

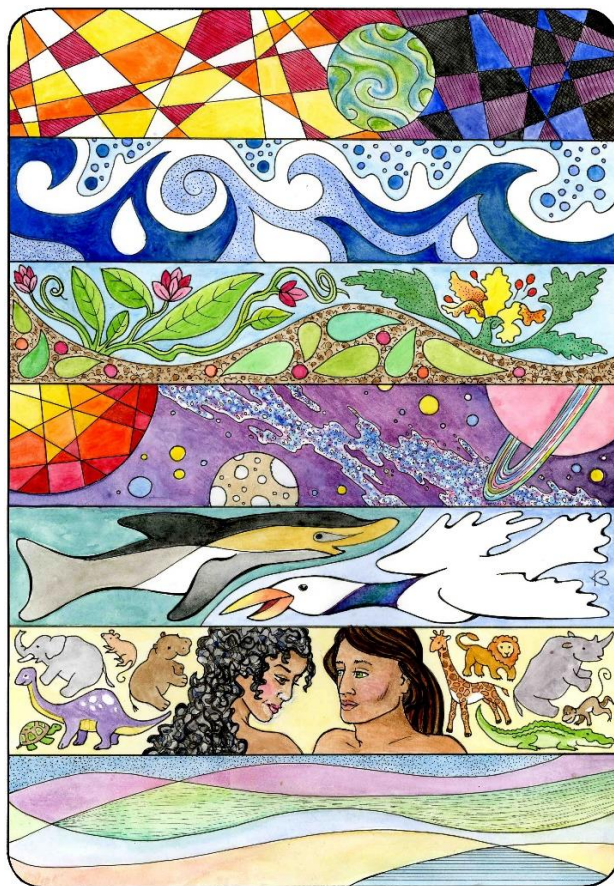
PROGRESSING TOGETHER



COURSE 106

THE STORY OF SALVATION

(Formerly Course 108 – Foundations of Our Faith)



God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.
Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.
By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing;
so on the seventh day He rested from all His work.

John 15:20a

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COURSE 106: God's Salvation

Course Objectives

1. To be able to understand and explain the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. To increase our appreciation of God's attributes, our confidence in His promises, and joyful obedience to His will.
3. To be able to appreciate the significance of the first three chapters of Genesis as foundational to understanding God's salvation plan.
4. To look forward, with joyful confidence, to the return of Christ and His eternal reign in glory.

Lessons

❶	There is one God, our Creator.
❷	Man, with all creation has been corrupted by sin.
❸	God has provided the way of salvation.
❹	Jesus Christ is our Saviour.
❺	Christ will return to earth to complete our salvation.

Introduction

The message of the Gospel is truly good news for all humanity. It is based on grace—not merit—and it stands opposed to manmade religions:

- **Religions say:**
“Do! Do this, do that, and hopefully you will merit God's salvation.”
- **True salvation revealed from heaven says:**
“Done! Jesus has already paid the full price for our salvation.”

This message may at first seem foolish and even unjust to most people. Yet the foundational truths of the Gospel have been laid down from the first chapters of Genesis and explained and amplified throughout the Bible.

This series of studies is based on these first three chapters of the Bible. References from other parts of the Bible for comparison and further study are given as appropriate.

Each lesson presents an essential truth of the Good News of salvation from sin and judgment to a restored relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The aim of this course is to enable each participant to both fully understand and confidently explain to others the unique and wonderful Gospel message. The biblical passages to learn by heart are: Ephesians 2:4-5 and John 1:29.

Testimony

The group leader will have you watch or listen to a testimony related to the topic of this course.



Lesson ①: There is One God, Our Creator

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To see the glorious character and triune nature of God in the creation.
2. To appreciate God's perfect and abundant provision for man in creation.
3. To appreciate the intimate relationship man enjoyed with God at Creation.



Read carefully Genesis, chapters 1 to 3.



THESE CHAPTERS TEACH US ABOUT THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTER AND TRIUNE NATURE OF GOD.



How long has God existed? (Genesis 1:1, 3:22)



What do we learn concerning His Spirit? (Genesis 1:2)



What do we learn concerning His Word? (Genesis 1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26,28)

Read John 1:1-3 and 14.



Who is the Word of God that became flesh and dwelt among us?



Re-read John 1:3. What does this verse teach us about Jesus' work at creation?



We worship one God who is three distinct persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In these first verses of Genesis 1, the glorious triune nature of God is introduced. John 1:1-14 helps us understand how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit worked together at creation.



What evidence do you see of His wisdom and power in the creation story? (Genesis 1:1-2, 31)



What evidence do you see of His love and mercy in the creation story? (Genesis 1:27-31, 2:18-25)



② **THESE CHAPTERS DESCRIBE THE CREATIVE ACTS OF GOD.**



Before God created the world, what was it that existed?



What do you notice concerning the sequential order in which different things were created?



③ **THESE CHAPTERS TEACH US THAT GOD HAS A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP TO MANKIND.**



What is it in these passages that shows God desires a close relationship with human beings? (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:1-3,16-20; 3:8-9)



What provisions did He make for their well-being? (Genesis 1:29-30; 2:8-9,15-25)



④ **THESE CHAPTERS TEACH US ABOUT GOD'S WILL AND PURPOSE FOR THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY FOR MANKIND.**



What blessings were given to mankind? (Genesis 1:22, 28)



What responsibilities were given to mankind? 1.28; 2.15,17,20)



What was God's assessment of the world when creation was completed? (1:31)



THESE CHAPTERS TEACH US THAT LIFE IS PRECIOUS TO GOD.



What type of food did God make available for animals and man? (1:29-30; 2:9)



What may this indicate about His attitude towards bloodshed and killing?



Optional activities

1. Watch the video '[Cosmic eye](#)'. Then, spend some time worshipping God for his power, his wisdom and his loving kindness as shown in his creation.
2. Romans 1:20a says: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made." Share as a group what people can see about God as they look at what He has made.
3. In what way should the teaching of the first three chapters of Genesis affect our moral choices, particularly with regards to the respect of human life? (Think in particular of the issues of abortion, of euthanasia, of our attitude towards people with disabilities, foreigners, the elderly, etc.) Discuss this as a group.
4. In what way should the teaching of the first three chapters of Genesis affect our attitudes towards the environment, the resources of our planet and man's responsibilities as 'caretaker' (Genesis 2:15) of these resources? Discuss this as a group.



Applications

1. If possible, go to a place where you can observe God's creation using your eyes and other senses (like hearing, touch, smell, etc.). Meditate for ten minutes on everything God made. Then, share with the group what you noticed and how you felt. After that, spend a few minutes in prayer and worship, thanking God for his power, his loving care and his provision as is manifested in creation. In the coming days, keep meditating on God's invisible qualities shown in creation and give thanks to him.

2. God planted a garden that was beautiful and full of delicious food for Adam to enjoy (Genesis 2:8-9). He also saw that Adam was alone and that it was not good. So, He made a 'helper suitable for him' (Genesis 2:18). What does this tell you about God's desire to love man? What does this tell you about God's desire to love you? Share a time in your life where God provided something for you that you needed. In the coming days, keep thanking God for his loving kindness towards you and his provision in your life.
3. Sing a worship song about God's wonderful creation. You can choose your own song or one from the list below:
 - [Creation Song](#), by Fernando Ortega
 - [God of Wonders](#), by Chris Tomlin
 - [Behold Our God](#), by Sovereign Grace
 - [Great is Thy Faithfulness](#), by Maranatha Music



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



Lesson ②: Man, with All Creation, Has Been Corrupted by Sin

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To recognize the impact of the Fall of man on creation, the nature of man and all his relationships.
2. To understand death as a physical and spiritual consequence of sin.
3. To be able to recognize the tactics of our adversary in provoking us to rebel against God's good will for us.



How are you getting on?

1. What were the main points of the last lesson?
2. What happened when you shared with others what you learned?
3. What changed in your lives as a result of these teachings?



Read carefully Genesis chapters 1-3.

①

TODAY'S WORLD COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL CREATION: WHAT CHANGED?



We learned in lesson 1 that the original creation was 'very good' and perfectly adapted for man. Explain briefly (according to chapter three) why the world that we know today is no longer the way it was originally and what has changed.

②

FROM TEMPTATION TO SIN: HOW WAS MANKIND TEMPTED TO REBEL AGAINST GOD?



What did the serpent promise would happen to Adam and Eve if they ate some fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? What happened in reality? (3:4-5)



How did they react to their nudity when they 'saw'?



What emotions did this new knowledge produce in them for the first time?



What does Genesis 3:1-7 teach us as to the tactics of temptation?



③ THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN: HOW DID THE DISOBEDIENCE OF ADAM AND EVE AFFECT THEM AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?



In the chart below, compare the condition of humanity before and after Adam and Eve sinned based on the passages provided.

Spheres of human existence	Before they sinned	After they sinned
Quality of Life / Longevity	<u>Genesis 1:31; 2:17</u> Life in the garden was very good and eternal (no death).	<u>Genesis 3:19,22-24; 5:5,11,17...</u>
Work and productivity of the earth	<u>Genesis 2:9, 15-16</u>	<u>Genesis 3:17-18</u>
Dominion over creation	<u>Genesis 1:28</u>	<u>Hebrews 2:14-15</u> Man was subjected to Satan through the fear of death.
Image of God in man	<u>Genesis 1:27; 2:7</u>	<u>Genesis 5:1-2; 9:6</u>
Relationship with God	<u>Genesis 2:18-24; 3:8</u> God enjoyed speaking directly and interacting lovingly with them.	<u>Genesis 3:8-10; 6:5-6</u>



God said that the day that man disobeyed, he would die. And yet Adam and Eve lived on physically for a long time. What had, in fact, ‘died’ when man sinned? Read also Ephesians 2:1-3.



The events of Genesis chapter 3 are referred to as the Fall of Man. How does a proper understanding of the sin and fall of mankind affect the way one views God, himself and the world we live in today?



Optional activities

1. Listen to a recording of Genesis 3. Choose five actors (the narrator, God, Adam, the woman and the serpent) and act out the scene as you listen. You can do this twice or more, changing actors each time. Then, discuss the following questions: What do we learn about the woman? How are we like her? What do we learn about Adam? How are we like him? Then, spend some time in silent prayer and confess your disobediences to God.
2. The story doesn't end with man experiencing physical and spiritual death or separation from God. There is more to the story. Ask someone in your group to share the Gospel of Jesus dying on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and look forward to learning more about this in lesson 3.



Applications

1. Satan tricked Adam and Eve into sinning by enticing them with false promises. How do modern day temptations promise us things but fail to deliver on that promise? Discuss this as a group.
2. Are you feeling shame, fear and separation from God due to sin? Spend some time alone, quietly confessing that sin and asking for forgiveness. This week, make it a habit to confess your sin regularly and to thank God for his forgiveness.
3. When we sin, we tend to hide from God like Adam and Eve in the garden. However, God desires to have fellowship with us and seeks us out. Are you hiding from God today? Spend a few minutes alone, thanking God for seeking you out to have a relationship with you. This week, continue to thank God for welcoming you back into relationship with him when you confess your sin.



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



Lesson ③: God Has Provided a Way of Salvation

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To recognize the helpless condition of fallen humanity and the need for redemption.
2. To recognize God's first promise of redemption to Adam and Eve.
3. To appreciate more fully the holiness, mercy and steadfast love of God through his wonderful plan of salvation.



How are you getting on?

1. What were the main points of the last lesson?
2. What happened when you shared with others what you learned?
3. What changed in your lives as a result of these teachings?



Read carefully Genesis, chapter 3.



God does not abandon man in his state of spiritual death. He provides the way to true life through forgiveness, the new birth and restored fellowship with God.



① THE HOPELESSNESS OF THE HUMAN CONDITION



In lesson 2 we learnt that God had said that Adam and Eve would surely die the day they ate of the forbidden tree of knowledge. What signs do we see in verses 7-13 that they did indeed die spiritually?



② MANKIND'S RESPONSE



What did Adam and Eve do to hide the results of their sin and make themselves acceptable to God?



Was their attempt successful?

③

GOD'S PROVISION



In verse 3:21, what did God do to cover man's nakedness?



What had to take place to provide them with the coats of skin?



Compare this verse with John 1:29. Who is the Person announced as the 'Lamb of God'?



What did Jesus accomplish?



What does the expression 'the lamb who takes away the sins of the world' mean?



What connection do you see between Genesis 3:21 and John 1:29?

④

MANKIND'S PART



We have noticed in 3:7,10 that man's attempt to cover his own sin by what he could do proved worthless. We have also noticed in 3:21 that only what God would provide was sufficient to cover the nakedness of their sin.



What part did Adam and Eve play in receiving this covering?



What does this tell us about God's attributes of justice and holiness?



How do these coverings show God's compassion and love for mankind?

⑤ **GOD'S PROVISION IN CHRIST**



Read carefully Ephesians 2:4-10.



Explain how receiving the coats of skin symbolizes how we receive God's provision of salvation through Christ. Complete the chart below:

	Genesis 3:21	Ephesians 2:1-13
Man's guilt and shame	Genesis 3:8-13: Adam and Eve hid from God's presence in shame. They were guilty of breaking God's only restriction and deserved to die.	
Means of covering sin		The Son of God died (on the cross) in our place and was raised to life for us.
God's part	God slaughtered animals, made clothes and covered man's body.	
Man's part	They accepted God's gift freely.	



Now explain briefly in your own words how Genesis 3:21 helps us understand God's plan to save mankind.



Optional activities

1. Watch this [video from The Bible Project summarising Genesis 1-11](#). Note particularly how sin is infecting and corrupting all of humanity and how God deals with it. Discuss this as a group.

2. Object lesson: Take a glass of clear water representing Adam and Eve before they sinned. They were pure, without any sin. Now, put a drop of dark liquid into the glass of water representing a very powerful poison called 'sin'. Then, discuss the following questions, drawing the parallels with the story of the fall: Would anyone like to drink some of this water? Why not? How much poison did it take to contaminate the whole liquid? If someone drank this lethal poison, when would they die? (Not necessarily straight away) What does this teach you about the consequences of sin?



Applications

1. Like Adam and Eve, we constantly try to cover our shame before God. What are some of the futile ways we attempt to do this? Discuss this as a group.
2. Adam and Eve played absolutely no part in receiving a covering after they sinned. They simply received what God gave them by grace. Compare this message of grace with what religions teach us about earning God's favour through good works.
3. Think of the different ways God could have responded to the disobedience of Adam and Eve. What do we learn about God (his attributes) in the way He did respond in providing for their redemption? After you have discussed this as a group, spend some time in thanksgiving and worship. This week, keep thanking God for covering you with the blood of Jesus.



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



Lesson 4: Jesus Christ is Our Salvation

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To be able to understand how Jesus Christ alone could fulfil God's promise to Adam and Eve of salvation from Satan's power.
2. To rejoice in the total liberty of Christ's victory over Satan for the believer.
3. To be able to explain the gospel message through the fulfilment of God's promises in Genesis 3.



How are you getting on?

1. What were the main points of the last lesson?
2. What happened when you shared with others what you learned?
3. What changed in your lives as a result of these teachings?



Read carefully Genesis 3:15,21 and Philippians 2:5-11.

①

OUR ENEMY



Look closely at Genesis 3:15. Who in the creation have now become enemies? How does this animosity affect us today?



What will the seed of the woman do to the serpent?



Who is the only One in all of history who was born of a woman, but not of a man?

②

THE NATURE OF JESUS



What did you learn from Philippians 2:6-7 concerning Jesus Christ?

③ THE REASON OF HIS COMING



What do you learn from Philippians 2:8 concerning the main reason for which He came to this earth as a man?



What did this accomplish for us? See Hebrews 2:14-15.



Why was it necessary for him to become a man (and to suffer so)? See Hebrews 2:16-18.

④

JESUS' PRESENT POSITION



What do you learn from Philippians 2:9-11 concerning the present position of Jesus Christ?



Having died, is He still dead?



Where is He? (Compare with Hebrews 1:1-4.)

⑤

THE FINAL OUTCOME



In Genesis 3, it is obvious that Satan tried to usurp the place of God in relation to mankind. In verse 15, in light of Philippians 2:9-11, what do we learn concerning the final outcome of this conflict?



What are the essential elements concerning the person and work of Jesus that we have dealt with in this lesson?

**Optional activities**

1. Think of a recent situation where you sensed there was clearly a spiritual battle between God's people and the forces of darkness. Describe it to the group and, if still current, present this situation to God in prayer, proclaiming the total victory of Christ over every power of darkness.
2. Take a piece of paper and a pen. As you listen to Philippians 2:6-11, draw what the passage says about Jesus. Spend some time meditating on what it cost Jesus to save you. Express your gratitude to Him and worship Him who is now exalted above all other names.

**Applications**

1. Starting with Genesis chapter 3, explain humanity's rebellion and sin against God and how God provided salvation in Jesus Christ. Pray that you will be able to explain the plan of salvation clearly to someone this week.
2. Sing a worship song thanking God for his wonderful salvation through Christ's death on the cross. You can choose your own song or one from the list below:
 - [Worthy is the Lamb](#), by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir
 - [Lord, I lift your name on high](#), by Maranatha! Music
 - [Thank you, Jesus, for the blood](#), by Charity Gayle
 - [In Christ alone](#), by Keith and Kristin Getty
 - [Living hope](#), by Phil Wickham

**Sharing**

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.



Lesson 5: Christ Will Return to Earth to Complete Our Salvation

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Objectives

1. To be able to explain how our perfect fellowship with God will be restored and our salvation will be completed.
2. To recognize God's sovereign rule over all of history and the daily events of our lives.
3. To look forward with confidence to the return of Christ and His eternal reign in glory.



How are you getting on?

1. What were the main points of the last lesson?
2. What happened when you shared with others what you learned?
3. What changed in your lives as a result of these teachings?



Read carefully Genesis 1:26-28; 3:15, 21 and Revelation 19-22.



Jesus says in Revelation 22:13 that He is “the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” In Hebrews 12:2, we see that He is “the author and perfecter of our faith.”

From Creation, to the Fall, to God's provision in the sacrifice of his own Son, the Scriptures reveal God's working sovereignly and graciously to restore mankind and the creation under His authority.

In lesson 5, we will study the last few chapters of the Bible to see what God will do to complete the salvation story and bring his creation back to its original state. We will see that God truly is the author and perfecter of our faith and the Alpha and Omega.



MAJOR EVENTS DESCRIBED IN REVELATION 19-22



There are 5 main events that take place in Revelation 19-22. Read the verses for each event and offer a brief description explaining the event.

The event	The description
The feast (19:7-10)	There will be a feast to celebrate the wedding of the Lamb to His bride.
The battle (19:11-21)	

The abyss (20:1-10)	
The judgment (20:11-15)	
The eternal reign (21:1-4, 22:1-5)	

② CHRIST VICTORIOUS



Who is being referred to in 19:11-16?



What names and titles are ascribed to Him?

③ SATAN'S DEMISE



What will be the lot of Satan and his forces at that time? (20:1-10)

④ THE JUDGMENT



Upon what criterion will each person's eternal destiny be decided? (20:11-15)



Comparing this passage with 21:1-8, describe the two possible destinies for each person.

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⑤ THE NEW JERUSALEM



After this great white throne judgment, John saw the New Jerusalem descending from heaven in glory! (21:1-2). Complete the table describing the different aspects of this eternal kingdom of God. (Chapters 21 and 22)

God	God will dwell with His people and will reign. He will be the light for the city. He will wipe away every tear.
The People	
The Temple	
The Gates and Walls	
The River of Life and the Tree of Life	
Death	Death will be no more. The curse is removed.



What similarities do you find between this kingdom and the originally created world as we find it in Genesis 1 and 2?



Who will be excluded from this kingdom? (20:11-15; 21:8, 27; 22:15)



Who will be included? (20:12,15; 21:27)



Optional activities

1. Listen to a recording of Revelation 21:1-27, a few verses at a time. Draw a picture of heaven as described in this passage. What aspect of the future kingdom of God moves you the most. Why? Share this with the group. Then, praise God together that your name is written in the Book of Life in heaven.
2. Sing a worship song about the kingdom to come. You can choose your own song or one from the list below:
 - [Is He worthy](#), by Andrew Peterson
 - [One day](#), by Cochren & Co
 - [I can only imagine](#), by MercyMe
 - [Agnus Dei](#), by Michael W. Smith
 - [Bless the Lord](#), by Matt Redman
 - [What a beautiful name](#), by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir



Applications

1. We started this course in the Garden of Eden with Adam, Eve, the serpent, and God. (Genesis 1-3) The story ends with a final victory over all those who persecuted and challenged God's people and the work of Christ (Revelation 19-22). Discuss the following questions as a group:
 - a) What confidence does this give us concerning the future?
 - b) How can understanding this victory help us face our daily challenges?
2. There are two possible destinies for each person: A dwelling place with God and a perfect relationship with Him or the lake of fire which is the second (eternal) death. Spend some time in prayer, interceding for those who are dear to you but who have not yet accepted their Saviour Jesus Christ. This week, continue to pray for them.



Review of Course 106

Review the five lessons of this Course. What is the most helpful thing you have learned? Share your discoveries with the group.

Then, ask the students to draw a panorama together, showing God's plan from creation as narrated in Genesis to the new Jerusalem presented in Revelation.



Sharing

This week, share with others what you have learned in this lesson. You can also redo the lesson with someone.

