

## *Families On Mission Week 1 Devotional Guide*

### **Day 1- Genesis 1 - Creation**

Try to read this passage with wonder as if you have never read over it before-- but with the added benefit of knowing the rest of the Biblical story. Knowing the rest of the story only makes this passage even more amazing. Allow yourself and your children to marvel at what's unfolding there. Especially with younger children, you may want to have them close their eyes and get a mental picture of what's being created.

God Himself created a very good world, and He put people in it. Everything was wonderful in Genesis 1- beautiful, peaceful, and perfect! Can you even imagine? For your older kiddos and in your own personal meditation, connect this to John 1. Jesus, the Word that became flesh was with God and was God. Thus, Jesus as God is the Creator and Redeemer of all. Even though we'll soon see mankind mess up the perfect creation, Jesus made a way for us to experience perfect again one day with our Father in Heaven. Stand in Wonder!

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *What does the Bible tell us in that very first verse? God created. Everything started with and came directly from God in the very beginning.*
- *What phrase do we read over and over about God's Creation? "It was good." Why do you think it was all good?*

### **Day 2-- Genesis 2-- Rest and Family (Adam and Eve)**

Once again, we see the wonder of creation laid out before us. Although this is likely a very familiar passage to you, allow yourself to read this as if it's the first time, and you don't know what happens next to change everything. In today's passage, the writer gives us more details



about some of the elements of creation than we were given in the bird's eye overview in Chapter One.

There are several key points that you could capitalize on in conversations with your children both as you read and in the days that follow:

- *God made a time for rest and modeled that for us. (v. 3)*
- *Man's work was given to him by God as a good thing, not as a punishment. Remember, man was perfect at the time work was given. Should we view our work as a gift from God or as a necessary evil? (What attitude are we modeling for our children?)*
- *God didn't want man to be alone, so He created a wife for Adam. Man + Woman = Family in God's economy. Although Adam and Eve had neither, God spoke of leaving father and mother, because He was laying out the rhythm of family life for us right there in Genesis Chapter Two.*

Clearly, family is important to God! It's the foundational unit upon which all other institutions are built.

### **Day 3-- Genesis 3-- Sin and Tragedy**

This chapter is full of dialogue, so I encourage you to really pay attention to it as the story unfolds. Allow yourself to feel the fear and grief Adam and Eve must have experienced as in one bite, they threw away their perfect life in

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fellowship with God and soon found themselves in exile in a now broken world. Everything changed in an instant.

At this point, mankind needed a Savior, and we'll begin to see God's plan for sending one starting to unfold.

### **Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:**

- *Why do you think the serpent was able to deceive Eve?*
- *Why was it so hard for them to obey when they just had one rule?*
- *Why do you think they tried to hide from God?*

Do we still fall into the same pattern when we sin?

- *Why are we, who have all the teachings of God available to us, still able to be deceived?*
- *Why do we want what is forbidden?*
- *Why do we try to hide when we sin?*

We have told our children throughout their lives that it is because God loves them so much that He won't allow them to get away with things. He knows the consequences of unrepented sin, and He makes every way for them to make things right. "Be sure your sin will find you out..." (Number 32:23b) is not coming from a god who exists to strike down any who disobey him, but rather from a loving Heavenly Father God Who "is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

How we and our children view God is incredibly important to our spiritual growth and health in the days ahead.

### **Day 4-- Genesis 12- Abram and the Promise**

Don't you stand in awe at this story? God says to go to a place He will show Abram when he

gets there... and Abram GOES! Possibly even more astonishing to me is that Sarai goes along with what had to seem like a bit of a crazy plan with no indication of fighting him about it. (As a wife, my conviction level is always high at this point.)

Why was this little family so important to God that He led them personally to the land of Canaan? How does this fit into the full narrative of scripture? Pay special attention to 2 things God Himself says in this chapter in verses 1-3 and 7:

- *God promises to bless this obedient man and make his name great.*
- *God promises that from Abram all the families on earth will be blessed.*

Right in this passage, we get a glimpse of God's plan and sovereign purpose-- to send Jesus through the line of Abram to be the Savior of all who believe. WOW!

Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:

- *Can God's promises still be believed, claimed, and rested in?*
- *What are some of the promises you have seen God keep for you personally or in your family? (Sharing stories from your personal walk with God is an incredible discipleship tool to instill in your children a deep love and trust in the God Who saves. Help them build their faith by allowing them to pray with you about things and by telling them ways God is working that they may not be privy to on their own... rehearsing all those things to your children also strengthens your faith and encourages your heart as mom or dad. Isn't God's plan for families simply amazing?)*

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### **Day 5-- Genesis 15-- God Reassures Abram**

Do you ever get impatient? Do you ever believe something will happen only to find that your faith waivers as time marches on? God had promised Abram that he would become a great nation, but that had been a while ago-- and Abram still had no child of his own. How could he possibly become a nation?

In today's reading, we see God reassure Abram that he is not forgotten and that God's promise is sure. We see Abram believe God's promise and have it counted to him as righteousness.

For further personal study or deeper conversations with your older children, go to Romans 4 where this passage is quoted to note that being made righteous has always come by faith just as it did for Abraham. For if we could work and earn our righteousness, we would have something to boast about. Instead, God's fix to the sin mess created in Genesis 3 is to give us reason to believe and trust in Him alone for salvation and reconciliation.

We're only 5 days into our journey through scripture together, but I hope you and your family are already finding countless reasons to rejoice as we read God's story together.

### **Day 6-- Genesis 22- Abraham Tested**

By Genesis 22, Abraham has a new name and a son, who is now a young man. In this chapter, we see that God comes to Abraham again to see just how much Abraham really does trust Him by asking for that son of promise back as an offering.

In an incredible act of obedience and faith, Abraham makes every preparation to give God exactly what He was asking for, even though the pain that must have caused him had to be beyond imagination. As we see, God does not

actually take Isaac's life, but instead He provides Himself a sacrifice in the form of a ram stuck in the thicket.

### **Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:**

- *Have you ever considered what you would (or would not) be willing to give to God should He ask you for it?*
- *Why can we trust God with the things we hold most dear?*
- *Do you see any similarities between the account of Abraham and his son and another from God's Word?*

Looking at all these similarities is where I get a little geeky, I guess.. :) But God's Word never ceases to amaze me, and the thread that runs through all of it is so easily seen in the person of Jesus Christ.

- *Abraham offered Isaac on Mount Moriah. (The Bible tells us in 2 Chronicles 3:1 that Solomon built the temple on Mount Moriah, thus Jesus spent time even in His last week on earth very near that very spot.)*
- *John 3:16 and Romans 8:32 (among other passages) tell us that not only did God give us His only Son, but He did not spare Him. Instead, He gave Him up for us all.*
- *Isaac was obedient to death at the hand of his father. We see in Philippians 2:5-8 that Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient to His Father, even unto death on the cross. With Jesus' death, there was finally a perfect, holy, and final sacrifice made for the sins of all.*

In this account of Abraham's deep trust and willing sacrifice and Isaac's humble obedience, we get a glimpse of the wonder of redemption that was to come through Abraham's family when Jesus took on flesh to be the ultimate

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sacrifice for us and make a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and reconciled to God. Amen! Hallelujah!

### **Day 7-- Job 1-- Job Tested**

*(Since we are reading through the Bible chronologically, you will find that we will skip around a bit to accommodate that.)*

Today, we meet Job, an incredibly upright and wealthy man. Job lived before God gave the Law or there was any written scripture, yet he clearly knew and worshipped the One true God. Through that, we can get a glimpse of how God had been revealing Himself to people even before He started inspiring men to pen the scriptures.

Job's character and devotion to God are clear, but we actually see the accuser (Satan) use that against him and that sets off a string of tragedies befalling Job. It's Job's reaction to these things that blows me away every time I read it. In v 20 we see that "Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell to the ground and worshipped."

Can you even imagine? That is a seemingly impossible reaction that had to shock Satan a bit, for surely he thought he had done enough to trip Job up and make him turn from God.

Throughout the book of Job, we are invited to trust God's wisdom and plan when we suffer. Though we tend to want what we consider justice and an explanation for why good people suffer, we, like Job and his friends, have to learn to trust the wisdom of the One Who controls all things.

**Possible meditation, discipleship, and discussion questions:**

- *It is interesting in to invite your children to share what their reaction may have been and to share your own thoughts with them as well. Outside of the amazing grace of God and the peace that passes all understanding, it is unimaginable to think of reacting that way. When you know God, though, the unimaginable becomes possible.*

*When a dear friend of mine was killed in a freak accident when I was 18, I was told something I still rehearse to myself almost every day. "We may not always understand, but we must trust the excellent character of our God."*

*Do you and your children know Him well enough to trust Him when hard things happen? It's our prayer that by the time you finish reading through God's Word together, your entire family will have your faith strengthened and have a fresh view of God*

I pray this week of devotion and study has been a blessing for you and your family. I invite you to join me in a couple of other series to help strengthen your walk with God as a mom or dad.

- **Praying for your children** is a guide to praying scripture specifically for your children. You'll stand in awe at how God uses those scriptures to remodel your heart even as He works wonders in your children's hearts as well. [Click here to access that free resource.](#)
- **Praying for your marriage guide** to praying scripture for your spouse. This guide has been used by God in mighty ways to change the way spouses look at each other and approach their marriages His way. [Click here to access that free resource.](#)