

The Village Church – Rancho Santa Fe
Week #2 – Adult Bible Study – 2025 & 2026

Discovering the Bible

September 16 & 17, 2025

Review

1. The Search
 - a. God seeks us out
 - b. And when we seek God, God can be found, because God wants us to know him
2. The Scriptures
 - a. The Story of God with us
 - b. God's "love letter to us"
 - c. Law, History, Prophets, Writings
 - d. Gospels, Letters

The Beginnings

3. Genesis is "pre-history"
4. Genesis is "theological" history – telling us who and why, but not how (science)
5. Genesis is the foundation of all else that follows in the story of scripture
6. The word "genesis" comes from the Greek word for origins or beginnings

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a

7. God created
 - a. Existence, reality, being – these are no accident, but the expression of the purpose of God
 - b. The Creation is fundamentally good
 - c. Humanity is a creation of God, and expresses the very being and essence – "image" – of God
 - d. God is almighty
 - e. God is good

Genesis 2:4b-25

8. A Second Account of creation
 - a. Evidence of different oral stories
 - b. Further detail about specifics important to humanity
 - c. The Tree in the Garden – the boundaries of humanity's existence
 - d. The fundamental essence of the relationship between men and women
9. The word "adam" means human being or mankind (humanity)
10. The word "eve" resembles the Hebrew word for living
11. Eden – the place where all is perfect
12. Cherubim – not cute little babies, but creatures of other-worldly appearance who guard the Tree of Life

Genesis 3:1-24

13. The Temptation of Adam and Eve
 - a. Sin exists
 - b. Humanity sins
 - c. Sin is doubt and distrust of God and God's character
 - d. Sin destroys the perfect relationship between God and humanity

Genesis 4:1-16

14. The Story of Cain and Abel
 - a. The logical result of sin is the destruction of God's creation

- i. The end of Abel
- ii. The end of perfect relationship among human beings
- b. Note: Cain goes away from God
 - i. Humanity is estranged from the Source of our very being
- c. Abel – a name derived from the Hebrew word for “son”
- d. Cain – the first-born child of all creation

Genesis 6:5 – 9:17

- 15. The Story of Noah and the Flood
 - a. All of humanity is estranged from God, save for a very few
 - b. God takes sin very seriously
 - c. And, God provides for a way *through* sin, in order to save (redeem) his creation
 - d. God’s love prevails, signified by the rainbow
- 16. Noah – a righteous man – one who seeks a true relationship with God and others
- 17. Covenant – usually a contract with rights and obligations on the part of both parties, but in this case, a promise from only one side – God’s side

Genesis 11:1-9

- 18. The Story of the Tower of Babel
 - a. Humanity attempts to become God-like, according to its own plan
 - b. God will accept nothing from humanity that tries to take his place
- 19. Babel – an old city and name for what would later become Babylon, and a word play on the Hebrew word for “confuse”

Questions for Your Life Today

- A. What are some other ideas about “where everything comes from?”
- B. What does it mean to you that everything comes from God, that it is good, and that God is good?
- C. How does God’s image find expression in your own life?
- D. How do you personally define “sin?”
- E. How do you feel when you feel distanced from God? From other people?
- F. Name a time when God has saved you from a “flood”
- G. What are some of the negative things that happen when you try to be God?

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