

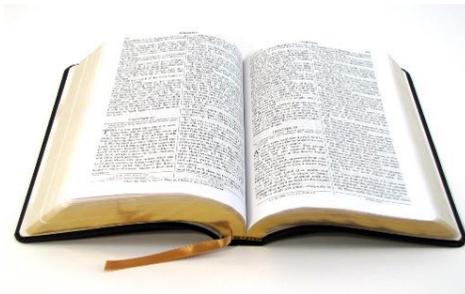


# *Genesis*

**Small Group**  
**Discussion Questions**

**July 12 – August 23, 2020**

*Seeking God's Will for Trinity  
in God's Word  
and Spiritual Conversations*



Audio versions of the Bible are available at iTunes and fcbh.org and the Bible.is app.

See the Bible Project for overview videos [One](#) & [Two](#).

*Please note that there is no substitute for reading and re-reading, and studying and discussing God's Word in community. God wishes to speak to you through his Word. In discussing the questions, feel free to have each person select a question to answer, or use them in any helpful way.*

In addition to or instead of using the discussion questions, you may want to look especially for what God is speaking to you, or for the larger themes of the Bible or of the book. The Biblical themes are: What is said about... (1) Who God is? ... (2) What the human predicament is? ... (3) What the cure is? ... (4) What our new identity is?

*Summary from Cordeu: **Genesis** is the book of beginnings. Four foundational events are followed by four generations of Patriarchs. God created everything with humanity as the pinnacle of creation. Humanity fell into sin, then came the flood and languages confused. God put Himself in covenant with one man to make him into a great nation, promising to bless all peoples through Him (12:2-3 are critical). In Genesis we see the entrance and influence of sin, but also the grace of God. The people try to help God's plan, but only make a mess – God's plan is simply to be trusted, it is all about His grace! Gradually the main characters increase in faith. Notice how God frames the book by using one man to deliver human life through the great flood, then again by using one man to deliver human life through the great drought in Egypt. One day He will use one man, the seed of the woman, to deliver from sin itself.*

Copyright © 2020 Steve Willweber. You are free to copy, edit, and use for Bible Study. No permission is given to sell. All Rights reserved.

*Rev. 7/8/2020*

From July 12 to August 23, God’s family here at Trinity will be seeking God’s will for Trinity. We will be reading Genesis and gathering in weekly Cottage Meetings of 4-6 people. These spiritual conversations will help us discern God’s voice until “the Holy Spirit comes upon us with power.”

| Date | Week’s Reading    | Sunday Reading   |
|------|-------------------|--|
| 7/12 | Genesis 1:1 - 2:4 | Gen 1:1 - 2:4  |
| 7/19 | Gen. 2- 5         | Covenant w. Adam (2:4 – 3:24)  |
| 7/26 | Gen 6 - 11        | Covenant w. Noah (6:1-13; 11:1-9)  |
| 8/2  | Gen. 12 - 23      | Covenant w. Abraham 1 (12:1-5, 17:1-19)  |
| 8/9  | Gen. 24 - 36      | Covenant w. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Gen. 22:1-18; 26:1-7; 26:23-25; 28:10-22; 32:22-30) |
| 8/16 | Gen. 37-50        | Covenant w. Jacob’s Sons (49:1-2, 8-12; 50:1-26)                                       |
| 8/23 | Genesis           | Themes   |
| 8/30 | Catechism         | Catechism & Family Expectations  |

**In preparation for  
our new series on Genesis**

**Sunday, July 12**

Each day, read, re-read, and meditate on **Genesis 1:1 – 2:4**. Ask God to speak to you through his Word. Reflect on the discussion questions below in preparation for your Cottage Meeting Bible Study.

**Genesis 1:1 – 2:4**

1. Set aside your pre-conceived notions of science and how the universe came into being. *[Pause. Deep breath.]* Now, read the creation story from the perspective of a human standing on the surface of the ground. As you read, what do you see happening?
2. What is the purpose of each act of God?

*DISCOVERING THE UNIQUE BEAT  
OF GOD'S HEART FOR TRINITY...*

3. The “image” and “likeness” of God is huge for our church family. This was God’s original plan, that we be God’s “image” to humans, animals, and land. Meditate on and Discuss.
4. God brings order from chaos. He forms and fills and lights the land to be fit for human habitation. God places his “image” to rule the land. What does this tell us about our purpose as a church family?
5. We know that rebellion against God brings back the chaos and disorder that is necessary for life (Genesis 3). What does this tell us about our purpose as a church family?

*DIGGING DEEPER*

6. Note the words and patterns that will become important later. Place  
a...
  - ✓ [a check mark] above “good” (and ✕ [an X] above “not good” things)
  - 👁 [an eye] above “saw” (or seeing)
  - <)) [a mouth speaking] by calling and naming
7. Note “These are the generations of....” Start counting them with a “1.” What is their significance?
8. The Sunday message will focus on three things.
  - Ⓐ) The dark, chaos waters that keep the land unformed and uninhabited.
  - Ⓑ) God rests from his labors. An ancient king would conquer his enemies and order his land before he rested in his home—a palace. Likewise, God orders the earth before he rests in his home—a temple.

© God places an “image” of himself on the earth to rule over it.

Which part of this message means the most to you?

**In preparation for**  
**Sunday, July 19**

Each day, read, re-read, and meditate on **Genesis 2:4 – 3:24** (read through Gen. 4-5 one day also). Ask God to speak to you through his Word. Reflect on the discussion questions below in preparation for your Cottage Meeting Bible Study.

**Genesis 2:4 – 3:24**

9. **2.7.** The word translated “man” is the Hebrew word *adam* (“human”).

Ⓐ Of what does a human consist? That is, what parts make up a human according to this passage?

Ⓑ What does this tell you about being human?

10. **2.19.** In Genesis 1, who “saw” something and called it and named it? Who now sees and names things? What does this tell us?

11. **3.1.** The serpent shows up here in the story and then is not mentioned again (until Revelation). What role does the snake play in the story? Does he really disappear from the rest of the human story?

12. **3.4-5.** What is the serpent’s claim? What does this lie tell us about the source of all human rebellion against God throughout history?

13. **3.6.** “*The woman saw that the tree was good for food.*”

- Ⓐ In **Genesis 1**, who saw something and called it good?
- Ⓑ What does this contrast tell us is the source of all human rebellion against God?

*DISCOVERING THE UNIQUE BEAT  
OF GOD'S HEART FOR TRINITY...*

14. Adam and Eve's story is the human story, our story. It shows the source of human rebellion and its curse and its solution. What does this teach our church family about what we are up against?
15. How does **Genesis 1-3** tell us Ⓐ who we are, Ⓑ where we are in the story, and Ⓒ where God is taking his new humanity in Christ (the goal of the story)?

*DIGGING BACK IN*

16. **Genesis 5** is a boring genealogy. Just skim through it and pay attention to *the last three words* of each person's story.
- Ⓐ What does this tell us about the human predicament?
  - Ⓑ Then read **Genesis 5.3** and ask what the source of this predicament is?
  - Ⓒ Contrast this with the God's goal in **Genesis 1.26**.
  - Ⓓ This contrast is no light thing. Everyone's story ends in death or life. Can you be content with anyone around having anything less than joining the story that ends in Life?

In preparation for  
**Sunday, July 26**

Daily read, re-read, and meditate on **Genesis 6 - 11**. Ask God to speak to you through his Word. Reflect on the discussion questions below in preparation for your Cottage Meeting Bible Study.

**Genesis 6 - 11**

17. Adam and Eve rebelled against God in **Genesis 3**. Cain rebels in **Genesis 4**. What is happening by **Genesis 6:1-12** (note the amount of time passing)?
18. In **Genesis 1:2**, the earth<sup>1</sup> is unformed and uninhabited and covered by the dark chaos waters. Now the earth has become chaotic, violent, and uninhabitable by the rebellion of humans. **Genesis 6-9** will bring back the waters to cleanse the earth of this violence. Meditate and discuss with your group.
19. Here we see the first appearance of theme of a “Remnant” rescued. What Remnants can you recall from the rest of Scripture?
20. In **Genesis 8 - 9**, God makes a Covenant with Noah. This is the first mention of “Covenant” in the Bible. What other Covenants can you recall from the rest of Scripture? What is significant about this Covenant?

*DISCOVERING THE UNIQUE BEAT  
OF GOD’S HEART FOR TRINITY...*

21. What does it mean to you personally to be part of God’s remnant through Christ and a part of God’s New Covenant in Christ?

---

<sup>1</sup> Capital E “Earth” refers to the planet. The concern in Scripture is small e “earth” or “ground” or “land.”

22. The church sometimes gets confused about its purpose. We get focused on the ABC's - - attendance, buildings, and cash. They are easy to measure and get excited about. But only a remnant will be saved. The way is narrow that leads to life. When we focus on human-made measures rather than God's purposes, our mission drifts away from what God has called us to do. What is God calling us to focus on now as a church family?

*DIGGING BACK IN*

23. **Genesis 10** can be skimmed quickly. But you will notice the rise of cities, particularly Babel (Babylon) and Assyria. These will be important opponents to God's people later. This is also called the "Table of Nations" (70 in number; for further study, see Deuteronomy 32:8-9). The restoration of the nations will become an important theme later.

24. **Genesis 11** once again portrays humanity falling again into inhumanity. What are they doing that opposes the call of humans in **Genesis 1:26-28**?

*DISCOVERING THE UNIQUE BEAT  
OF GOD'S HEART FOR TRINITY...*

25. The church exists during this present evil age of inhumanity. Our call is to give a little glimpse of God's original creation and of the upcoming renewed creation. How are you/we doing this?

In preparation for  
**Sunday, August 2**

Daily read, re-read, and meditate on **Genesis 12 – 23**. Ask God to speak to you through his Word. Reflect on the discussion questions below in preparation for your Cottage Meeting Bible Study.

**Genesis 12 – 23**

26. **Genesis 12** is a major transition in this book. We shift our focus from *all* of humanity to *one* human, Abram (soon to become Abraham). God now sets to restore humanity when all the nations have gone astray. But how?!? God will choose *one* human and make a new humanity out of him, leading up to his “seed,” Jesus. Meditate and discuss God’s Big Story with your Cottage group.

27. Highlight the times God makes or reaffirms his Covenant with Abraham. What is going on in Abraham’s life before each? That is, what is Abraham thinking or feeling? (It is good to think through this on your own. It is even better to discuss it then with others. Speculate about what Abraham is going through and how God is responding to that.)

28. ① Note all the ways that Abraham almost ruins God’s Covenant.

② How does God rescue Abraham in order to keep his Covenant?

*DISCOVERING THE UNIQUE BEAT  
OF GOD’S HEART FOR TRINITY...*

29. Throughout Scripture, God is continually reaffirming God’s Covenant promises to God’s people.

Ⓐ Why is it important for you and for our church family to continually reaffirm God's promises to us in Christ?

Ⓑ Why is it necessary to hear these promises affirmed by each member of the church family?

### *DIGGING BACK IN*

30. As you read through the various stories of Abraham, consider what he is thinking and feeling. Pick one story to discuss with your Cottage Meeting Bible Study. Does Abraham know he is doing wrong? Can you imagine a situation in which he thinks God is approving of him and his behavior? What might be going on in the cultural setting? Consider, for instance, how devastating a famine is.

31. Think about God's Covenant with Abraham: These promises of God are specific and rooted in God's sovereignty. These promises are to be found in the Land of Canaan and not elsewhere. They are to be found in God's chosen seed, not in the choices of human beings.

Ⓐ What does this mean for our church family as we seek to stand on the promises of God?

Ⓑ How do we distinguish between our fleshly "fulfillment" of God's promises versus the way that God intends to fulfill his Covenant?

32. What New Testament themes do you see?

In preparation for  
**Sunday, August 9**

Daily read, re-read, and meditate on **Genesis 24 – 36**. Ask God to speak to you through his Word. Reflect on the discussion questions below in preparation for your Cottage Meeting Bible Study.

**Genesis 24 – 36**

33. Highlight the times God makes or reaffirms the Abrahamic Covenant with Isaac and Jacob. Meditate and discuss with your Cottage group:

- Ⓐ Note the exact wording of the promise. What themes are repeated?
- Ⓑ Note “who” the promises is given to!
- Ⓒ Note their current life situation when God re-affirms the covenant.

34. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob each wrestled with how to fulfill God’s Covenant promises to them. Note and pay attention to when they did it God’s way and when they did it their own way. (Note that the Bible rarely makes value judgments on the behavior of people. You are left to think on, meditate, and discuss and figure it out with the Holy Spirit, God’s Word, and God’s people. You are not just given the “right answer.”)

*DISCOVERING THE UNIQUE BEAT  
OF GOD’S HEART FOR TRINITY...*

35. We too wrestle with God’s New Covenant and our role. We sometimes make good choices. We sometimes make a big mess. We rely on God’s promises. We rationalize our bad behavior.

- Ⓐ How have you seen God pull you out of your mess?

- ⓑ How have you seen God pull the church out self-made messes?

*DIGGING BACK IN*

36. Note the conflict between people.

- ⓐ What is the “forbidden fruit” in each case that promises blessing but ends in a curse? Consider what each person is pursuing and the means they use to get there.
- ⓑ What “forbidden fruit” do we find ourselves pursuing as a church? Do we find ourselves insisting that there is a “good” way to grab hold of God’s promises—pleasing to the eye and promising “good” rewards?

In preparation for  
**Sunday, August 16**

Daily read, re-read, and meditate on **Genesis 37 – 50**. Ask God to speak to you through his Word. Reflect on the discussion questions below in preparation for your Cottage Meeting Bible Study.

**Genesis 37 – 50**

37. One of the major themes of Genesis is “the seed” of Eve (first seen in 3:15). The “seed” of Abraham is a critical part of God’s Covenant and key to blessing all the nations. Note how the seed is *not* by bloodline but by God’s choice.

- ⓐ Which biological children of Abraham have been left out of the Covenant promise?

ⓑ What does this teach us about God and his Covenant promises (especially given that the firstborn is often not the “seed”-carrier)?

38. “The Land” promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their seed is also a major theme.

ⓐ Where does Genesis leave us? How much of the Land belongs to Abraham’s seed? How many children does Abraham have?

ⓑ What does this teach us about God and his Covenant promises?

*DISCOVERING THE UNIQUE BEAT  
OF GOD’S HEART FOR TRINITY...*

39. “God’s ways are not our ways, just as God’s thoughts are higher than our thoughts.” As a church, we are wrestling: are we “waiting on the Lord” or are we “delaying what we know we should do.” What have we learned in how we seek and do God’s will? Is God in a hurry? Does God have a bigger picture in mind? Are we thinking too big or too small?

In preparation for  
**Sunday, August 23**

Daily read, review, and meditate on **Genesis 1-50** (and especially your notes). Ask God to speak to you through his Word. Reflect on the discussion questions below in preparation for your Cottage Meeting Bible Study.

## Genesis 1 – 50

40. What did you learn from Genesis? What big themes did you discover or re-discover?

41. Review **Genesis 1-11** and how humans kept bringing God's plan of creation back to disorder, chaos, and destruction. What did you learn from this?

42. Review God's Covenant with Abraham (you highlighted this as you read). What did you learn about God and his ways?

### *DISCOVERING THE UNIQUE BEAT OF GOD'S HEART FOR TRINITY...*

43. We now see that the Bible is not God's big book of morals. Nor is it God's book of theological answers. The Bible is God's Big Story. It tells humans where we came from. It tells us how we got into this mess. It tells the various ways God partnered with humans to get out of the mess. And it tells us where God is taking us.

Ⓐ Where are we NOW in God's Big Story?

Ⓑ Where are we GOING in God's Big Story?

Ⓒ How do we show people little glimpses into God's original plan and where God is taking us in God's Big Story?

In preparation for  
**Sunday, August 30 to October 26**

We will be going through the Small Catechism. Pick up a copy in the entryway. Read through it a few times.

We will review the six chief parts of the Catechism. What do we need to know, and why? Just as in any family, the church family has expectations of each other:

- ✓ What can I expect of my church family?
- ✓ And what can my church family expect of me?

These expectations can be legalistic hammers to beat each other up. Or the expectations can be so low as to be meaningless.

Jesus gives all to us. Jesus demands all from us. This is the good news. Or really bad news. So how do we help each other know Jesus and grow in love for him and in serving one another?

Join our new series of Cottage Meeting Bible Studies leading up to Reformation Sunday, October 26. We will celebrate and re-affirm our membership in the Trinity Family.