

Progressing Together
BIBL 202



GENESIS

Creation, The Fall, and Promise



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Syllabus for BIBL202 - Genesis Certificate Level

Course objective

To introduce elders, discipleship group leaders and church planters to an overview of the human fall and God's plan of redemption through a study of the book of Genesis as an aid to understanding the rest of the scriptures; these are crucial theological concepts for new believers in our context.

Course description

This course begins by exploring the nature of Scripture and revelation; it reviews the creation of the universe, the curse that fell on Adam through the fall, the way in which sin led to the flood, the nature of God's covenant relationship with Abraham and the Patriarchs through their time in Egypt.

Learning Outcomes

Contents: By the end of the course, the student will:

- Understand how God's revelation has become progressively clearer until the coming of Jesus Christ (progressive revelation).
- Better understand the context (biblical, historical, cultural and linguistic) of the book of Genesis.
- Review the main concepts of Genesis; the creation, the fall, and the covenant promises.

Character: By the end of the course, the student will:

- Strive to emulate Abraham's special friendship relationship with God the Creator.
- Desire to reach the world for Christ, the only means of saving mankind from the devastating effects of their sin and rebellion against God.
- Demonstrate a willingness to repent from sin and actively seek God's forgiveness.

Competency: By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- Explain the unity of Biblical revelation.
- Recognize the major characters and be able to place them in their historical context.
- Explain the place of Jesus Christ in Genesis, especially the allusions to and types of Christ.

Course requirements

Certificate Level

- To demonstrate knowledge of course material through
 - answering questions at the end of each section
 - completion of the final exam
- To attend 18 of 20 instructor-led sessions (27 contact hours minimum)
- To participate in discussions by listening, contributing as appropriate, and responding when asked a specific question
- To write an essay (300 to 1000 words) describing the unity of Scripture from creation to the new creation described in Revelation.
- To make a chart of the main characters of Genesis, their main actions, and the length of their lives.

- To make another chart which places the events and people of Genesis alongside the events and people of the New Testament which they foreshadow.

Evaluation methodology and scale

- Student performance and mastery will be assessed according to the following scale:
 - 40% on completion of reading, of questions, and of assignments (10% the essay, 5% chart of main characters, 5% chart of types and allusions to the gospel)
 - 10% on student participation and attitude in discussions
 - 10% on attendance (percentage equals number of classes attended, divided by number of classes held, times ten)
 - 40% on the final written, or oral, exam.
- The evaluation scale is as follows
 - passing grade - 70-79%
 - good grade – 80-89%
 - excellent grade – 90-100%

Course schedule

To be announced.

Credits earnable

- 2 hours of credit towards a Certificate in Christian Studies

Prerequisites

(Progressing Together BIBL201, or equivalent)

Textbook and related materials

- Required - Progressing Together Manual for BIBL202
- Additional readings may be required at the instructor's discretion
- Recommended - At least one book which defends the truth of Genesis as an account of the origin of the universe and of all living things

Course methodology

The student will work inductively, reading texts, answering questions concerning knowledge, application and analysis, and drawing conclusions which will be applicable to local context. After answering the questions in each lesson, students will gather to discuss answers and practical application. When possible, the course leader will give additional talks to reinforce what the students are learning through the lessons.

Policies

- Cheating (copying another student's exam answers) and plagiarism (quoting another individual's material without acknowledging that person's work) will not be tolerated, because it is deemed contrary to Christian teaching and academic integrity.

- Absences in excess of 3 class hours will lead to a reduced grade; no student missing more than 6 class hours will receive credit for the course. Students who show little or no interest in completing course work will first be warned, then asked to leave the course if they do not change their conduct.

Bibliography

- Arnold, William. *Encountering the Old Testament*. London: Baker Books. 1999.
- *Guide to the Bible* (المرشد إلى الكتاب المقدس). Beirut, Lebanon: Lebanese Bible Society. 1996. Also available in English from Lion Publishing in London, England.
- Ham, Ken. *The New Answer Book*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books. 2009.
- Hobrink, Ben. *Modern Science in the Bible* (العلم الحديث في الكتاب المقدس). Lelystad, Holland: Uitgeverij Gideon. 2007. Originally written en Dutch and published by the same editorial.
- Malouhi, Mazhar et al. *The Origin of the World and Mankind* (نشأة العالم والبشرية). Beirut, Lebanon: Dar alJeel. 2001.
- Sarfati, Jonathan. *Refuting Compromise*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books. 2004.

Lesson 1: Introduction to Progressive Revelation

Introduction to the Old Testament

A. Revelation

What can man really know about God? Nothing! Except that which God chooses to unveil and reveal to him. To a certain measure God reveals himself through His creation. By observing nature and by examining one's conscience, man can know certain things about God. This way of learning about God is called "general revelation." But in order for man to really know God, it is necessary for God to reveal himself in a special way – speak in a language that man will understand and enter into his world. This is called "special revelation."

During the course of history, God revealed himself in diverse ways through different prophets and apostles. He used their cultural and historical contexts, as well as their personality, to influence their writings. However the Holy Spirit worked in these writers to enable them to express the exact thoughts of God which were being revealed to them. This is called "inspiration." The Bible is therefore a very human text, but at the same time, it is completely divine.

These writings make up one single story which reveals the person of God and His plan of salvation. It should be noted that God did not make himself known in one single revelation but rather progressively through revelations given over the course of centuries. The Bible is not an account of truth which comes from outside of time and space. It is rather a divine revelation through consecutive events in the course of time, which reveals God's plan of salvation. We notice a certain progression where each new revelation helps us to understand the preceding one. Yet each and every revelation points towards the coming of Jesus Christ and his work. God's supreme revelation came through His incarnation as the man Jesus Christ. Just like God's written word, Jesus is totally human and totally divine.

1. "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16. In the following verses look for the divine person and the human person involved in the same revelation of God's word. (An example is given).

	2 Peter 1:21	Jeremiah 1:2,9	Mark 12:36	Acts 28:25	1 Corinthians 4:37	Hebrews 1:1,2
Divine person		<i>The Lord</i>				
Human person		<i>Jeremiah</i>				

The Bible progressively reveals God's plan of salvation through His interventions in history and in the lives of men and women. **Three important points are brought out:**

- 1) God commits himself in His relationship with mankind. He makes promises to man and He keeps them. In the same way He expects man to commit Him also.
- 2) When God speaks there is a reason for it. In order to understand what He is saying, we need to look at the context of each revelation: the geographical and historical context, the culture of that period, the divine revelation already given, and the particular issues facing the people to whom the new revelation was being revealed.

- 3) The Bible is a record of what happened in history, and gives an honest account of the lives of men and women of God as well as unbelievers. It tells of failures as well as victories. Sometimes the Bible presents facts without commenting on them. (The reader is left to interpret them, either by comparing the text with other Biblical passages or by considering the direct consequences.)

2. The Reasons Exercise. Several passages in the Bible indicate the reasons for their revelation. Match the verse to each reason given. (*The first one has been done for you*)

Verse		Reason
Exodus 34:27	<i>To reveal God's covenant</i>	That people may believe and live in Jesus
Jeremiah 36:2,3		To announce what is coming
Luke 1:1-4		To reveal God's covenant
John 20:30,31		To respond to sticky questions
Romans 15:4		That men might receive teaching
1 Corinthians 7:1; 8:1; 12:1		That people may repent and be forgiven
Revelation 1:11,19		To teach and give hope

3. Sometimes God revealed himself to individuals, taking different forms. Following the example given, note the different forms taken.

- a. to Abraham: Gn 18:1ff * *in the form of a man*
- b. to Jacob: Gn 28:10ff
- c. to Moses: Ex 3:1-6
- d. to Manoah: Jg 13:8
- e. to Elijah: 1 K 19:11-14
- f. to Isaiah: Is 6:1-6
- g. to Saul of Tarsus: Acts 9:3-5

4. What do we learn about God through these appearances?

B. Overview of the Bible

Read these texts taken from the book, *Panorama of the Old Testament*, by H. Mears.

The Bible contains 66 books. It was written by 40 authors over a period of about 1600 years. The Old Testament was primarily written in Hebrew (except for a few passages written in Aramaic). The New Testament was written in Greek...All of these books were collected to form what we call today, "The Book." If we read this work from Genesis to the end, we will not find a single discordant note. We move from one type of literature to another as easily as if we were reading a novel or a story written by a single author. Indeed, we have before us the work of a single Spirit (2 Peter 1:21), from the pen of several men...The Old Testament and the New Testament comprise a divine library with a sublime unity...The Bible is a book, a history, a story of His life (Jesus'). (pp 7,12,13)

Mears also says: The Bible speaks to us about the origin of sin; it shows us how this separated men from God. We discover that it is impossible for the Law to bring the deliverance and the salvation that man needs; no flesh can be justified by the works of the law, for "all have sinned" (Romans 3:20,23). We then learn that a Saviour was promised; this man was to come "to seek and save what was lost," and to give His life as a ransom for many (Luke 19:10; Matthew 20:28). We thus see that through the centuries, God pursued His goal which was to prepare the way for the coming of the Redeemer of the world. (p 10)

1. The Bible is a library of 66 different books. It is divided into two parts.

The name of each part:

The first part is called: _____

The second part is called: _____

The first part contains _____ books, grouped under four themes: (Mears page 2 or a Bible)

1) _____, with _____ books

2) _____, with _____ books

3) _____, with _____ books

4) _____, with _____ books.

2. In which languages was the Bible written?

3. Why do we consider the Bible to be at once a library of books and at the same time one single book?

4. Reread the last paragraph of Mears and refer to John 1:18; Colossians 1:15, 19; Hebrews 1:1-4; 1 John 1:1-4. Why is it said that Jesus Christ is the supreme revelation of God?

C. Introduction to the Old Testament

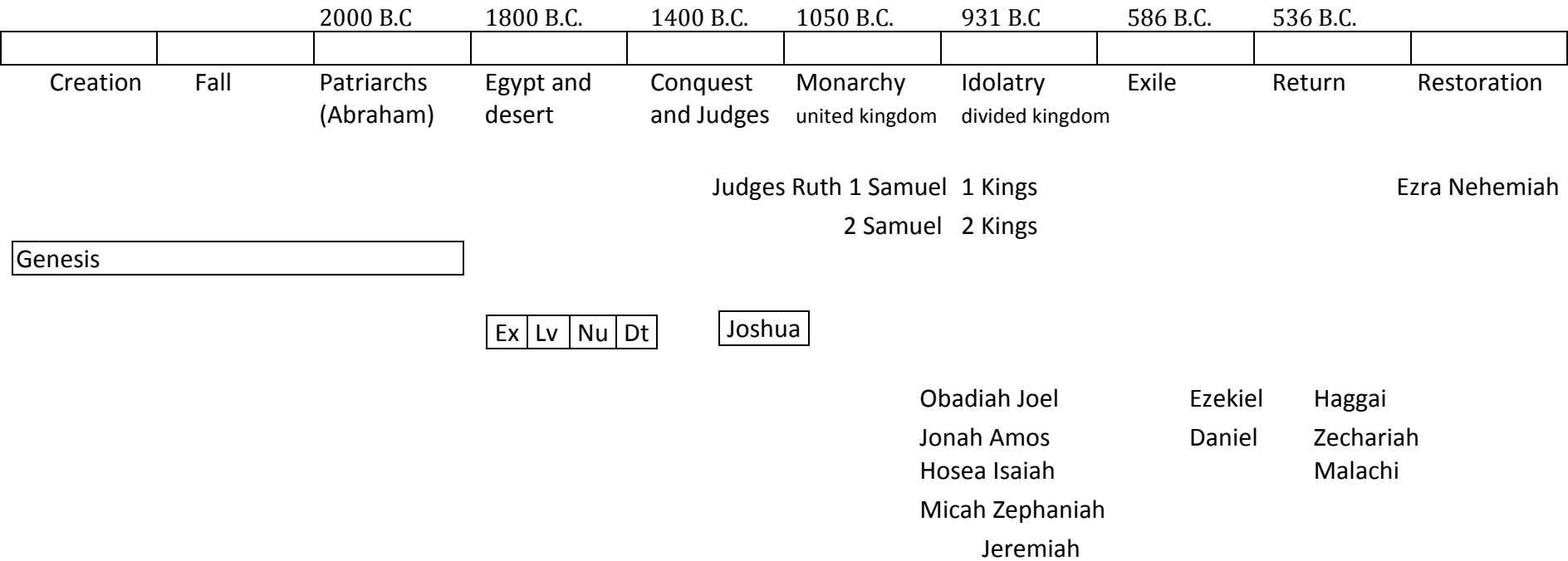
The Old Testament is the foundational revelation about God, man, and God's will concerning man. It reveals God's law, man's sin, and God's plan to save man through a coming Messiah. Through the Old Testament, God prepares His people for the coming of the Saviour Jesus Christ who is revealed in the New Testament.

The history of the Old Testament (OT) covers 4000 years. It is one single story that we have divided into 10 periods:

- The Creation
- The Fall
- The Patriarchs (from Abraham to the 12 sons of Israel)
- The captivity in Egypt
- The Conquest of the Promised Land
- The United Monarchy (Saul, David, Solomon)
- The Divided Monarchy
- The Exile
- The Return
- The Restoration (See the chart on page 4)

In this course, we will study the first three periods which are covered in the book of Genesis, which was written by Moses. Moses also wrote the next four books of the Bible: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Panoramic View of the History of the Old Testament



The world is created by God. The Creation is “good.” Adam looks after the world. Man lives in perfect harmony with God.	Adam and Eve sin by disobeying God. The world is cursed; sin and death spreads to all mankind. A saviour is promised.	Abraham is chosen to become father of a nation. This nation will be blessed by God and will be in its turn, a blessing for all nations.	The family of Israel, having found refuge in Egypt, becomes a nation. They are enslaved. God chooses Moses to deliver the people and to reveal his Law.	God gives his people the country of Canaan whose inhabitants are very evil. But the people fail to conquer the whole country	As long as Israel obeys God, she prospers. The line of David is established. Other nations show an interest in worshipping the only true God	Israel turns from the only true God and goes after idols. The 10 tribes of the North separate from Judah and the line of David to create the kingdom of Israel	After several centuries of warnings, God allows : 1) The final fall of Israel, the northern kingdom, (720 years B.C.) 2) The exile of Judah to Babylon.	After 70 years of exile in Babylon the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin return to Palestine, thanks to God’s miraculous intervention	Reconstruction of the temple and spiritual revival. The people are however dominated by foreign powers. They yearn for the coming of the Messiah
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Abbreviations Exercise

Match the abbreviation for each book mentioned below. Each column holds thirteen books. Opposite each column are the abbreviations in the wrong order. We recommend that you try to learn the abbreviations and the order of the books of the O.T. This will help you as you study the Bible. You may find help for this exercise at the beginning of your Bible. *(The first one is done for you.)*

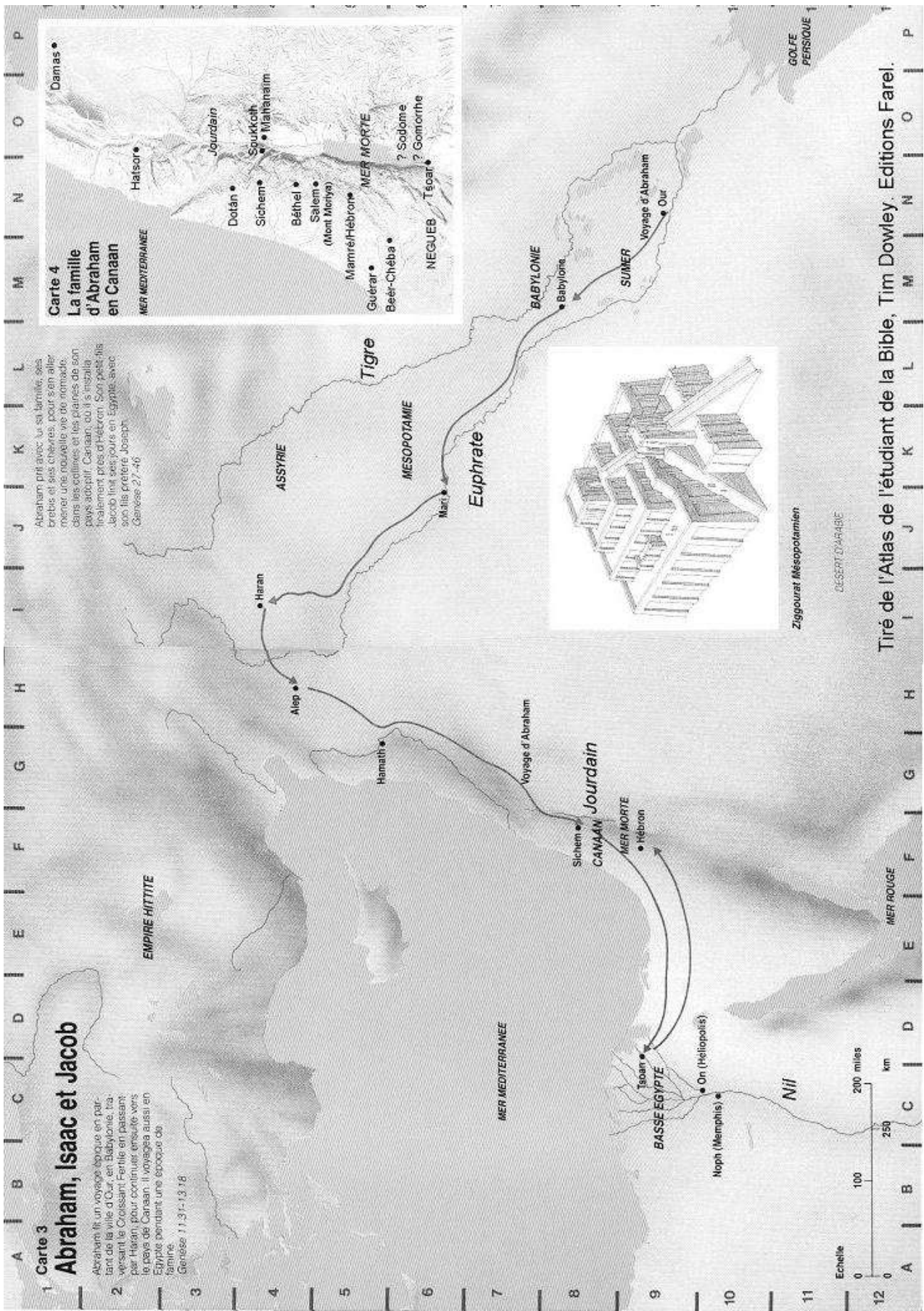
Genesis: <i>Gn</i>	Jos	2 Chronicles:	Is	Daniel:	Zech
Exodus:	Rt	Ezra:	Ps	Hosea:	Hag
Leviticus:	Gn	Nehemiah:	SoS	Joel:	Hab
Numbers	2 S	Esther:	Jr	Amos:	Zeph
Deuteronomy:	2 K	Job:	Pr	Obadiah:	Dn
Joshua:	1 Ch	Psalms:	Ezk	Jonah:	Na
Judges:	1K	Proverbs:	Lm	Micah:	Ho
Ruth:	1 S	Ecclesiastes:	Ez	Nahum:	Am
1 Samuel:	Nm	Song of Songs:	Jb	Habakkuk:	Jo
2 Samuel:	Dt	Isaiah:	Est	Zephaniah:	Mal
1 Kings:	Ex	Jeremiah:	2 Ch	Haggai:	Ob
2 Kings:	Jg	Lamentations:	Ne	Zechariah:	Jl
1 Chronicles:	Lv	Ezekiel:	Ec	Malachi:	Mi

Lesson 2: Introduction to Genesis and Creation

A. Introduction to Genesis

Genesis covers the first three biblical periods: Creation, the Fall, and the Patriarchs (Fathers). (See Lesson 1) Genesis is the first of the five books of Moses, called the Pentateuch, or the Torah (the Law). Genesis is “narrative” or “historical account” literature. In order to understand the role of history in revelation, reread section A. Revelation in Lesson 1.

1. Carefully study the map on the next page.
 - a. Circle the names of the countries: Egypt, Canaan, Assyria, Mesopotamia
 - b. Underline the names of the seas: Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Dead Sea
 - c. Put squares around the names of the rivers: Tigris, Euphrates, Jordan, Nile



B. Creation

The account of creation in chapter 1 is written from a cosmic point of view. The central point is creation.

The account of creation in chapter 2 is written from man's point of view. The central point is man.

Read Genesis Chapters 1 and 2.

In Genesis 1:1-2:3 we find a poetic device which uses a symmetrical structure to tell the story of creation.

1. On the following page, complete the box: **IN THE BEGINNING** and the box below it.
2. In the six boxes **THEN GOD CREATED** we have divided the week of creation into two columns: in the first 3 days (boxes on the left) write what God created and then separated; in the 3 boxes on the right write what God put in to fill the environments He had separated. (The two upper boxes have been done to help you)
3. Complete the box **IN THE END** and the box below it.

IN THE BEGINNING:	
Gn 1:1,2 God's actions: The earth's condition:	
THEN GOD CREATED (and separated...)	(and put into...)
First day – Gn 1:3-5	Fourth day – Gn 1:14-18
a) <i>God made light</i>	a) <i>the sun – to give light to the earth</i>
b) <i>He separated light from darkness</i>	b) <i>The moon and the stars – to shine in the darkness</i>
Second day – Gn 1:6-8	Fifth day – Gn 1:20-23
a)	a)
b)	b)
Third day – Gn 1:9-13	Sixth day – Gn 1:24-27
a)	
b)	b)
IN THE END:	
Gn 2:1-3 The earth's condition: God's action:	

C. Man in God's Image

Reread Gn 1:26-28. The first three commands that God gives to man are found in verse 28. They give us clues which help us to understand what it means to be "created in the image of God"

1) Be fruitful; 2) subdue the earth; 3) rule over the creatures.

These commands correspond to three of the numerous facets of God:

1) Life-giver, 2) Creator, 3) Sovereign.

Man, as the image of God, was created to reflect God by imitating Him, but always as a submitted creature. By fulfilling these roles in the context of a relationship of love with God, man worships and glorifies Him. Thus all of life becomes worship.

1. This exercise is designed to help you see how man was created to reflect God by imitating Him in his roles. In the table below, read the verses indicated and sum up in four or five words what they say. (*An example is done for you.*)

	God	Man
Role	Creator	"Re-creator"
Action	Creates the universe and everything in it from nothing	Using the elements that God has created, man "re-creates" them, producing new forms and structures.
Verses	Gn 1:1 Gn 2:4,5	Gn 1:28 <i>Subdues the earth</i> Gn 2:15 <i>Takes care of the garden</i>
Role	Sovereign	"Vice-sovereign"
Action	Rules over the universe including man (commands and governs)	Rules over the earth, including the animals
Verses	Gn 1:9 Gn 2:16,17	Gn 1:26 Gn 2:19,20
Role	Giver of life	"Re-giver" of life
Action	Creates man in His image	Procreates children "in his image"
Verses	Gn 1:27 Gn 2:7	Gn 1:28 Gn 5:3

D. Work

1. We see that God gave Adam work to do. (Gn 1:28, 2:8,15) At what point did God do this? Had sin come into the world before God assigned work to Adam?

2. We can therefore conclude that God gave man work to as something good. Why do you think God considered work to be a blessing?

3. Every type of work can glorify God providing it does not involve doing that which the word of God forbids.

- a. Explain how your present work pleases God. (For example, are you using elements of creation to create new things? Are you serving others? Are you a mother?)
- b. Is the work of leading a church more pleasing to God than the work of a postman? Explain your answer.

E. Food

1. What did God tell Adam and Eve they could eat? (Gn 1:29)
2. What food did He give to the animals? (Gn 1:30)
3. Why do you think God did not give either of them meat to eat?

F. God Forbids

Re-read Gn 2:15-17

1. What did God forbid man to do?
2. What would be the consequence of disobeying?
3. Why do you think God allowed man to choose whether to obey or to disobey?

G. A Helper for Adam

1. Reread Gn 2:18. For the first time since God began to create the world, we find something judged "not good." What is it?

2. What was God's solution for this problem?.
3. Why do you think man couldn't find a suitable helper amongst the animals?
4. Why do you think man needed a relationship with some one like himself in addition to his spiritual relationship with God?
5. Did God give marriage only for the purpose of producing children? Explain your answer.
6. Men and women.
 - a. What do we learn about the responsibilities and the roles of the man and the woman?
 - b. Do you see one as being superior/inferior to the other? Explain your answer.

H. A Perfect World

1. Use your imagination to help you realise what it was like to live in Adam and Eve's perfect world. Fill in the four boxes in the table below. (The first box is completed to help you.)

The relationship that man had with:	HIS ENVIRONMENT Gn 1:28,29; 2:8-15,25	THE ANIMALS Gn 1:26,28; 2:19,20	HIS WIFE Gn 2: 8, 22-25	GOD Gn 1:27; 2:15-22
In the perfect world as it was created without sin	<i>Man can eat all vegetation (nothing is poisonous). His work is enjoyable (no weeds or thorns) The garden is impeccable. The weather is nice and warm (he is naked).</i>			

2. Now contrast the world of Eden with today's world.

The relationship that man has with:	HIS ENVIRONMENT Gn 1:28,29; 2:8-15,25	THE ANIMALS Gn 1:26,28; 2:19,20	HIS WIFE Gn 2: 8, 22-25	GOD Gn 1:27; 2:15-22
Today's world				

3. What do we learn about God from the accounts of creation in Chapters 1 and 2? What qualities/attributes do you notice?

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

4. God likes order and harmony. Refer to the table concerning the creation on page 6 and to Gn chapters 1 and 2. Look for examples...

a. of order

b. of harmony in diversity

c. of progression in the work of God

d. What does the expression "God blessed the seventh day" mean in Gn 2:3?

Lesson 3: The Fall and its Consequences

A. The Fall

Read Genesis 2:25-3:13.

1. What does the serpent represent in the Bible? (See Revelation 12:9)

2. In the table below write in each box the Bible verse references which explicitly (directly) or implicitly (indirectly) refer to the terms mentioned. For any terms that you do not understand, consult an English dictionary. Each box from left to right and top to bottom is in order from Gn 2:25 to 3:13 but may be used more than once. Certain verses refer to more than one topic.

Watch out: One of them doesn't belong!

Nudity	Temptation	Doubting the word of god	Coveting by looking
Free choice	Pride	Fatalism	Guilt
Shame	Fear	Wanting to save face	Self-justification

3. Have you found the one that doesn't belong? Explain your choice.

The word “sin” means any failure to keep God's law, either inwardly in the thoughts of the heart or outwardly through visible actions. The term implies “missing the goal” or “deviating from a target” (that which God had fixed for man: obeying God's word). Sin can therefore either be a physical act that can be seen or an invisible thought or feeling of the heart seen only by God.

4. In your view, which of the terms in the table above can be considered sins of the heart that would have led Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit? In other words, which sinful thoughts or feelings would have led to the actual act of disobedience?

5. The nudity evoked in Gn 2:25 does not suggest any notion of sin. But in Gn 3:10 it evokes the acknowledgement of their sin: the man and the woman sewed fig leaves together to cover their nudity. Did this help them feel comfortable before God? (Gn 3:7-10)

6. Having free choice means being responsible for the consequences of one's choice.

a. How did Adam and Eve try to get out of their responsibilities? (3:9-13)

b. We often hear these days the statement: "It's not my fault." What is your reaction when you hear this?

c. Do you say it sometimes?

B. Consequences of the Fall

Read Gn 3:14-24

1. God's curses target the 3 roles/responsibilities that He had just given man ("re-creator," vice-sovereign, and procreator of life). In the table below, note each curse and then the role and responsibility that it corresponds to. Examples are given.

Person	Curse	Role and responsibility targeted
The serpent	Gn 3:15 <i>Enmity put between the serpent (the animal) and the woman; his head will be crushed</i>	<i>Vice-sovereign – rule over the creatures; take care of them.</i>
The woman	Gn 3:16 <i>(childbearing)</i>	
The man	Gn 3:17 <i>(the ground)</i>	

2. When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, they acted as representatives of the human race and the result was catastrophic. In the following table, note the consequences of the human revolt in the following areas:

Life	(see also Romans 5:12)
Relationship between man and God	(see also Romans 5:18; Es 59:2)
Relationship between man and woman	
Relationship between man and nature (and work)	
Relationships within mankind (Chapter 4)	

C. Hope for Mankind

1. Despite the tragic consequences, it is not the end of the story. God gives hope. Gn 3:15 is the first promise of a coming Saviour (Messiah). Explain how this verse refers to Jesus Christ.
2. In what way does 3:20 reveal hope?
3. What was God's solution to Adam and Eve's nudity?
4. Who paid the price of these garments?
5. In what way does that make you think of Christ?

D. Judgement; Forgiveness; Curse; Promise; Love

1. God is righteous and God is love. In this table choose the word or words from the list given which best correspond to the Bible reference in each box:

Genesis 3:14	Genesis 3:15	Genesis 3:16
Genesis 3:17-19	Genesis 3:21	Genesis 3:22-24

E. Cain and Abel – Read Genesis 4.

1. What type of offering did Cain make to the Lord?
2. Why do you think that God was not pleased with Cain's offering? (See Section C for help)
3. Which sins of the heart and which sinful act was Cain guilty of?

Sins of the heart	
Act	

F. The Consequences of Sin (Continued)

Read Genesis 5.

1. What happened to all the men mentioned (except Enosh) in the genealogy in Chapter 5?
2. Why?

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

3. By referring to Gn 4:16-26, describe the beginnings of civilisation.

4. What were the sins of Lamech? Gn 4:19-24.

5. The line of Cain ended in catastrophe (4:19-24). Chapter 5 presents the line of Seth up to Noah. When Noah was born, his father expressed renewed joy that man would be delivered from the curse under which he lived (Gn 5:28,29). In what way does that make you think of Christ?

Lesson 4: Noah and the Flood and The Tower of Babel

Noah and the Flood

A. The Flood: What a Catastrophe!

Read Genesis 6:1-13.

1. Why did God decide to send a flood?
2. Describe the difference between what God thinks of man as noted in Gn 6:5 and 6:11 and then in Gn 1:31.

B. The Building of the Ark

1. What were men doing during the time that Noah took to build the ark? (Matthew 24:37-38)
2. What was their attitude? (Matthew 24:38,39)
3. In addition to building the ark, what did Noah do? (2 Peter 2:5)
4. What was his attitude? (Gn 6:9,22; 2 Peter 2:5)

C. Study of Reversed Parallel Structure

Read Genesis 6:14-8:22.

It appears that Gn 6:9-9:29 uses a literary device frequently found in the Bible called a "reversed parallel structure." In other words, events are presented in a certain order (presented in the summary below by the letters A – H). The situation is then reversed in a parallel order (presented below by the letters **H – A**). By noting the point at which the story "reverses," we can discover the key point of the passage. Read the outline and complete in your own words the spaces **H** 150 days, **G** 40 days, **E** and .

- 6:9 A. Noah before the flood
- 6:10 B. Noah's family before the flood
- 6:11-13 C. God's judgement on all earthly flesh
- 6:14-22 D. Building the ark: God's Covenant
- 7:1-10 E. Entering the ark
 - 1. the order is given to enter (7:1-6)
 - 2. the order is carried out (7:7-9)
- 7:11 F. Year 600: The waters pour forth
- 7:12-23a G. 40 Days: The waters rise –all flesh perishes
- 7:23b-24 H. 150 Days: Noah and all those with him are kept safe
- 8:1-5 H. 150 Days: (8:1) _____
- 8:6-12 G. 40 Days: _____
- 8:13-14 F. Year 601: The Earth is dry
- 8:15-19 E. _____
 - 1. the order is given to leave (8:15-17)
 - 2. the order is carried out (8:18-19)
- 8:20 D. Building _____
- 8:21-9:17 C. Promise to never again destroy life in spite of man's evil heart
- 9:18-27 B. Noah's family after the flood
- 9:28-29 A. Noah after the flood.

1. What is the key point of the passage?

D. The Ark of Salvation

1. What did one have to do to be saved from the flood? (7:7-9,13)

2. How many people were saved?

3. Noah and the ark can be seen as prefiguring (pointing to) Christ. What similarities do you see in the story of Noah's ark and the work of Christ?

E. The Covenant with Noah

Read Genesis 8:20–9:17.

1. What did Noah do when he came out of the ark? (Gn 8:20)

2. What was God's response?

3. Had man changed? (Gn 8:21)

4. Compare Gn 1:27,28 with Gn 9:1,7. Note what was repeated in the commandment.

5. Compare Gn 1:28,29 with Gn 9:2-6. Note what has changed.

6. In the Ancient Middle East, royal covenants were used to bind a king to another person or to a people in a relationship of commitment. God used covenants to help his people understand the relationships he was forming with them. We find two types of royal covenants in the Old Testament. In the first type, a king (in this case, God) commits himself to give a blessing without requiring anything in return. This is called an unconditional covenant. In the second type, the king requires a commitment from the one he commits to bless. This is known as a conditional covenant.

a. What did God commit himself to in this covenant?

b. Did God impose any conditions on Noah or on mankind?

c. What kind of covenant is this then?

7. What was the sign of the covenant? (9:12,13)

8. Why did God give a sign? (9:16)

F. Attributes of God

When reading the Bible we discover certain of God's qualities. Through His actions and conversations with diverse people we learn, for example, that God keeps all the promises that He makes. We conclude from this that God is **faithful**. The faithfulness of God is one of His qualities that we call "attributes". Here follows a short list of some of God's attributes that you will find throughout your study of the Old Testament:

God is eternal: Isaiah 44:6

God is faithful: Genesis 17:7,8

God is infinite: 1 Kings 8:27

God is good: Psalm 25:8

God is independent: Daniel 4:35

God is righteous: Deuteronomy 32:4

God is unchanging: Malachi 3:6

God is love Jeremiah 31:3

God is omnipotent Jeremiah 32:17

God is holy Leviticus 11:44

God is omnipresent and omniscient: Psalm 139:1

1. In the story of the flood which of God's attributes do you see and what do you notice about His relationship with man (and with you personally)?

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

The Tower of Babel – Read Genesis 10 and 11:1-9.

Archaeological discoveries in Mesopotamia give us an idea of what the Tower of Babel might have looked like and what it would have been used for. These "towers," which are called ziggurats, were actually "temple-towers" in the form of a pyramid, consisting of a number of storeys each one being successively smaller than that below it. The top storey was used as a meeting place with the gods where sacrifices were offered (just like the Aztec temple-towers in Mexico)

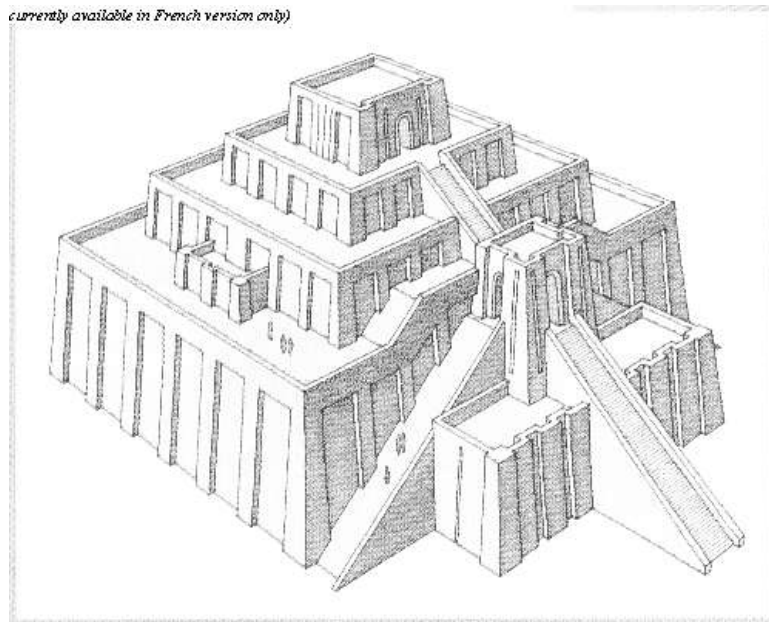
1. Why were these people wrong to want to "build a stairway" to go up to God? (Gn 11:3-4) Can men take the initiative in this matter?

2. Do you see a contrast with Christ concerning who takes initiative?

3. By refusing to scatter, which of God's orders did they disobey? (Gn 9:1)

4. Why did they disobey?

5. By wanting to make a name for themselves, they revealed their desire to become immortal. Why was that a sin?
6. Find the city of Babel on a map. Shinar is in the area of the Tigris and the Euphrates.
7. Trace the scattering of the descendants of Japheth, Shem and Ham. Find a map in a Bible atlas or in the "Handbook to the Bible."



Mesopotamian Ziggurat

Lesson 5: Abram (1): The call of Abram

The Promises of the Covenant

A. The Call of Abraham

1. Read the verses in the table below. Then fill in the boxes following the examples given.

	<u>Gn 11:10-32</u> The Genealogy	<u>Gn 12:1-9</u> The call of Abram, the journey to Canaan	<u>Gn 12:10-20</u> The descent into Egypt	<u>Gn 13:1-18</u> Lot chooses Sodom	<u>Gn 15:1-21</u> The Promise and the Covenant
Principal persons	<i>Shem, Terah, Abram, Lot, Sarai</i>				
Principal events	<i>Births, deaths, birth of Abram, Terah's journey to Haran</i>				
Promises given to Abram		<i>12:2-3,7 God promises Abram that he will be the father of a great nation, his name will be renowned, all peoples of the earth will be blessed through his offspring. He is also promised a land.</i>			
Lands, towns, or places			<i>Egypt</i>		
Problem and/or doubt and/or faith					<i>Abram trusted (had faith in) God</i>
God's Attributes	<i>Sovereign over history. Faithful to His promise concerning Abram's offspring</i>				

2. On the map that you used in lesson 2 (page 15), find all the places that you mentioned in the table that you just completed. With a pencil or pen, trace Abram's journey from the time he left Ur.

B. God's Covenant with Abraham

1. To what does God commit Himself by making a covenant with Abram? (Gn 15:4,5)

2. How did Abraham respond? (15:6)

3. How did God then respond? (15:6)

4. Does God require anything of Abraham?

5. What type of covenant is this then?

Reread Gn 15:8-21

In the Ancient Middle East, a covenant was often sealed with a sacrificial ceremony in which the sacrifices were cut into two pieces. The party or parties agreeing to the covenant would pass between the two halves of the animals confessing that they would merit a similar death if they failed to keep their covenantal commitments. In the sealing ceremony for this unconditional covenant, God alone (in the form of smoke and fire) passed between the two halves of the animals. Indeed, at a later time, God would experience a fate similar to that of these animals in order to keep His covenantal promise to bless all the peoples of the earth through Abram.

6. At what point did God experience this fate?

7. In Gn 12:3 God says to Abram "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." How has this promise been fulfilled?

a. Matthew 1:1,17

b. Galatians 3:6-9; Revelation 7:9-10

8. How are you part of the fulfilment of this promise?

C. The Altars Built by Abraham

1. Find the places on the map on page 7 where Abram built an altar. (Gn 12:6-8; 13:18)

2. Why did he build them? (Gn 13:4)

3. How do you remind yourself of God's promises in your life?

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

1. Questions of priorities

a. What were Lot's priorities? (Gn 13:5-13)

b. What were Abram's priorities? (Gn 13:4-18; 15:6)

c. What were the consequences of their respective choices?

d. In what way does that relate to you?

4. In what way is Melchizedek a type of Christ? (Gn 14:17-20; See also Ps 110:4; Hebrews 7:1-7)

5. When Abram has moments of weakness or fear, God does not abandon him.

a. How does God sympathise with Abram? (Gn 15:1-9,18)

b. How can this help us in our moments of fear or doubt? (See also Hebrews 4:14-16).

Lesson 6: Abraham (2): Ishmael, Sodom and Gomorrah

The Promises renewed, Isaac

A. Events in the Life of Abraham

1. Read the verses in the top boxes of the table below, then fill in the boxes following the examples given:

	Genesis 16:1-16	Genesis 17:1-27	Genesis 18:1-22	Gn 18:23-19:38	Genesis 20:1-18	Genesis 21:1-34
Principal Events	<i>Abram has a child with Hagar. She flees. The angel tells her to go back to her mistress.</i>					
Promises linked to the Covenant						
Key Verses						
Problem Error, Lack of Faith Faith		<i>Abram lacks faith v 17. His faith is put into practice v23-27.</i>		<i>Abraham shows faith in his prayer. The people of Sodom commit abominations. Faith of Lot. Lot's wife lacks faith, v26. Lot's daughters commit incest.</i>		
God's Attributes				Patience before Abraham's intercession. Justice is meted out on the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Omnipotence in the destruction of the towns. Grace towards Lot and his family.		<u>Faithfulness</u> to His promise v 1,12,13. <u>Omniscience</u> : God knew what Abraham was thinking v 11,12. <u>Mercy and Goodness</u> towards Ishmael in the desert v 17-20

2. Ten years have gone by since God promised Abram a child (Gn 15:4). How do you explain Abram's and Sarai's efforts to produce a child for Abram? (Gn 16:1-4)

B. New Names for Abram and Sarai

1. What are the meanings of the new names that God gave to Abram (17:5,6) and to Sarai (17:15,16)? (If possible, consult the margin in your Bible or a Bible dictionary)

2. In the light of the promise that all nations would be blessed (Gn 12:3), explain the importance of these new names. (If possible, consult notes in a Bible or a Commentary)

C. God's Covenant with Abraham (Continued)

1. How long would God's covenant with Abram last?

2. For the first time, God asks Abraham to respond to His covenant by an action. Up till now there had only been promises made.

a. What did God ask of Abraham?

b. What was the meaning of circumcision?

c. What would happen to all males who were not circumcised?

d. Why do you think that this punishment was so severe?

3. What do you think was hidden behind Abraham's request in Gn 17:18?

4. Meditate on the attributes of God in one of the passages of your choice in the table on page 19 and write a short prayer of worship to God.

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

1. What were the sins committed by the people of Sodom? (See also Ezekiel 16:49,50).

5. Reproaches:
 - a. What was God's reproach to Abimelech in Gn 20:3-7?

 - b. What was Abimelech's reproach to Abraham in Gn 20:9,10?

 - c. What was at stake?

 - d. What must be the behaviour of a Christian in front of non-Christians?

Lesson 7: From Abraham to Isaac

Summary of Gn 22 to Gn 25

Sacrifice of Isaac	Gn 22:1-19	Search for a wife for Isaac	Gn 24
News of Nahor	Gn 22:20-24	End of the life of Abraham	Gn 25:1-11
Death and burial of Sarah	Gn 23	Ishmael's posterity	Gn 25:12-18

A. The Sacrifice of Isaac

Read Genesis 22:1-14.

1. Different aspects of this sacrifice foreshadow the actions of God the Father and Jesus the Son in the sacrifice of the Messiah. Starting with their fulfillment in the life of Jesus, note the similarities with Abraham's and Isaac's situation. *You are **not** required to support your answers with Bible verses. (An example is given to you).*

Abraham and Isaac						<i>"Return to life" of Isaac the son (representational) Hebrews 11:17-19)</i>
God the Father and Jesus the Son	Miraculous birth of the Son Jesus (Es 7:14; Luke 1: 35)	God the Father prepares to sacrifice his only Son , Jesus (John 3:16; Matthew 27:11-14)	Jesus the Son makes no protest in face of this death (Es 53:7; Matthew 27:11-14)	Jesus the Son carries the wood on which he is to be sacrificed (John 19:17)	Jesus the Son is obedient to death (Philippians 2:8)	Jesus the Son is resurrected from the dead (Romans 1:4)

2. In this story Isaac is only partially a type of Christ because in the end he is not sacrificed. We can also see in this account that Isaac represents sinful man who deserves God's judgement. At the very moment when Isaac is spared, what does God do which foreshadows the sacrifice of the Messiah? (Gn 22:13,14)

3. Isaac asks his father: "Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" (22:7) In what way is Abraham's answer a prophecy that looks beyond their immediate situation? (John 1:29; Romans 3:25; Hebrews 9:26,28).

4. **Read Genesis 22:15-18.** God here confirms the promises and the covenant He had made with Abraham (Gn 12:2-3; 15:5; 17:7; 21:12). According to these promises and Hebrews 11:17-19, how do you explain Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son?

B. The Life of Isaac

1. A wife for Isaac - **Read Genesis 24:50-67.**

a. In Rebekah's place what would you have chosen to do: stay with your family or go with Abraham's servant to a far place?

b. In what way does your choice resemble your commitment to Christ?

2. Like father, like son! – **Read Genesis 26:1-7.**

a. For the third time a patriarch finds himself in the same embarrassing situation. In what way did Isaac repeat his father's error? (Gn 12:11-13 and 20:1,2).

b. Even so God blesses Isaac. Does that mean that He wasn't bothered that Isaac lied? Explain.

c. Which of God's attributes do you notice in Gn 26:12,24?

C. Review of the Lives of Abraham and Isaac

1. Reread the promises given to Abraham in Gn 12:2,3; 15:5,18-21; 17:7-8. Which ones are repeated in the covenant made with Isaac in Gn 26:1-6; 26:24?

2. God also blessed Ishmael and his posterity. What was His blessing and in what way was it different to that given to Isaac? Gn 16:10-14; 17:18-21; 21:9-21; 25:12-18?

3. The women in Abraham's family. Take another look at the lives of Sarah and Hagar (Gn 12:11-20; 16:1-16; 17:15-21; 18:9-15; 21:1-21; 23:1,2). What did God do in the lives of each of these women to reveal His goodness towards them and His plan of salvation for man?

4. The Name Game: Choose the right answer to the name on the left from the selection on the right.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| A) Laban _____ | a) father of Jacob |
| B) Keturah (Gn 25:1) _____ | b) Abraham's servant |
| C) Isaac _____ | c) Isaac's youngest son |
| D) Eliezer (Gn 15:2) _____ | d) Isaac's wife |
| E) Jacob _____ | e) Jacob's brother |
| F) Rebekah _____ | f) Abraham's second wife |
| G) Esau _____ | g) Rebekah's brother |

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

4. Choose a person in the lessons 5-7 (Gn 12-26). Show how the faith of this person matured through the ordeals of his/her life and his/her experiences with God.

5. What does the purchase of the field in which to bury Sarah reveal of Abraham's faith concerning the promised land? (Gn 23)

6. Abraham's servant

- What do you think of steps taken by Abraham's servant in Gn 24:12-14?
- What was his reaction to the fulfilment of his prayer?
- What does that teach you?

7. The Places Game

Choose the right answer to the place on the left from the list on the right (Consult a Bible dictionary if necessary)

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| A) Moriah _____ | a) Place where Abraham lived |
| B) Beersheba _____ | b) Place where Abraham's servant met Rebekah |

C) Kiriath Arba _____

D) Cave of Machpelah _____

E) Nahor _____

F) from Havilah to Shur _____

G) Gerar _____

c) Place where Abraham offered up Isaac

d) Place where Sarah died

e) Place where the sons of Ishmael lived

f) Place where Abimelech lived and where Isaac dug a well

g) Place where Sarah and Abraham were buried

Lesson 8: The Family of Isaac

This long section of the Bible is again presented in the form of a reversed parallel structure.

A. Conflict in Isaac's Family

Read Genesis 25:27-34; Genesis 27, and on page 33 in the top half of the page, sections A-D.

God had clearly revealed to Rebekah that "the older will serve the younger" (Gn 25:23). Why then was there a conflict in Isaac's family? In the table below indicate in the spaces provided the mistake made by each member of the family in the quarrel and its consequences, using the examples given for Isaac.

Person	Mistake	Consequences
Isaac	<i>Favoured Esau (25:28; wanted to bless him in spite of the revelation (27:1-4))</i>	<i>Failure; Jacob receives the blessing through his cunning ruse; Esau hates him; Jacob must flee</i>
Rebekah		
Esau		
Jacob		

A. God's Covenant with Jacob

Read Genesis 28, and on page 33, in the top half of the parallel structure, section E.

The stairway in this dream would have looked like a stone ramp or a stairway similar to those of ziggurats, pagan temples in the shape of a pyramid, which were built in order to reach the gods. (see the Tower of Babel, lesson 4, page 20).

1. In what way can Jacob's stairway be considered as a type of Christ? (John 1:51; 14:6)
2. Jacob is the third and last patriarch to whom God made Covenant promises. Review the promises made to the three patriarchs by filling in this table. Following the example given, note the verses which correspond to the different promises. *N.B. A verse can contain several promises.*

Promises made to **Abraham**: Gn 12:2,3; 15:1,5,18-21; 17:2-8; 22:15-18; to **Isaac**: Gn 26:2-5,24; to **Jacob** Gn 28:13-15.

Covenant Promises made to...	Abraham	Isaac	Jacob
Promises to be with the patriarch and to protect him	<i>Gn 12:3; 15:1</i>	<i>Gn 26:3; 26:24</i>	<i>Gn 28:15</i>
Promises of a great posterity			
Promises to bless all peoples on earth through him			
Promises of a country			

B. Jacob Returns to Canaan

Read Genesis 31:1-16 and on page 33, the top half of the schema, sections F and G.

1. Complete the summary at section H.

2. Gn 31:1-16 is found at the centre of this story.
 - a. Why are verses 3 and 13 important regarding the promise and Isaac's posterity (and Abraham's)?

 - b. Why do you think that section H would be the turning point of the story?

C. Jacob Struggles with God

Read Genesis 32:1-32(33), and on page 33, in the bottom half of the schema, sections G and F.

1. Summarize the chapter at section E by following the examples of the other sections (1-3 sentences).

2. Why was Jacob afraid of Esau? (Gn 27:34-42; Gn 32:6,7)

3. Reread Gn 28:20-22 and Gn 39:9-12. By comparing Jacob's two prayers, note how his relationship with God had progressed.

4. Who wrestled with Jacob? (32:24-30)
5. Why did Jacob refuse to give up the struggle?
6. How was Jacob marked physically and spiritually by this struggle?

D. God Renews His Promises to Jacob

Read: Genesis 35:9-15 and on page 33, sections D-A in the bottom half of the schema.

1. When Jacob returned to the promised land of Canaan, God confirmed to him the promises of the covenant made at his departure. Complete the table on the preceding page by noting the verses in this passage which correspond to the promises mentioned.

Read Genesis 35:22-26.

2. Note at section **B** the names of the 12 sons of Israel (Jacob)
3. How God acts towards His elect:
 - a. What do we learn about how God acts in regard to Jacob?
 - b. What comfort or encouragement do you draw from this concerning your personal relationship with God?

Summary of the Story of Isaac's Family – Isaac's posterity Gn 25:19-35:29 (Ishmael's posterity 25:12-18).

A..At the birth of Esau and Jacob, God revealed to Rebekah that “the older will serve the younger” 25:23

B. Esau sells his birthright to Jacob for a dish of lentil stew 25:27-34.

C. Isaac in Canaan. In Gerar Isaac receives confirmation of Abraham's promise 26:1-6; 26:23,24 King Abimelech reproaches Isaac for having lied about Rebekah being his sister; they conclude an alliance following disputes over the wells 26: 26-31.

D. Jacob takes the blessing destined for Esau by cunningly disguising himself 27:1-40.

E. Being afraid of Esau, Jacob leaves suddenly for Paddan Aram to find a wife 28:25. On the way Jacob receives God's promise of blessing in a vision of a stairway 28:11-15. He vows to serve God on the condition that he returns safe and sound to Canaan 28:20-22.

F. Jacob meets Rachel and Laban in Paddan Aram 29:9-14. He agrees to work for seven years in order to marry Rachel. But Laban tricks him and he has to work for seven more years 29:15-28. Jacob has eleven sons and at least one daughter by Leah, Rachel and their two servants 29:32-30:24.

G. Jacob takes a good deal of Laban's flock apparently by guile but in fact with the help of God 30: 25-43.

H. Due to a worsening relationship with Laban and the call of God, Jacob consults with _____ and _____. They all decide to _____ 31:1-16

G. Jacob tricks Laban by his sudden departure; Rachel also by stealing Laban's gods 31:17-21.

F. Laban pursues and catches up with Jacob. After a dispute over the stolen gods and the last 20 years, they make a covenant and set up a heap of stones before going their separate ways 31:22-55).

E _____ 32:1-32

D. Esau accepts Jacob's gift and the two brothers are reconciled 33:1-13.

C. Jacob in Canaan. Simeon and Levi take terrible revenge on Sichem's family who had dishonoured their sister Dina 34:1-29. Jacob goes up to Bethel to consecrate himself to God and to build an altar. God confirms the Covenant made with Abraham and Isaac 35:1-15. Rachel dies in childbirth 35:16-20. Bilhah, Jacob's concubine is dishonoured by Ruben, his eldest son, at Migdal Eder 35:22.

B. Jacob the heir has twelve sons 35:22-26

A. At the death of Isaac, Esau and Jacob are reunited 35:27-29

(Esau's posterity 36:1-43)

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

4. Jacob, the youngest twin, becomes the bearer of the divine promise.

a. Who made this choice? Suggest why this choice was made. (Gn 25:23; Romans 9:6-16)

b. What was Jacob's attitude towards the birthright? (Gn 25:31)

c. Why do you think he had this attitude?

5. What were Esau's priorities in life (Gn 25:27-34; 26:34,35)

6. Refer to the schema on the preceding page. To fully understand this reversed parallel structure, note the similarities or differences (parallels) in the sections E in the top half and E in the bottom half, which you have filled in.

Lesson 9: Joseph the Favored Son is Sold

The Descent into Egypt

Read Gn 37-50

From Canaan to Egypt: We now turn our attention towards Jacob's son Joseph, chosen by God to be His instrument to ensure the posterity of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The story of Joseph and the descent of Jacob's family into Egypt prepare the way for the exodus of Israel from Egypt under the leadership of Moses. So how did the people of Israel end up in Egypt? This is the story:

From privilege to prison: Joseph was the favourite of his father Jacob (Gn 37:3). We might be surprised that Jacob made the same mistake as his father, Isaac, in favouring one of his sons. He made him a richly ornamented tunic (Gn 37:3,4). What was more, Joseph tells of a dream he had in which his brothers knelt down before him (37:5-7). The dream seems pretentious and his brothers hate him (37:4,5,8). One day they decide to kill Joseph. But God has his hand upon Joseph and protects him. His brother Ruben saves his life (37:22), but then he is sold to a caravan of Ishmaelites on their way to Egypt. In Egypt Joseph becomes the slave of Potiphar but "The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered..." (39:2). Potiphar's wife falsely accuses Joseph of attempted rape and he is thrown into prison (39:17-20). God remains faithful to Joseph: "the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favour in the eyes of the prison warden." (39:21) Thanks to his ability in administration and his diligence in service, Joseph is put in charge of all the prisoners.

From prison to palace: Even though God does not abandon Joseph whilst in prison, He allows Joseph's faith to be put to the test during the two years when the chief cupbearer, set free from prison, (40:20,21) forgets to tell Pharaoh about Joseph (40:23). Then Pharaoh has a dream...or is it a nightmare (41:1)? The cupbearer remembers Joseph, and Pharaoh sends for him to come and explain his dream (41:14-16). Because God has given Joseph the ability to interpret dreams (40:8; 41:16; 1 Corinthians 12:8), Joseph is able to explain Pharaoh's dreams to him. Joseph also comes up with a plan which would enable Egypt to have enough to eat during the seven years of famine predicted in the dreams (41:17-36).

From politics to preservation: Pharaoh approves of the plan, and Joseph is named Prime Minister (41:37-40). He thus becomes quite powerful. Only Pharaoh is considered greater than Joseph (41:40). During the time of abundance before the famine, Joseph's wife bears him two sons: Manasseh and Ephraim (41:50-52). Thanks to Joseph's strategy which saves Egypt, he will also be able to preserve his own family who lives in Canaan, a country equally touched by the famine. Joseph's father, Jacob, hears that there is grain in Egypt and sends ten of his sons there to buy food for the family (42:1,2).

From power to pursuit: The story that follows (Gn 42:7-44:34) is a cat and mouse game played out by Joseph in order to test his brothers. He takes advantage of his political power. He recognises his brothers but they do not recognise him (42:7,8). He accuses them of being spies and demands that the youngest brother be brought to Egypt (42:9-15). Simeon is put in prison as a hostage (42:19-24) and Joseph returns their money hidden in their sacks full of grain (42:25). At first Jacob refuses to send his youngest son because he believes he has already lost his favourite son and he does not wish to lose Benjamin as well (42:36-38). But the famine gets worse and in the end he has to send his sons back to the Egyptian Prime Minister to ask for food (43:1,2). Benjamin goes with them

(43:13-15). Joseph asks after his father to see if he is still alive (43:27). He is deeply moved to see his youngest brother (43:29-31). In order to test his brothers, Joseph tells his servants to hide his silver cup in Benjamin's sack (44:1,2). The brothers set off for Canaan, their sacks filled with grain (44:3). Then Joseph orders his steward to pursue them, "...the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave." (44:4-17).

From confession to pastures of abundance: Benjamin alone must stay behind in prison! Judah pleads for leniency and tells of the grief that their father will feel if the young Benjamin does not come home safely. As a type of Christ, he proposes to bear his brother's punishment. He volunteers to be put in prison in Benjamin's place. Joseph is so overcome by his brothers' change of attitude and his father's love, that he can no longer retain his emotion. He weeps again and makes himself known to his brothers (44:18-45:4). Joseph orders them to return to their father and to bring him to Egypt where the whole family will be safe. (45:9-13). It is part of God's plan, He, who keeps His promises. He preserves His people so that all the families of the earth might be blessed through them (45:3-13), (because the Redeemer will come through them). Jacob has a hard time believing that Joseph is alive but when his sons tell him what Joseph said, and he sees all the wagons sent to take them to Egypt, he is convinced (45:25-28). Seventy is the number of those that go down to Egypt, not counting the wives of the sons of Jacob (46:1-27). (The figure 66 mentioned in verse 26 does not include Jacob, Joseph and his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim.) Pharaoh is told of their arrival and they settle in the land of Goshen where they can tend their flocks (46:31-47:12).

From Joseph's promise to his brothers' promise: Jacob is 130 years old when he arrives in Egypt (47:9). His family is rich and great in number (47:27). Had not God promised Abraham a posterity as numerous as the stars in the sky (15:5)? The promise is being fulfilled. When Jacob is 147 years old, he is at the end of his life. He calls Joseph and makes him promise to carry his body from Egypt and to bury it in the land of his fathers. Joseph promises to do so (47:28-31). Joseph brings his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim to Jacob on his death bed (48:1) so that Jacob might bless them. To Joseph's displeasure, Jacob predicts that the younger will be greater than the elder. In doing this, he gives pre-eminence to Ephraim (48:9-20). Then, as was the custom, Jacob brings his twelve sons together to receive his blessings (49:1-28). Jacob dies and Joseph weeps over him (49:33-50:4). His sons take his body to Canaan to bury it in the cave of the field of Machpelah (50:7-14), the tomb of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah and Leah.

Having lost their father, Joseph's brothers begin to fear Joseph, thinking that he might still hate them because of the way they had treated him in his youth. They beg him to pardon them (50:15-17). They bow down before him yet once again (50:18 cf 42:6; 43:26; 44:14). Joseph's dream had become reality (37:5-8). He is indeed their master, but he has grown since the days of his privileged youth. He is now reconciled with his brothers. He weeps again on hearing their confession (50:17). He reassures them and speaks kindly to them, saying that it is God who wanted things to work out in this way in order to save his people and their posterity. (50:19-21). So Joseph lives in Egypt in peace with his brothers until he is 110. As he is about to die he predicts that God will bring his people out of Egypt. He makes his family promise to carry his bones with them and lay them to rest in the country that God had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (50:22-25). "So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt." (50:26) Thus ends the story of Joseph.

1. Using the summary above and your Bible, describe in the table below Joseph's behaviour, reactions and faith during the years of ease, difficulty, suffering and success.

Gn 37:5-7	
Gn 39:7-10	
Gn 40:8	
Gn 41:15,16,28	
Gn 42:7-9	
Gn 42:22-24	
Gn 43:29,30	
Gn 44:33-45:2	
Gn 45:5-8	
Gn 50:17	
Gn 50:19-21	
Gn 50:24,25 Hebrews 11:22	

2. Using the examples that you have just written in the table above, note how God can help you to be upright, honest and ready to forgive when faced with many temptations in life.

3. God had promised that all of the peoples of the earth would be blessed through Abraham's descendants. But the famine threatened to eradicate them.

a. What was God's plan to save His people and to ensure that the family continue (45:4-11)?

b. Explain how the sovereignty of God (His control of all things) played a role in the accomplishment of this plan.

c. Explain how the sovereignty of God can comfort and encourage you in every aspect of your life.

4. This part of Genesis demonstrates God's sovereignty, presence and faithfulness when everything appears to go wrong. (See also the examples of Elijah, 1K 19:12,13; of Job Jb 42:1-5; of Paul, 2 Corinthians 1:3)

a. Note an example where your awareness of the sovereignty and faithfulness of God have helped you to overcome a time of testing.

b. Describe some of God's blessings in Joseph's life, despite all of the trials that he experienced.

5. Jacob does not want to leave Canaan because it is the promised land. How does God reassure him (46:2-4)?

Read Genesis 50:15-26.

6. After so many years Joseph's brothers still feel guilty (see also 42:21).

a. How do they resolve this problem?

b. How does that show us the importance of repentance (50:15-18)?

c. What is Joseph's reaction (50:19-21)? (**Learn verses 20 and 21 by heart**).

7. There are many parallels between the life of Joseph and that of Jesus. Joseph is a type of Messiah, foreshadowing the person and work of Christ. Note at least five elements of character, ministry or situations of the life of Joseph which bring out these parallels (similarities) with the character and ministry of Christ.

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

8. Read what God said to Abraham in prophecy and promise in Gn 15:13-16. What did Joseph say in 50:24 which proves his faith and his gift of prophecy? (see also Hebrews 11:22)

9. **Read Genesis 49:1-27** – Jacob’s prophetic blessings over his twelve sons.

a. Why is Ruben stripped of the pre-eminence due to him as the first-born son (35:22)?

b. Why are Simeon and Levy also put aside (34:25)?

c. Through which of Jacob's sons will the promised genealogy pass (49:8-10; 38:15-18,29; Matthew 1:1-3)?

d. To which important people does this promise refer? See Ru 4:18-22; 2 Sam 7:13-16; Ho 5:14; Matthew 1: 3-16; Luke 1:32,33; Acts 3:20,21; Revelation 5:5.

10. **Read Genesis 37:5-11** – Joseph's dreams.

a. Describe Joseph’s dreams.

b. How did the dreams become reality?

c. Joseph did not dream about the following stages of his life (37:12-40:23). What did he live through during this period which brought his dreams to fruition?