about God’s ability to provide for His people?

8. How does Jacob’s experiences with Laban mirror Israel’s experiences with Egypt?

9. How do Rachel and Leah’s responses in 31.16 compare with Bethuel’s in 24.50-51?

10. What is the central focus in ch. 32, and how is it framed/bookended within the chapter?

11. Why did Jacob send gifts before him to Esau, and what does this indicate?

12. Compare the Esau of Gen. 25-28 with the Esau of Gen. 33.

13. Why did Jacob ultimately receive the blessing that he had stolen from Esau?

14. How does the wrestling match turn out for Jacob, and what new name is he given as a result?

15. What did Jacob mean by stating his seeing of Esau’s face was “*like seeing the face of God*” (33.10)?

16. How do we know from ch. 33 that Jacob (Israel) still hasn’t developed fully in his faith toward God?

17. How is struggle a recurring theme in this section? What should Israel (and we) learn from this?

**Introduction:** This lesson shows us problems within Jacob’s family and highlights God’s grace toward Israel.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 34-36)**

**Structure: Briefly describe the topic of each section below.**

|  |
| --- |
| * 34.1-31:
 |
| * 35.1-15:
 |
| * 35.16-29:
 |
| * 36.1-8:
 |
| * 36.9-43:
 |

 **Questions:**

1. What (or Who) is notably absent in Genesis 34? (in similar fashion to Gen. 4.17-24)

2. There are no “good examples” in Genesis 34, and yet the chapter highlights some key lessons Israel would need to learn concerning their dealings with the Canaanites. List some of these below.

3. How did Jacob’s sons corrupt the sign of circumcision in Gen. 34?

4. In light of the awful (yet honest) depiction of Jacob & family in Gen. 34, how are the promises kept alive?

5. There are two key causes for us to be alarmed/dismayed at Jacob & family in Gen. 35.1-5. What are they? (Remember: Gen. 28.20-22)

6. Why did Jacob require the surrender of their earrings? (cf. Ex. 32.2-4, Judg. 8.24-27, Hos. 2.13)

7. How is what happened to the surrounding cities repeated during the Canaanite conquest? (cf. Josh. 2.9-11)

8. Considering Genesis 30.1, why is Rachel’s death ironic? (Credit to E. Crozier for this question)

9. What is unique (and rather sad) about Rachel’s burial? (cf. Gen. 49.31-32)

10. What did Esau do when Jacob returned to Canaan, and how is it reminiscent of Lot?

11a. What does Israel mean, and how does it compare with El Shaddai (God Almighty)?
11b. Why is this name appropriate both for Jacob, and for the nation that would come from him later?

12. There is an important aspect of Abraham’s promises that are partially fulfilled in Gen. 36. What is it?

13. There is one name in the family of Esau that would stand out in particular to the wilderness-wandering Jews. What name would that be?
(Only use this hint if you couldn’t find the name: Ex. 17.8, Deut. 25.17, 1 Sam. 15.2)

Bonus Question: Trace the thread of deceit from Genesis 12 to 36. What has consistently been the outcome of deceit?

**Introduction:** This lesson begins the final act in the book of Genesis: the story of Israel’s journey to Egypt

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 37-38)**

**Structure: Briefly describe the topic of each section below.**

|  |
| --- |
| * 37.1-11:
 |
| * 37.12-36:
 |
| * 38.1-40:
 |

 **Questions:**

1. It may come as a surprise to find that 37.2 is described as “*the generations of Jacob*”, when the majority of the rest of the book centers around Joseph. But who does Genesis circle back around to (and focus upon) during the last 5 chapters?

2. How did Jacob repeat the mistake of his parents?

3a. Even though Jacob rebukes Joseph for his dream in 37.11, what does he do with it?
3b. Who else does this concerning a son? (Luke 2.19)

4. How is Genesis 37.12-35 a repetition of several previous stories in Genesis?

5. How has Jacob’s deception come full circle in this account?

6. How would we characterize the older sons of Jacob from this story?

7. Why did the wilderness-wandering Jews need to hear this story, and what should they learn from it?

8. Genesis 37 has several strong allusions to Jesus. List some of these.

9. Give two ways Judah imitates Esau in Gen. 38.

10a. What happened to Judah’s older two sons?
10b. Has this sort of thing happened before in Genesis? If so, when?
10c. How does this reflect on Judah?

11. Gen. 37-38 highlight the depths of Judah’s wickedness. What then do we learn about God’s grace from Jacob’s words to Judah in 48.8-12?

12. When Judah realized what had happened, what was his judgment of Tamar? Is this necessarily God’s judgment of her? (credit to E. Crozier for this question)

13. Where do we see Tamar mentioned prominently in the New Testament? What does this teach us about God?

**Introduction:** This lesson begins the final act in the book of Genesis: the story of Israel’s journey to Egypt

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 39-41)**

**Structure: Briefly describe the topic of each section below.**

|  |
| --- |
| * Genesis 39:
 |
| * Genesis 40:
 |
| * Genesis 41:
 |

 **Questions:**

1. Show how Joseph’s struggles and triumphs in Gen. 39-41 foreshadow Israel’s own experiences in Egypt.

2. What is the constant refrain repeated in this section about Joseph and God, and in which verses are they found?

3. Why would Israel need to hear this repeated message?

4. What reasons does Joseph supply for refusing the advances of “Mrs. Potiphar”? What would Israel learn from this?

5. How does this section help us deal with suffering and persecution?

6. The story of Joseph is marked by six dreams. Which of these go unfulfilled? What would this teach Israel about God? (cf. 40.8, 41.16)

7. Why do the six dreams in the Joseph cycle happen in sets of two? (Give the specific passage)

8a. What name did Pharaoh give Joseph?
8b. What does it mean? (if you can’t find it, check out Gen. 45.5 for a hint)
8c. How is this name a powerful type of Jesus?

9. How does Joseph help fulfill part of the promises to Abraham in Gen. 12.2-3?

10. How were the names of Joseph’s two sons an encouragement to the audience of Genesis?

11. What were the immediate and long-term results of Joseph’s faithfulness to God?

12. How many years passed between Joseph’s enslavement and empowerment?

13. What lessons should the audience of Genesis have learned and applied from this section?

**Introduction:** This lesson continues the story of Joseph, which describes how Israel goes into Egypt.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 42-44)**

**Overview: Briefly describe the topic of each section below.**

|  |
| --- |
| * Genesis 42:
 |
| * Genesis 43:
 |
| * Genesis 44:
 |

 **Questions:**

1. How and when are Joseph’s dreams fulfilled in this section? What verse reminds the hearer of this?

2. What was Joseph’s first plan for testing his brothers’ honesty? The second?

3. Why did the brothers think this was happening to them?

4. How does 42.21-22 compare with 42.25-28? What does this demonstrate in Joseph, and ultimately in God?

5. Do Joseph’s brothers describe themselves in a surprising way to you?
How can that reflect on how we describe ourselves?

6. What is Jacob’s outlook regarding himself, and how does compare with the truth?

7. Provide one possibility for why Simeon was chosen for imprisonment by Joseph. (Think closely on Gen. 37.25-30)

8. Why is the gift Jacob requires the brothers to take to Egypt ironic?

9. The account of the meal in Joseph’s house (43.16-34) is truly fascinating. Give three things that stand out to you.

10. How did Joseph test his brothers on their 2nd trip?

11. Provide two ways the story of Genesis 44 is similar to Genesis 37, as well as one way they are different.

12. What lesson does Joseph teach to his brothers in ch. 44?

13a. How does Judah redeem himself by becoming a Redeemer in ch. 42-44?

13b. How is this a beautiful type of our Redeemer today?

14. What did you notice in Judah’s speech in 44.18-34?

15. What lessons should Israel learn from this section?

**Introduction:** This lesson shows Joseph’s triumph: grace to his brothers, victory over Pharaoh, and trust in God.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 45-47)**

**Overview: Briefly describe the topic of each section below.**

|  |
| --- |
| * Genesis 45:
 |
| * Genesis 46:
 |
| * Genesis 47:
 |

 **Questions:**

1. When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, who did he repeatedly credit for bringing him to Egypt?

2. How is 45.5-7 a fulfillment of Joseph’s Egyptian name?

3. What did Joseph ask his brothers to do?

4. How does the relationship between Pharaoh and Joseph in ch. 45 remind us of God and Jesus? (cf. ch. 41.37-57)

5. How does Joseph repay his brothers for stripping him of his “*coat of many colors*” in 45.22?

6. How long had Jacob believed that Joseph was dead? Who else died during this time period?

7. How does 46.1-4 reflect Jacob’s growth in the LORD?

8. Why would the audience of Genesis need to hear 46.3-4?

9. What do the sons of Jacob in 46.8-25 all have in common?

10. Why are there 66 persons in 46.26, and 70 persons in 46.27?

11a. Who should Judah remind physical Israel of in 46.28?
11b. Who should Judah remind spiritual Israel of in this verse?

12. How does Jacob describe his life in ch. 47? Does Jacob’s statement reflect his treatment by God?

13. What did you notice in 47.13-26?

14. Who is saved by Joseph’s leadership in ch. 47? How is this a type of Christ?

15. What request is made by Jacob in 47.29-30? Why does the audience of Genesis need to hear this?

16. What does it mean for Jacob to bow himself upon the head of his bed/staff in 47.31? (Heb. 11.21)

**Bonus Question**: Why does Stephen say that 75 people went into Egypt in Acts 7.14?

**Introduction:** This final lesson in the Joseph cycle wraps up Jacob and Joseph, but not the nation of Israel.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read this section a minimum of three times!**

**(Genesis 48-50)**

**Structure: Briefly describe the topic(s) of each section below.**

|  |
| --- |
| * Genesis 48:
 |
| * Genesis 49:
 |
| * Genesis 50:
 |

 **Questions:**

1. What promise does Moses make sure the audience hears throughout Genesis? (Gen. 48.4, 21)

2. What did Jacob do with Manasseh and Ephraim?

3. How was Jacob’s treatment of Joseph’s sons an echo of earlier stories in Genesis?

4. To what group of people would the information of ch. 49 be pertinent?

5. How does Jacob’s blessing of Joseph connect to previous blessings in Genesis?

6a. How many times in this section does the concept of “going back to Canaan” come up? (provide passages)
6b. How would this benefit the audience of Genesis?

7. What two tribes were given the greatest blessings? How would this play out in Israel’s history?

8. What is the significance of carrying Jacob and Joseph’s bodies from Egypt? How long did they have to pass down these instructions?

9. In what ways does 49.28-50.26 bring us back through the story of Genesis?

10a. What fear did Joseph’s brothers demonstrate after Jacob’s death? How does Joseph respond?
10b. What does this teach us about our reactions to grace and forgiveness?

11. How does Joseph’s statement about God’s work through himself echo throughout the book?

12. For someone with such exemplary faith, for what is Joseph remembered in Hebrews 11?

13. Did Israel fulfill Joseph’s command? (provide passages)

14. How does the end of Genesis dovetail with the beginning of Exodus? What does this show?