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Introduction

Outlines of Genesis

Our most basic Genesis outline is structured around the first three covenants. [NOTE: the first three rooms of the downstairs floor of the educational wing are named Eden, Ararat and Moriah, moving chronologically from the Adamic to the Noahic to the Abrahamic covenant. Your class should memorize these room names, the 3 men (Adam, Noah and Abraham), and the chapters associated with each as an outline for the book of Genesis.

General Outline

Adam: Chapters 1-6

- Adamic Covenant, Eden, Creation and 3 Falls
- The three falls are Adam, Cain and the Sethites (sons of God). They represent sins against the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in that order. These correlate with the first 3 commandments.

Noah: Chapters 7-11

- Noahic Covenant, Ararat, Recreation and Re-fall
- Noah, whose name means “rest,” is a new Adam. Ham is a new Adam/Cain, however. The Shemites who traveled to the Tower of Babel area are new Sethites.

Abraham: Chapters 12-50

- Abrahamic Covenant, Moriah (eventually the Temple mount, see 2 Chronicles 3:1)
- 3 Recoveries
 - Abraham – the *patience* towards God that Adam lacked
 - Jacob – the *brotherly kindness* to one’s fellow man that Cain lacked
 - Joseph – the *holiness* in the face of other peoples that the Sethites lacked
- World Saved Through Joseph, brought to rest, Sabbath enthronement and bread for the world (4th commandment)

Chiasm

How the 7 days of creation correlate with formlessness, emptiness and darkness

- 1 Light
 - 2 Form
 - 3 Fill Land (Deck 2 of the triple-decker world)
 - 4 Light (Fill [firmament] and form [sub-rulers])
 - 3 Fill Sky and Water (Decks 2 and 3)
 - 2 Form (Ruler/re-former created)
 - 1 Light (God who is light comes to us and enthrones us as rulers)

Poem

For the Lord's Day Morning

by Isaac Watts

This is the day when Christ arose
So early from the dead:
Why should I my eyelids close,
And waste my hours in bed?

This is the day when Jesus broke
The powers of death and hell;
And shall I still wear Satan's yoke,
And love my sins so well?

Today, with pleasure, Christians meet,
To pray, and hear thy Word;
And I would go with cheerful feet
To learn thy will, O Lord!

I'll leave my sport, to read and pray,
And so prepare for heaven:
O may I love this blessed day
The best of all the seven!

Lesson 1 God the Creator

Text: *Genesis 1:1-5*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Focus Songs

My God Is So Big

Oh, Who Can Make A Flower?

God Made Me (Judy Rogers)

Memory Verse

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Genesis 1:1-3

Character Quality: Rest

This will be the character quality we will work on while teaching about the seven days of creation.

Lesson

Introduce the book of Genesis. It is the book of ***beginnings***. In today's text, we learn about the beginning of all things. All of the created order, all that we know about, all that there is, ***except for God***, shares something in common. It was all ***created by God***. So, there are two categories of things: **Creator** and ***created***.

Because God created all things, we can learn something about God by looking at what He made. If you write a poem, or model some clay into a pot, it reveals something about you. The same is true of the one who made you and all things—God. In Romans 1:20, the Bible says that God's creation tells us about His character. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead. . ."

But, because Adam and Eve sinned, we have a hard time understanding God. Without His Spirit helping us, we actually try to forget about God because we are guilty of disobeying Him. (Romans 1:18 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.") But those who have been baptized, and are Christians, have the Holy Spirit living within them. He teaches us about God by helping us understand what He has made, and, of course, by teaching us His Word, which is found in the Bible. So, God speaks to us by what He has made, which reflects things about Him, and by His Word.

In today's verses, we learn several very important things about God.

- 1) God created everything out of nothing. Nothing but God existed before He spoke the world into creation.
- 2) God created the world in a series of days—six of them. They were days of about the same length as our days today. God made the world about six thousand years ago, and made everything in the space of six days.
- 3) God said that what He made was good. God made an evaluation at the end of his workday. He said that the light was good. The physical world was made by God, reflects things about God and is very good! Food that tastes good, play equipment that is fun to use, pets that are enjoyable to play with and take care of, clothes that look nice are all part of God’s creation and, if used for His glory, all of these physical things are VERY good!
- 4) God’s creation improved over time, in three very specific ways. Our verses tell us that God moved to **form** the world, to **fill** the world, and to **light** the world. Forming, filling and lighting. We will memorize these three ways God works as we memorize the seven days of creation.

❖ *Forming: Clay activity.* [Have students close their eyes and set a lump of clay on the table in front of them]. God created the earth out of nothing. [Have kids form something out of the clay]. God created matter out of nothing, and then He shaped it; He gave it **Form**. We imitate God as sub-creators and sub-rulers. We create or give form to things that are beautiful and useful. Someone formed or made this jewelry box and this toolbox. These are sub-creations that imitate God’s work in a small way.

❖ *Filling: Jewelry box activity.* Although these boxes are good and even beautiful in themselves, they are incomplete until they are **filled**. Do any of you have special boxes at home? If so what do you keep in them? [Show kids the contents of the boxes]. The world God made He filled with beautiful things and useful things. Again, the things God made show us something about His character, like we learned from the verse in Romans 1:20. The world God made is Very Good, and God is Very Good.

❖ *Lighting.* Still a world full of beautiful and useful things would **not** be very good if there was no **light**. Have any of you ever been in a cave, or a room without windows where it was *really* dark? Even if we turn the lights off in here, it is still light because of the light of the sun coming in through the windows. God made light so strong that the light from the sun travels hundreds of thousands of miles through space and even through the clouds, on a cloudy day, and comes into our room here to give us light so we can see. 1John 1:5 says, “...God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” John 1:1, talking about Jesus, says, “ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” And John 8:12 says, “Then Jesus spoke to them saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk

in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” The Bible also says that there will be no need for the sun in heaven, because God himself will be our light. Revelation 21:23 talking about the new Jerusalem says, “The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.” And Rev. 22:5 says, “There shall be no night there: they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. . .”

So what three kinds of things did God do in Creation? **Forming, Filling, and Lighting!**

5) The seven days of creation are a basic pattern for how God and the world work. Later, when God had his special priestly people live in the Promised Land, He told them to celebrate 7 feasts—joyous, happy times, with Him. These seven Old Testament feasts match up with the seven days of creation. In the New Testament, there is only one special feast day—the Lord’s Day, Sunday, the Christian Sabbath.

Activities

- Remind the children that our outline for the book of Genesis, which means “beginnings,” will be Adam-Noah-Abraham.
- If you have access to some play dough, have the kids start with a formless lump and form it into something. Have them tell you what they made, commend them, and remind them that part of what God did was to form the earth.
- Darken the windows and turn out the light. Have each of the kids take turns turning on the light switch. Remind them that part of how God works is to bring light into darkness.
- Have an empty container of some sort, and have the kids fill it with things around the room. Remind them that part of what God does in creation is to fill His world.
- We are made in the image of God. We are formers, lighters and fillers.
- Work on Scripture, poem and outline memorization.

Lessons 2-3 The Seven Days of Creation

Text: *Genesis 1:1-2:5*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Genesis 1:1-3

Character Quality: Rest

This will be the character quality we will work on while teaching about the seven days of creation.

Lesson

Go over the seven days of creation. Here is a poem which will give you an idea of how this should be presented.

Day one, God made the light but not the sun
Day two, God made the firmament, forming the waters into two
Day three, God filled the land, with first fruits of plant and tree
Day four, God made ruling lights where the rockets soar
Day five, God filled the sea and sky with fish and birds that teem and thrive
Day six, God made animals, then man, the former and ruler of the mix
Day seven, God rested in heaven

Day 1 God makes light. The sun, moon and stars are not the ultimate source of light. God is. This light on the first day of creation may be His "Shekinah" glory. God is light. Can we think of light without the sun, moon and stars? Sure! Electric lights!

Day 2 God forms the earth. The firmament begins to "form" the creation, dividing the waters into two. The sky is blue, like the ocean is blue. The sky is a picture of the bottom of heaven; it is a visual reminder to us of God's heaven.

Day 3 God forms the land, and begins to fill it (Deck 2 of the triple-decker world). God made some plants and trees, but only certain kinds. Genesis 2:4,5 says, "These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, and every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground." So, as man is created on day six to till the earth, some plants are not yet growing. The plants on day three are a "first fruits" of all plants.

Day 4 God creates lights to rule the day and night, to help form the earth and to fill the firmament.

The moon and sun have an effect on the created order, bringing forth more “form.”

Day 5 God fills the sky and water (Decks 2 and 3). Fish and birds are said to “teem,” are blessed and commanded to multiply.

Day 6 God makes land animals and insects, and man, “the crown of creation.” Man is given as the ultimate ruler or former of the earth, linking him to the beginning of forming on day two, and the ruling of day four. Man is commanded to multiply, linking him with the filling of day 3, etc.

Day 7 On the Sabbath, God rests, but in His rest, visits man. Man is evaluated by the approach of God, who is light. Man is to be enthroned on the Sabbath Day, given more rule and authority. But Adam has sinned, and the advent of God brings His judgments. The world becomes dark, chaos/wilderness starts to take over, and the earth becomes less productive, less “willing” to give forth her fruit to man.

These are big concepts. What we hope the children will retain is the knowledge of what God does on each of the 7 days, and the relationship of these to forming, filling and lighting.

Activities

- Coloring sheet: five panels about what we do on the Lord’s Day are in the classroom. The kids can color them and hang them on a string in order.
- Creation Wheel: Color the days of creation and mount them on a paper plate with a brad stuck through the center to hold them together.
- Worksheet with Psalm 100:1-3. These could be read together as a reminder that since God made us, He will take care of us! And we should praise Him!
- “God gives His people work to do” poster: This can be used to talk about Adam being created to do work, and Eve being created to help him do work. This could lead to a discussion of what jobs the children’s parents do.
- Felt-board cutouts: correlating to the seven days of creation. These could be used to work with the kids on what is created on each day. Have them go up one by one and try to put the pieces on the felt board in proper order.

Lesson 4 The Fall of Adam and Eve (1st Fall)

Text: *Genesis 2:15*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Genesis 1:1-3

Character Quality: Rest

This will be the character quality we will work on while teaching about the seven days of creation.

Review

Review the seven days of creation, perhaps using some of the suggested crafts of the last two weeks, or the poem for last week. I have also put a chart in the room with the 7 days and the 7 feasts. This should be reviewed each Sunday until the final exam.

Day one, God made the light but not the sun
Day two, God made the firmament, forming the waters into two
Day three, God filled the land, with first fruits of plant and tree
Day four, God made ruling lights where the rockets soar
Day five, God filled the sea and sky with fish and birds that teem and thrive.
Day six, God made animals, then man, the former and ruler of the mix
Day seven, God rested in heaven

Lesson

"Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it."
(Genesis 2:15)

Adam was given two jobs in the Garden—to guard (keep) it and tend or nurture (dress) it. He was supposed to protect the plants and animals in the garden of God from anything that would hurt them. And, he was supposed to make them even more beautiful and glorious, by carefully tending them, and thinking of ways to help the plants and animals in the garden to thrive and grow. And, Adam was supposed to go into the entire world, taking the model of the beauty of the Garden with him as he made the entire world a beautiful place.

Eden was on a mountain. We know this because the Bible tells us that four rivers went out from it to water the world. Water runs downhill, so the garden was a high place. Adam was to follow the waters into the entire world, ruling not just the garden, but also the whole world, making it more and more beautiful. That's what your Moms and Dads do!

God gave Adam a little garden too, so to speak. His wife Eve, is called a “little garden” in the Bible (Song of Solomon 4:12). Just like Adam was to guard and tend the garden, so he was also to guard and tend his wife. He was to protect her and help her become more and more glorious. She was given to Adam to help him do his job, to make the world more beautiful.

But Adam failed in his job. He did not guard Eve his wife. A serpent telling lies about who God was came and spoke to Eve, with Adam just standing there the whole time! Adam watched, passively, as the serpent tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit. We don’t know why Adam just stood there, without protecting her from the lies of the devil. But it was sin on Adam’s part. The devil told Eve that God may be all-powerful, but He really didn’t love her or Adam. The devil used very, very crafty speech. The Bible says that Eve was tricked by the devil. She doubted whether God really loved her, whether He really wanted what was best for her. The responsibility for the fall belonged to Adam, not Eve, because He failed to guard her from the lying tongue of the devil/serpent.

Several things happened after this sin. First, Adam and Eve hid from God. You see, they had believed the serpent when it had said that God didn’t love them. And now that was all they could think of when God came to them. Second, they began to talk like the Devil! Their words were not truthful. They didn’t admit their own faults; they didn’t confess their sin. Rather, they used tricky speech, just like the devil. Every lie that you tell, every time you don’t tell the whole truth to your Mom or Dad because you are afraid of what you did wrong, every time you try to blame someone or something other than yourself for your sin, you are acting like Adam and Eve, and the Devil. The Bible says he is the father of lies. Third, Adam and Eve started fighting with each other.

That’s the way we all are. We all hide, lie and argue. We have a very hard time believing God really loves us as much as He says He does. But Jesus has come to deliver us from the Devil and from our own sin and unbelief. He says He wants us to admit when we sin, to be truthful in our speech and to be kind and not argue.

Will you try hard this week to do that? Will you pray and ask Jesus for help when you feel like hiding, lying or arguing? God hears such prayers, and answers them!

Activities

- Coloring sheet: five panels about what we do on the Lord’s Day. The kids can color them and hang them on a string in order.
- Coloring sheet: two children getting along or arguing, one boy running away from his responsibility and another boy taking responsibility for his actions. Talk about the result of the fall—Adams and Eve began to fight and argue, and they both hid from God and their responsibility to talk to Him about their sin. The application, of course, is getting along with others and taking responsibility for our actions.
- Worksheet with Psalm 100:1-3. These could be read together as a reminder that since God made us, He will take care of us! And we should praise Him!
- Children’s Bible Activity Sheets: “The Fall” p. #3.

Lesson 5 Adam and Eve: Impatience

Text: *Genesis 3:1-6*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

*Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant.
1 Corinthians 13:4*

Character Quality: Patience

Focus Songs

Be Ye Kind To One Another

Have Patience (from Music Machine, the Fruit of the Spirit)

Have patience, have patience, don't be in such a hurry.

When you get impatient, you only start to worry

Remember, remember that God Is patient too,

And think of all the times that others had to wait for you.

(SUNG SLOWLY)

Lesson

Give each child a copy of the lesson to follow along with as you tell it. Let them talk about each of the silhouettes on the sheet, which you can't see on this text only version, but which I indicate below with "xxx." There is a craft that goes with the story—a fruit of the Spirit tree and fruits to color, cut and paste on.

We would also want now to begin to work on the following passage:

⁴Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

There is a chart available in your room, where I take 1 Cor. 13:4-7 and put it under two headers: patience and kindness. These are the two great attributes we will be looking at as we talk about Adam/Abraham and Cain/Jacob.

The following lesson is from Antelope Publishing, E-Publishers of Browser Readable E-Books on CD-ROM Since 1995. Their URL is: <http://www.antelope-ebooks.com/CCC/lessons/patience.html>

This Bible lesson on the Fruits of God's Spirit is based on Gal. 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

The fourth fruit of God's spirit listed in the Bible is the fruit of PATIENCE. Patience means we are willing to wait to get what we want. We won't get angry and scream and yell at others when we don't get our way. Sometimes it is hard to be patient.

We don't want to wait. (xxx)
Ask for children's input.

We get angry when people do things that we don't like. (xxx)
Ask for children's input

We get upset when we can't learn things quickly. (xxx)
Ask for children's input

We get angry when our toys break, or don't work right. (xxx)
Ask for children's input

[Insert my discussion here of Adam and Eve's impatience from Genesis].

Adam was promised that every tree would be his to eat. [Read Genesis 1:29, stressing the "every" word.] But one tree he had to wait to eat—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the tree of rule. Adam was immature, and needed to grow up before he could eat that tree's fruit and become a King who could rule. There are lots of things you will enjoy as adults, but not now—things like driving cars, having children, etc.

God owned the fruit, and told Adam that he couldn't eat it yet. Adam stole his father's fruit when he impatiently took it before it was time. Do you ever take cookies when your parents have told you not to? That's what Adam and Eve did.

The Bible says the fruit looked very good. It was very pleasing to the eye, it looked very tasty, and it looked like it would make Adam and Eve ready to rule right away, without having to wait for God to train them up.

Patience, the Bible tells us in 1 Cor. 13, is the first part of love. Adam and Eve didn't trust and love God, so they became impatient. You are like them. You struggle with patience. But God sent Jesus to die for our impatience, and to give us the power to be patient people. Now, we are not like Adam and Eve, but like Jesus.

[Back to printed lesson]

God is very patient and He wants us to be patient too.
Jesus Christ was patient when He was on the earth.
He didn't get angry with those who were mean to Him.
He didn't try and get even.
Instead He asked God to forgive them for the bad things they did.
When we are patient with others there is PEACE.
The more of GOD'S LOVE we have, the HAPPIER we will be.
When we do things GOD'S WAY we will be patient with others, and kind to them.
What do we do if someone is angry with us?
If we have done something wrong we say we are sorry and ask them to forgive us.

If there is someone who is being mean to you, you should try and be nice to them, but if they continue to do bad things tell your parents, or your teacher. No one should be allowed to hurt you, no matter how big they are, or who they are. The Bible tells us not to keep company with someone who is always angry, so try and stay away from such a person as much as possible. Being patient means we control our emotions, so they don't control us.

[More from Tuuri]

Later in our studies of Genesis, we will talk about Abraham.

¹²That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. ¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." ¹⁵And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

Hebrews 6:12-15

Lets pray that we can have the patience of Abraham and of Jesus.

Activities

- Fruits of God's Spirit coloring activity pages: color and paste the fruits on the tree.

Lesson 6 Cain and Abel: Brotherly Hatred (2nd Fall)

Text: *Genesis 4:1-16*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

*Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant.
1 Corinthians 13:4*

Character Quality: Kindness

Focus Songs

Be Ye Kind To One Another
Have Patience
Love

Lesson

Last week, we talked about the fall of Adam and Eve. We said that they weren't patient. They sinned, and Father God judged them. I say "Father God," because that's the two names that God is called in the story of Adam and Eve. The serpent tried to get Adam and Eve to not believe that God was fatherly to them, and loved them. So it's very important that we remember that God is our Father, and loves and takes care of us!

Anyway, in addition to God judging Adam and Eve, He also told them that He would send a savior for their sins—Jesus. Later, a very great man named Abraham was a picture of how patient God can make us again as we trust in Him. We'll talk about Abraham in a few weeks.

Adam and Eve believed God, and while they could no longer live in the Garden of Eden, Father God did provide for them. One of the first blessings we read about for Adam and Eve was a little baby! In fact, they soon had two sons. Their first son was called Cain and their second was called Abel. Cain was a farmer. He grew vegetables and grains. Abel was a shepherd who looked after the family's herds.

Cain and Abel were like most brothers—they didn't always get along. But probably like most brothers, they loved each other very much, despite their occasional fights.

When the Lord's Day [end of days] came around, it was time for them to bring offerings to God. Abel chose his first and best lamb and offered it to the Lord. It was hard for Abel to give up his most prized possession, but it was important to him to try his best to do as God had asked. Cain brought an offering from his crops.

We don't know why God liked one offering and not the other. But that's the way it was. Cain thought that meant God preferred Abel. Cain was jealous! He didn't take the time or the responsibility to think through why God preferred Abel's sacrifice more than his. Instead, he just got angry at his brother.

But God is so good! He didn't get mad at Cain. No, He came to Cain and tried to encourage Him to do what was right—to love his brother, and be kind to him. God told Cain just what He tells you and I when we are thinking about sinning. If we do what is right, things will be very good for us, no matter how bad things may look right now! God's face will shine on us, and we will be blessed. But Cain didn't love or believe God

Cain asked Abel to go for a walk with him, and while he was still angry, Cain struck Abel to the ground and killed him. Cain's father had stolen from God and fallen from grace. God had granted grace to Cain, talking to him, and urging him to love his brother. But Cain, just like his father Adam, fell from grace. Now it wasn't sin directly against God like it was with Cain's father. Adam was impatient and stole from God. Cain was angry and struck out against the image of God—his brother. When Cain realized what he had done, he was more concerned that someone might have seen what he had done than he was sorry for his brother's death. He looked around and sighed a breath of relief that no one was nearby.

But, then, just like God came to Adam after he had sinned, God came to Cain. And the Lord spoke, "Cain, where is your brother?"

Cain shrugged, "I don't know! Am I my brother's keeper?"

God replied, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

Cain fell to the ground sobbing. Finally, he felt the horror of what he'd done. And he had to live with that feeling and the knowledge that he'd murdered his little brother for the rest of his life.

We all get angry. We fight with our brothers and friends. We strike out at God by hitting one another. Without Jesus, we're just like Cain. But God says that just as Abel's blood was spilled, so Jesus gave His blood, His life, for us. He says that He doesn't want us to be like Cain, and so He grants us His love for our fellow man. We'll talk in a few weeks about a very great man named Jacob. Even though Jacob's brother, Esau, was an ungodly man who wanted to kill him, Jacob didn't strike out at Esau, but was kind to him.

Last week we asked God to help us be more like Abraham instead of Adam, to grant us patience. Let's pray this week that God would grant us the grace to be kind to one another, that we would be more like Jacob instead of Cain. Jesus is patient and kind. He comes to us in worship today to give us patience and kindness. Is that what you want?

Activities

- Put the fruit of kindness on the tree.
- Cain and Abel coloring packet.
- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Cain and Abel" p. #4.

Lesson 7 The Sons of God Marry the Daughters of Men: Unholiness (3rd Fall)

Text: *Genesis 6:1-8*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

*Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.
Hebrews 12:14*

Character Quality: Holiness

Consecration to God in the small things of life

Focus Songs

Be Ye Kind To One Another

Have Patience

Love

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lesson

One way to remember the first few chapters of Genesis is to think about three falls, three sins, three stumbles from doing what is right, by important men that brought very bad consequences to mankind.

Remember that Adam wasn't patient. He didn't wait until His Father told him it was now time to eat the fruit of rule. He was impatient, and mankind fell into sin. We all struggle with patience. But God brought along Abraham, who was a picture that man can be patient, if he trusts in God.

Cain didn't love his brother. Rather than be happy that God looked on Abel's offering with pleasure, Cain got mad and envious and ended up killing his brother. We all struggle with hating our brothers and sisters, not being kind and useful to them. But God brought along Jacob who loved his brother Esau and blessed him, even though Esau wanted to kill Jacob. We'll talk about Abraham and Jacob later in our studies of Genesis.

But today we want to talk about a group we call "Sethites." When Cain killed Abel, God was kind to Adam and Eve and gave them another son, one they named Seth. Seth loved and trusted God, unlike Cain. Seth had children, and they had children, and they had children. These men who grew up from Seth's family we call "Sethites."

But Cain had children too. And those children were as bad, if not worse, than Cain! One of them, Lamech, said if Cain had killed a few, he would kill a lot. He had two wives, and he was very mean to them.

You may remember that God said he would cause the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman to be at war with each other. This meant that there are two kinds of men that would inhabit the earth—those that loved God and those that didn't. Generally, Christian children come from Christian homes. So, the sons of Seth, the Sethites, were called in Genesis 6 the sons of God. The sons of God were the line of faithful believing men that came from Seth instead of the ungodly men who came from the families of Cain and Lamech. The girls in this rebellious group of people are called the daughters of men, that is the daughters of fallen men, in our text.

So, a really awful thing happened in our story today. In fact, we can compare it to Adam's impatience and Cain's hatred. The sons of God, who once loved God, now wanted to marry women who didn't love God. They were more interested in women than in God. The sons of God began to marry and have families outside of the faith. They fell from, they moved away from, their holiness. Holiness is a word that means consecrated or "set apart" to God. It means that whatever we do, we should do to please the Lord. We don't do the sins that most people do, like lying, stealing, cheating, killing, swearing, etc. No, we love God and try to please Him with our words and actions.

But the Sethites were no longer holy. They cared more about marrying the wrong sorts of wives than obeying God and marrying godly women. At RCC, members have to agree not to marry outside of the Christian faith, because it is a very bad sin that the Sethites started committing. This is why your fathers will be teaching you as you grow up how important it is to marry the right person. It is just like being patient and being kind and useful to others. Holiness to God is to be something that characterizes people that are really sons of God, who really want to praise their heavenly Father.

Our memory verse today tells us that without holiness, we really aren't children of God. It's a reminder of our last three lessons. We are to be at peace with others by being patient with them and useful and kind to them. And we are to be holy in relationship to God.

Holiness is very important. The lack of holiness by the Sethites is what led God to destroy nearly all the earth with a flood! Next week we'll talk about the flood and Noah.

But understand how very important it is to seek after godly holiness, particularly as you get older and get ready to marry. Ask your parents to help you in this vital area.

God is so good. Just like Abraham had the patience that Adam didn't, and just like Jacob had the brotherly kindness that Cain didn't, God sent someone whose life demonstrated great holiness to God, the holiness that the Sethites didn't have. That man's name was Joseph. Joseph was committed to holiness, he loved God with all his heart, and didn't want to do anything that would displease Him. One day, when he was in Egypt, a woman who was married to someone else tried to get Joseph to kiss her. But Joseph was holy! He liked kissing, but only kissing his own wife! He resisted the temptation. He showed us that we too can be holy, the way Abraham showed us we could be patient even when it takes a very long time to get what God has promised, and Jacob showed us we can be kind to our brother, even when he is very bad to us. Joseph shows us that we too can be holy, even when wicked people are trying to get us to do wicked things.

But of course, it wasn't Abraham's patience, or Jacob's kindness, or Joseph's holiness, really. It was the patience, kindness, and holiness of the Lord Jesus Christ. We can't be any of these things without Him. But by trusting and believing in Him, we can be patient, kind and holy. Let's pray that Jesus will give us these good gifts.

Activities

- How do we know how to be holy? God gives us the Holy Spirit to indwell us. He writes the Law, which tells us how to be holy, upon our hearts as we learn about it and do it. In Leviticus, God told Moses to tell His people that they were to be holy, for He is holy. He then gave them 70 different ways to keep the Ten Commandments. Today's craft is a reminder of God's holiness, which is reflected in His law. It may be good again to talk about remembering the Sabbath day to keep it holy as a practical way to talk about holiness.
- Christian Children's Corner: "Doing Things God's Way"

Lesson 8 Noah and His Sons: Recreation, Joyful Rest, and Fall

Text: *Genesis 5:29; 6-10*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

*Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.
Hebrews 12:14*

Character Quality: Joyful Rest

Consecration to God in the small things of life

Focus Songs

Be Ye Kind To One Another

Have Patience

Love

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lesson

We come now to that part of Genesis that tells us about the Noahic covenant. Remember, one way we are remembering what Genesis is about is by the letters ANA: Adam, Noah, Abraham. There are six covenant periods in the Old Testament, that is, before Jesus. And 3 of them are right here in the book of Genesis. God made a covenant with Adam in Eden, He renewed His covenant with Noah on Mt. Ararat (Gen. 8:4), and He would also later renew His covenant with Abraham, who was obedient to God on Mt. Moriah (Gen. 22:2). So, this is a good place to review this 3-part outline of the book!

How many of you know the story of Noah? If I show you some pictures, could you help me tell the story? I bet you can.

[Use the pictures to tell the story. There are 6]

- 1) God tells Noah to build. Why? [See if the kids can put this together with last week's story. Review last week's lesson about the sons of God and the daughters of men.] Nearly all the world had become very sinful, so God decided to destroy the earth with a flood. [Review the impatience of Adam, the hatred of Cain and the unholiness of the sons of God, the Sethites]. What happened to Adam when he was impatient and stole food from his father? (Kicked out of the Garden). What happened to Cain when he was hateful towards his brother Abel and killed him? (kicked out of the land). What happens to the sons of God when they were unholy and married girls that didn't believe in God? (kicked out of the earth—all the earth destroyed by flood).

Who was patient? (Abraham, waiting for the promise)

Who was kind to his brother? (Jacob, giving him gifts when he came back to the land).

Who was holy? (Joseph, refusing to kiss Potiphar's wife).

So, Noah will survive the flood, the judgment of God, by obeying Him, believing Him and changing the way he lived his life.

- 2,3) Noah brings two of all the animals to the ark. God's people always seem to be taking care of animals. Do any of you have animals you care for? It is good training for running a household and taking care of two-legged animals later on!
- 4) [Dove and olive twig. Forty days and nights.] This will be a very important period of time in the rest of the Bible. For instance, much later, the Philistines would rule over the Jews for 40 years, then God would send a Savior (Samson). Forty becomes a period of judgment on sin that prepares us for being saved.
- 5,6) Rainbow. We will talk more about this next week, but God wants us to think about this part of Genesis when we see rainbows in the sky. The mountains the ark landed on are called the mountains of Ararat. Ararat is the same as Armenia today.

So, you know a lot about the story. But does anyone know what the name "Noah" means? Bible names usually have meanings, and they are frequently important to properly understand what the Bible is saying. Maybe one of you could read Genesis 5:29, where we are told about Noah's name and mission. [Read verse].

Noah means bringer of rest or bringer of comfort. Noah is described as an upright man, a perfect man, not sinless, but very, very righteous and good. Noah would bring rest.

There is something in the story of Noah that many people misunderstand, and it is a very nice picture of the rest from work that Noah would bring to mankind. After Noah did all his work, building the ark, gathering the animals, caring for them for over a month, sacrificing to God in worship after the ark landed on Mt. Ararat, he did a very interesting and wonderful thing. He planted a vineyard, cared for it and eventually made some wine from the grapes. Now, wine is a great gift to mankind. Of course, we are not to drink too much, but it is a good thing. So, it wasn't bad for Noah to have a little wine at the end of his long work. In fact, it was very much in keeping with his name, wasn't it?

Rest and comfort. Wine is a picture of that, and it actually makes you restful; it can make you a little sleepy after a long day's work and a glass or two of wine. That isn't bad either. It's good to work, but it's also good to rest after our work! Noah taking off his robe and taking a nap after drinking some wine and becoming merry in his heart—none of this is said to be bad in the Bible. In fact, it is a picture of the rest and comfort we have every Lord's Day in a special way. We drink wine at communion, and that's not bad, but good. It's a picture of the rest and comfort Jesus has given us.

Noah is like a new Adam. The old world was destroyed, and now a new world had begun, with a new man. Just like God told Adam to be fruitful and multiply, so He said that to Noah. Just like God told Adam he would have dominion over the earth and the animals, so Noah was told the same thing. Noah has a garden to cultivate, just like Adam. That garden produces his wine!

So, the story of Noah is one of work, worship, wine and rest. The first thing Noah did after the ark landed was to worship. The first thing we do each week is to worship God. And as part of that worship, we drink wine and joyfully rest in what Jesus has done.

But something bad did happen. One of Noah's sons, who was a very good person at first, gave in to temptation. He took Noah's robe, which was a picture of his authority, just like judges' robes today. Canaan wanted to rule in his place. Just like Adam, Canaan was impatient. He and his brothers ended up arguing, just like Cain and Abel. But his brothers prevailed and they put Noah's robe of rule back on him while he slept.

Even though the world was brand new, still, man's heart was prone to sin, and man needed a better Savior than Noah. Many years later, Jesus would come and die for our sins, and save us. He gives us the strength to be patient, kind and holy, and joyfully rest in His work.

Activities

- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Noah and the Great Flood" p. #5.
- Noah story coloring packet.

Lesson 9 Noah and the Rainbow: Communion and God's Remembrance

Text: *Genesis 8:1 - 9:17*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.

Genesis 9:16

Character Quality: Joyful Rest

Rest is the meaning of Noah's name

Focus Songs

Be Ye Kind To One Another

Have Patience

Love

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lesson

God told Noah in 9:16, "I will see and I will remember." He was talking about the rainbow.

Have any of you seen any rainbows this year? It hasn't rained much, so it's probably been a while. What do you think of when you see a rainbow?

Some of you probably know that God put the rainbow in the sky as a reminder. What do you think it's a reminder of? [Discussion]

Well, the answer is in the Bible, and specifically in the story of Noah and the flood. You remember the story of the flood from last week. [Review]

It's interesting that we read in Genesis 8:1 that God "remembered" Noah. What do you think this means? Can God forget? No, of course not. So it means something else than that. In the Bible, it means that God thought on, He moved to help Noah, He took actions to stop the flood, and He saved Noah and his family.

Noah also remembers God. What was the first thing Noah did after getting out of the ark? (8:20) Right! He offered sacrifices to God. He didn't forget who it was who saved him, who it was who judged the rest of mankind. And Noah knew that it wasn't because he and his sons were perfect. Remember from last week how one of his sons sinned right away? Well, Noah and all his family were still sinners, just like you and me, and still needed someone else to pay the price for their sins. The animals that were sacrificed were, of course, a picture of the Lamb of God, Jesus, who would come thousands of years after and die on the cross, taking the penalty for our sin upon Himself.

The story goes on to tell us that God smelled the offerings that Noah made, and they were sweet. The smoke didn't stay on the ground, but went up. In fact, the offerings are called "ascension offerings" because they "went up." Not just Jesus' death, but His going up, His resurrection and ascension are pictured in the offerings. God then said something very important. Read 8:21,22.

Based on the sacrifice of the animals, ultimately on the coming death of Jesus, the Lamb of God that would take away the sin of the world, God said he would never again destroy the whole earth. He said the world would continue, not because Noah was good, but because Jesus would die for Noah and for the rest of God's people.

But there is more here than God just promising to never destroy the earth again. Genesis 9:1 says that God blessed Noah and his family! Not only are our sins forgiven, but we are also actually blessed by God because of the sacrifice of Jesus! Noah and his sons are like Adam, but even better. They are like Adam because they are the ones to exercise dominion over the entire world, just like Adam. This is a new world, and Noah is the new Adam. But in addition, Noah is given the power to rule over the ungodly men, to execute men who kill other men. So Noah is given dominion and the power to give grace to the world by punishing sinners, just like God.

All this sets us up to find out what the meaning of the rainbow is!

In verse 8, God makes a new covenant with Noah. Remember our ANA outline of the book. Well, here's the middle letter—N for Noah, and the Noahic covenant. God gives Noah and us a sign of this covenant—something that reminds us of all that we have learned here, and of God's grace and blessings to us. That sign is the rainbow!

Very specifically, God says the rainbow is a sign that He will never again make it rain so much that all men but a few are drowned. So, there are some things we are to think about when we see the rainbow.

- The flood, and the great sinfulness of men.
- The fact that God remembered Noah and spared him.
- The sacrifices of Noah, picturing the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remember, the name for these sacrifices are ascension offerings. They picture not just the death of Jesus, but more importantly His ascension, and ours in Him.
- The covenant of blessing for those that trust in Jesus. They will be safe, and they will be God's way to make the whole earth blessed, by punishing wicked men.

The rainbow is the sign, but the center of the covenant, the way the covenant is made with mankind, is the sacrifices of the animals, and the coming death and resurrection of Jesus.

So, those are things that we should remember when we see the rainbow: sin and judgment, the death and resurrection of Jesus, and our great blessing because of Him.

But the Bible does not say that God put the rainbow in the sky to remind us! We know we are to think about all these things that happened in our story. But the Bible tells us that God put His

rainbow in the sky to remind Him! Here's our memory verse: "The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that *is* on the earth." Genesis 9:16

Now, remember what we said about God remembering Noah and his family on the ark. God never forgets! But God wants us to know that the reason He will give us the blessings of the everlasting covenant are the sacrifices that Noah made, picturing the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God says that He will look upon the rainbow, and treat us based on the work of the Lamb of God who died for our sins.

Today, there will probably be no rainbow in the sky. But there will be another sign of the covenant. Can anyone tell me what it is?

It is the Lord's Supper. The Bible says that now, the great sign of the covenant between God and man is the Lord's Supper. Listen to what Jesus said about the Lord's Supper:

²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
1 Corinthians 11:24,25

"In remembrance of Me." A better way to translate this phrase is "Do this as my memorial." Surely we remember Jesus at the Table. But the wording means the Lord's Table is like the rainbow. God says it is on the basis of Christ's sacrifice, his death, resurrection and ascension, which we celebrate at the table, that He give us the blessings of the covenant. The Supper is a memorial, not just to us, but also primarily to God! Just as He looked on the rainbow and "remembered" to treat mankind with blessing, so He looks on the body and blood of Jesus and remembers to treat us according to Christ's work, not our own.

"I will see and I will remember," says God. What a blessing!

Activities

- Noah story coloring packet: finish from last week.
- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "The Last Supper" p. #104.
- Coloring sheet: "229. The Last Supper."

Lesson 10 The City and Tower of Babel

Text: *Genesis 11:1-9*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. Leviticus 19:2b

Character Quality: Holiness

The opposite of the Sethites and Shemites

Focus Songs

Be Ye Kind To One Another

Have Patience

Love

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lesson

We said last week that Noah was like Adam, the world had been destroyed and remade. But right away, sin cropped up in one of the sons of Noah. Do you remember the two sons of Adam? (Cain and Abel) What were their names? Who struck out and killed his brother? (Cain) Do you remember the name of the son that God gave Adam and Eve to replace Abel? (Seth) And the Sethites were the descendants of Adam and Eve who loved God, unlike the Cainites, who didn't love God and were not nice to other men either.

Last week we talked about Ham, one of Noah's sons (Shem, Ham and Japheth), and Ham's sin and the argument between him and his other two brothers. Well, in today's story, we find out that it wasn't just Ham, the son of Noah, who sinned. No, the children of Shem, called Shemites, also sinned. The Bible says that they traveled east and ended up becoming friends with some people that did not serve God. So, this story is like the story of the Sethites marrying women who didn't believe in God. This time it's the Shemites who get together with men and women who don't love God. These are the people who built the city and tower of Babel.

We say city and tower, because that's what the Bible says. It wasn't just a tower, but it also was a city. A city develops or grows out of a people's religion, their view of God, and how they worship. The tower was a worship place, and the city was the culture that resulted from their tower, the tower being their church.

The Bible says at that time, all the men spoke the same language. They all decided to build a church, but it would not be a place where they would worship God's name. No, they wanted to make a name for themselves, to worship their own name, not God's. In other words, like the Sethites, the Shemites were not holy; they were not committed to God in all that they did. Even their church was built for themselves, for their own names, not for God's name! You can imagine what such a city would be like, when men, even at church aren't holy, aren't trying to please God, but themselves.

They thought they were really cool, and really strong. They had learned how to make bricks, and thought they could build a church, a tower, that would reach right up to heaven! Now, that's stupid, isn't it? When we are more interested in worshipping and serving ourselves, and trying to make a name for ourselves instead of worshipping and serving God and trying to exalt His name, we become very stupid.

Well, what does the Bible say that God did? It uses some pretty funny language here. It says He "came down." By telling the story that way, the Bible is making fun of these foolish men. They thought they could build a tower that would reach all the way to heaven, but God says He had to come down even to see it!

The sinful men had said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Well, God always comes to us to make us more holy, to punish us for our sins and to enable us to live more holy lives. And that's what He did to these men. He made it so that none of them could understand what each other were saying. Up to this time in history, all men spoke the same language, but now, there would be many different languages. Here too, God uses funny language to say what He did.

⁷Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. Genesis 11:7-9

The sinful men said, "Come let us build." God said, "Come, let us go down and confuse their language." They said they built the tower and city so they wouldn't be scattered abroad over the earth. But God says, because they built this tower and city, He would scatter them abroad over the earth!

So, once more, God judged men for their sins. Once more, even the godly people, the Shemites this time, sinned by not being holy, not being dedicated to God instead of themselves and what they wanted. But once more, God was very gracious. He didn't kill all the men. He made it so they could repent and try to be holy once more. And, in the very next chapter, God raises up a man, Abraham, who would be patient, kind and holy. Abraham would want to exalt God's Name and not his own.

Today, God comes down and visits us. In Lord's Day worship, at our tower, so to speak, God comes to be with us. Jesus says He comes to the door of our tower, our church, today, and knocks. He comes in to be with us, and says He will eat and drink with us. We get to have supper with Jesus each Lord's Day! Isn't that great? BUT...He looks at our tower, our church, when He comes. He sees our hearts, whether we are holy or not, whether we want to make a

name for ourselves, or whether we want to praise God's Name. Whether we want to serve ourselves, or serve Jesus by serving other people.

If we really are just at church to show off, or to serve ourselves, God says He will punish us at the Supper. But if we repent of our sins, and tell Jesus that we really want to serve Him, we want to be more and more holy, we want to think of others and of God and please Him in what we do, He tells us that He forgives us for our sins, and will make us more and more able to please Him.

In the New Testament there is another Bible story about language and all the nations of the world. Thousands of years after the Tower of Babel, after Jesus died for our sins and was raised up to heaven, the Spirit of God came down, just like God came down at the Tower of Babel. But this time, God came to men who were holy, who loved Jesus, and wanted to please Him in all they did. And God did a very miraculous thing. The men wanted to preach the Name of Jesus, to call all men everywhere to praise the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The day was called Pentecost, and on that day, God enabled all men to hear the Apostle Peter as he preached, as if Peter was speaking their own language. Peter was speaking in Hebrew, but men from all over the world heard him preaching in their own language. They heard God's name praised, and they entered into praising God's Name.

The unity that the Shemites wanted was based on their own pride, wanting to magnify their own name. But the unity God wants us to have is in hearing and praising Him and His Name. That is holiness.

So, Acts 2 is like Genesis 10-11. Like Genesis 10, Acts 2 contains a "table of nations" (vv. 9-11), and like Genesis 11, Acts 2 records a miracle of language.

But, while the diversity of tongues at Babel divided and disrupted the nations, the diversity of tongues at Pentecost had the opposite effect of joining all nations into one people.

The gift of the Spirit thus means that all tribes and tongues will confess Jesus as Lord; the outpouring of the Spirit is for the purpose of gathering together the nations.

In Genesis, the call of Abraham and the promise that the nations will be blessed through him follows immediately after the division of the nations (Genesis 12:1-3), so that, as many commentators have pointed out, the call of Abraham is Yahweh's solution to the problem of Babel. That is to say, the promise is Abraham's seed will unite the nations in blessing. Pentecost thus fulfills the promise to Abraham, namely, the reversal of the curse of Babel and the restoration of harmony among nations under the rule of Abraham's Seed—Jesus—through the outpouring of the Spirit.

Next week we will talk about Abraham. His story comes right after the story of the Tower of Babel. God will give promises to Abraham, and one of them is that in His descendant, in Jesus, all nations of the earth shall be blessed. The tower of Babel didn't mean that God didn't want all nations to come together to praise Him. That is JUST what He wanted, and just what He is doing. But it is holy men who love God's Name and person more than their own, who came together on the Day of Pentecost and all heard and praised the name of Jesus. And it is holy men

today who will be used by God to bring all the nations of the world, all the languages that God gave mankind at the tower of Babel, together to praise Jesus.

Lets get ready to go and praise Hs name!

Activities

- Children’s Bible Activity Sheets: “The Tower of Babel” p. #6.
- Children’s Bible Activity Sheets: “Pentecost”
- Children’s Bible Activity Sheets: “Pentecost” p. #119.
- Coloring sheet: “The Day of Pentecost”

Lesson 11 Abram: Promise and Patience

Text: *Genesis 11:27-13:4*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

¹²That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. ¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." ¹⁵And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. Hebrews 6:12-15

Character Quality: Patience

The opposite of Adam

Focus Songs

NOTE: These songs can be used to review the three falls and three recoveries (patience, kindness and holiness; Abraham, Jacob and Joseph, recovering from the falls of Adam, Cain and the Sethites). Love, according to 1 Cor. 13 is patient and kind, or useful. Holiness is commitment to God in all the details of our lives.

Be Ye Kind To One Another

Have Patience

Love

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lesson

Today we begin the first of four lessons on the life of Abraham. After that, we will spend one week talking about Abraham's son, Isaac, three weeks talking about Abraham's grandson Jacob, and then three weeks talking about Abraham's great-grandson Joseph. Then, we will be done with the book of Genesis and have a test!

So, you can see that much of the book of Genesis is all about Abraham and his children and their children. Genesis is fifty chapters long, and 39 of them are about Abraham and his descendants!

Remember, our simple outline of the book of Genesis is ANA, Adam (chapters 1-6), Noah (chapters 7-11), and Abraham (chapters 12-50.)

In today's lesson, we begin the story of Abram. Read Genesis 11:27-32. Hand out the maps, and show the kids the route from Ur (lower right area of map, near probable site of the garden of Eden) past Babel, to Haran, way up north.

[Read Genesis 12:1-3].

Did you know Abram and Abraham are both the same person? [Write the two names on the board]. In the Bible, names are important. Abram means "daddy" and Abraham means "big

daddy.” [review this] His first name was “father,” and then God changed his name to “father of a multitude,” or “father of many,” or “big daddy.”

There’s something funny about this. How many children does Abram have at the beginning of our story? That’s right! NONE! And even when God changes his name later to “father of many,” he still has no children!

Abraham was promised that he would have many children, that he would become a great nation, and bless all the other nations. But he had to wait many, many years until he had any children. Abram was patient.

The same thing is true about the land Abram was promised.

[Read Genesis 12:4-10].

Abram is promised Canaan, which is today called Israel. Later in the Bible, this land is called the Promised Land. It is where the twelve tribes of Israel will eventually live. This is the beginning of that story.

[Use map to trace Abram’s movement from Haran to Bethel (meaning House of God) and Ai in Canaan].

So, God promised land to Abram. But what happens almost as soon as Abram gets into Canaan? A famine, no food or water! So Abram has to leave the land and go to Egypt. It would take many, many years before Abram’s children would finally get the Promised Land. But Abram is patient.

God called Abram to follow him. Abram was obedient and did what God said. As soon as he got to where God made His promise of the land to Abram, he built an altar and worshipped God. God promised Abram many children, the land of Canaan, and that he would be a great blessing to the nations of the earth.

Abram would have to wait a long, long time for these promises to start to be realized. We have a long memory verse we will start to work on today. We will have the same verses for four weeks. The last part of these verses, speaking about Abram, says, “after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.”

Ultimately, it was many thousands of years later that Jesus came and blessed the nations by His death, resurrection and ascension. Jesus tells us that our lives are to be ones of great blessings now. But He tells us that we must have the same faith as Abram. Even though we don’t get the things we are promised right away, we are to be boys and girls of patience, patiently enduring, waiting for God to give us what He promised.

But we are not just to wait! No, our memory verses tell us that we are not to be sluggish, but diligent in doing what God says we should do. Abram was patient, but he was also obedient. May God grant us patience and obedience today! Ultimately, Abram’s obedience and patience

was because he *believed God*, he had *faith* that God would be true to His word. God wants you to know that He always keeps His promises, even though it may seem like a long time. God is always faithful, and wants us to have faith in Him.

Activities

- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "The Call of Abram."
- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "The Covenant with Abram" p. #10.

Lesson 12 Abram and Lot: Brotherly Kindness

Text: *Genesis 13:1-18*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

¹²That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. ¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." ¹⁵And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

Hebrews 6:12-15

Character Quality: Patience and kindness

The opposite of Adam

Focus Songs

NOTE: These songs can be used to review the three falls and three recoveries (patience, kindness and holiness; Abraham, Jacob and Joseph, recovering from the falls of Adam, Cain and the Sethites). Love, according to 1 Cor. 13 is patient and kind, or useful. Holiness is commitment to God in all the details of our lives.

Be Ye Kind To One Another

Have Patience

Love

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lesson

Today we have the second of four lessons on the life of Abraham. After that, we will spend one week talking about Abraham's son, Isaac, three weeks talking about Abraham's grandson Jacob, and then three weeks talking about Abraham's great-grandson Joseph. Then, we'll be done with the book of Genesis and have a test!

Remember, much of the book of Genesis is all about Abraham and his children and their children. Genesis is fifty chapters long, and 39 of them are about Abraham and his descendants! Let's look at a chart of Abram and his relatives. [Using handout from last week, show the kids Isaac, Jacob and Joseph].

Remember, our simple outline of the book of Genesis is ANA, Adam (chapters 1-6), Noah (chapters 7-11), and Abraham (chapters 12-50.)

Today we're going to talk about Abram and his nephew Lot. [Review what a "nephew" is. Then have kids write in "Terah—Abram's Father" and "Lot—Abram's Nephew" on the chart].

Tell the story of Genesis 13:1-18, (you may wish to read it), incorporating the following story elements:

- 1) Why was Abram coming back from Egypt? Why did he have to go there? Remind the kids of the famine in Canaan, and of God's promise of land to Abram just before Abram had to go to Egypt. Review the last part of the memory verse "after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise." He will have to wait longer to get the land, but at least he got back into it in today's story! Ask the kids what else Abram was promised that he had to wait to get. (a son)
- 2) What happened to Abram in Egypt? God blessed him with much wealth and many animals!
- 3) What did Abram do when he got back in the land? (He worshipped, just like Noah after the flood)
- 4) Why did Lot and Abram have trouble living together? (Many animals need much land, and other people living on the land make it difficult as well)
- 5) What should Lot have done? (Respecting his older uncle, he should have moved away, asking Abram where he wanted him to go)
- 6) The servants of Lot and Abram quarreled.
- 7) Abram was a **peacemaker**, because he was **patient**. He didn't claim his rights as the older man, the one who received the promise from God. He was patient, letting Lot choose what part of the land he wanted. Abram believed God, and he knew that when God saw fit to give it all to him, he would get it!
- 8) Abram was **kind**, acting with brotherly kindness to his nephew Lot. He wasn't like Adam. He was patient waiting for the land. And he wasn't like Cain. When a problem came up with his relative, he was kind to the relative, letting him choose what part of the land Lot wanted.
- 9) Lot chose the very best land he could see. He wasn't kind to his uncle, but took the best land for himself. The land was nearly as beautiful and productive as the Garden of Eden!
- 10) God immediately reminded Abram that he would get all the land. When we are patient and kind, God blesses us and helps us be more patient and kind. God also reminded Abram that he promised Abram would have many descendants, and a son, another thing he would have to be patient to receive!
- 11) Things didn't go so well for Lot. The men where the beautiful land was were very wicked. Lot was not wise; he chose to live with wicked men just because he wanted a nice place to live. Eventually, Lot will have to be rescued by Abram from men who kidnapped him. Later God will turn the garden area Lot chose into a wasteland. The place was Sodom and Gomorrah, which God would send fiery judgment upon.

This story is a reminder to us that because of Jesus, God will give His people what they can't have on their own. Without Jesus, we are like Adam and Cain, impatient and unkind. Without Jesus, we can't wait for anything, and we are mean and we don't know how to bring peace.

But with God's blessings on us, we can be like Abram instead of Adam: patient, waiting until it is the right time to eat, play or talk to our friends. With God's blessings, when an argument happens with our brothers or sisters or friends, we can be like Abram instead of Cain. We can bring peace. With God's blessings, we can be kind to people that are not being kind to us. Will you ask God to help you be patient and kind?

Activities

- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "The Separation of Abram and Lot" p. #8.

Lesson 13 Abram: Covenant and Baptism

Text: *Genesis 15-17*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

*¹²That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. ¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." ¹⁵And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. *Hebrews 6:12-15**

Character Quality: Patient Rest

Focus Songs

My God Is So Big

Oh, Who Can Make a Flower?

NOTE: These two songs, or others you know, can be used to emphasize God's ability and our inability. Circumcision is the sign that God's promises to Abram will happen because of His blessing, not Abram's work.

Holy, Holy, Holy (This can be used at the end of class to prepare the kids to worship the God who is sovereignly blessing them.)

Father Abraham

Lesson

Today we have the third of four lessons on the life of Abraham. After that, we will spend one week talking about Abraham's son, Isaac, three weeks talking about Abraham's grandson Jacob, and then three weeks talking about Abraham's great-grandson Joseph. Then, we'll be done with the book of Genesis and have a test!

Remember, much of the book of Genesis is all about Abraham and his children and their children. Genesis is fifty chapters long, and 39 of them are about Abraham and his descendants! Lets look at a chart of Abram and his relatives. [Using handout from last week, show the kids Isaac, Jacob and Joseph].

Let's review our simple outline of the book of Genesis by taking a little walk. Our outline is ANA, Adam (chapters 1-6), Noah (chapters 7-11), and Abraham (chapters 12-50.) Let's go look at the names on our first three Sunday School rooms on this level.

Eden

- Water flows down hill, so Eden must have been a hill or mountain
- Adam, Adamic Covenant, and Genesis 1-6

Ararat

- The range of mountains the ark landed on
- Noah, Noahic Covenant, Genesis 7-11

Moriah

- The mount where Abraham took Isaac
- Abraham, Abrahamic Covenant, Genesis 12-50

[Go back to room]

Do you remember the promises God made to Abram? He promised him Land and Seed, the result of which is blessing to the nations.

God told Adam to multiply, to have children, and He said the same thing to Noah. But with Abram, God puts it in a different way. Here, He PROMISES to give Abram children. So, this is why we call it a promise God makes to Abram. Abram thought that maybe his nephew Lot could be his heir, who would inherit all the blessings of God. But, that didn't work out, did it? Then, he thought his servant Eliezer could be his heir. But God said no.

⁴And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." ⁵Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. Genesis 15:4-6

The Bible says Abram believed God, and God again told Abram that he would inherit much land, this time telling him how very large that land would be, all the way to the River Euphrates! So, as God entered into covenant with Abram, He again promised him descendants and land. Not Lot, not Eliezer, and not Ishmael. Chapter 16 tells us about Ishmael, a boy who had Abram as his father, but Sarai's servant as his mother. Again, God says that this one will not be the child of the promise. In Chapter 17, God gives Abram a sign of these promises of seed and land, a sign of the covenant that He had entered into with Abram. That sign is circumcision. The sign was a cut on part of Abram's body that reminded him that without God's blessings, Abram really couldn't get either children or land. But that sign was also a promise from God that He would give Abram these two great blessings, as Abram waited patiently for God to act.

And you know what! God did act! Even though Abraham (that was his new name from God) and his wife Sarah (this was her new name) were very, very old, and it was just impossible that they could have any children, God gave them a child! That child's name was Isaac.

After Jesus came, the covenant sign was changed from circumcision to baptism. How many of you were baptized?

Well, baptism is a promise that God has great blessings for us as well. We are part of the church, and the Bible says that we are children of Abraham, that is we have the same faith in God that Abraham had. Abraham's children, those that believe in God, will inherit all the land in the whole world! God makes great promises to us when we are baptized, and He wants us to be patient like Abraham was, as in His good time, He blesses us.

Just like circumcision, when you were baptized it was a reminder that without God, we would drown! Without God we can do nothing. But it is also a sign that with God's blessings on us, we can do great things! His covenant is a covenant with great promises to us, and He wants us to believe, trust and be patient.

Activities

- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Abram Gets a New Name" p. #12. Use to remind the kids that Abram meant "daddy" and Abraham means "big daddy," or "father of a multitude."
- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "The Birth of Isaac" p. #14.

Lesson 14 Abram: Sodom and Gomorrah, Unholiness

Text: *Genesis 18,19*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

¹²That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. ¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." ¹⁵And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. Hebrews 6:12-15

Character Quality: Holiness

Focus Songs

*My God Is So Big
Oh, Who Can Make a Flower?
Father Abraham*

NOTE: These songs can be used to review last week's lesson - God's ability and our inability. Circumcision (now baptism) is a sign that God's promises to Abram and all those in Christ will happen because of His blessing, not our work.

*Holy, Holy, Holy
Take My Life*

Lesson

Today we have the fourth and final lesson on the life of Abraham. Next week, we will talk about Abraham's son, Isaac. Then for three weeks, we will talk about Abraham's grandson Jacob. And then for three weeks, we will talk about Abraham's great-grandson Joseph. Then, we will be done with the book of Genesis and have a test!

Review the 3 Falls

- 1) Adam lacked *patience* and ate the fruit prematurely.
- 2) Cain lacked *brotherly kindness* and killed Abel.
- 3) The Sethites (descendants of Seth, the God guys, the "sons of God" in Genesis 6) lacked *holiness* and married women that didn't believe in God.

What we shall see in the weeks to come are that we have three men who, by the grace of God, have what these men lacked. While man is a sinner, Jesus has died for His people's sins and gives them patience, kindness and holiness.

Abraham is our model for patience [Review memory verse].

Jacob, we shall see, is kind to Esau, and Joseph is holy, refusing to get into a relationship with an Egyptian woman who didn't love God.

But we can also see all three of these character qualities in the life of Abram. As we said, he was very patient. What did he wait for?

He also is kind to others. How was he kind to Lot?

And in today's story, we see that Abraham is holy, that is, he is unlike his nephew Lot, who chose to live around people who didn't love God, and as a result, he became less and less committed to honoring God where he lived. [Review Lot's going to Sodom and Gomorrah, which was like the garden of God. By the end of the story, the garden has turned into a wilderness, because of the sin of men, their failure to be holy].

The Story (modify to children's level of understanding)

Three men visited Abraham and told of their plan to visit the city of Sodom to see if it was as evil as they had heard. They left for Sodom, but Abraham "remained standing before the LORD." The judgment that would befall Sodom made Abraham afraid for his nephew, Lot, who lived in Sodom. Abraham asked, "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" The LORD said that if he found 50 righteous people in the city, he would not destroy it. Abraham pleaded with God until God said that if there were 10 righteous people there, he would not destroy it. When the two angels arrived at Sodom, Lot met them at the gate and convinced them to stay at his house. Before they got to bed, the men of Sodom came to the house asking for the visitors, to mistreat them. They threatened Lot and tried to break down the door, but the angels reached out, grabbed Lot, pulled him into the house and struck the men of Sodom with blindness. This was convincing enough for the angels—the city was so wicked that there was no remedy but to destroy it. They told Lot to flee with his family. The angels assisted Lot, his wife and his two daughters in leaving (his two sons-in-law refused to go) and warned them not to look back. Lot pleaded to go the city of Zoar instead of to the mountains, and the angels allowed it. When he reached Zoar, the LORD rained down burning sulfur on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The land was reduced to a barren wilderness. Lot's wife looked back, and she was turned to a pillar of salt. Early in the morning, Abraham arose and looked toward Sodom and saw the smoke of the city rising.

Points to Consider

- Hebrews 13:2 says, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."
- 2 Peter 2:7-8 speaks of how affected Lot was by the evil people in Sodom.
- Jesus warned against turning back to god-less things when he said, "Remember Lot's wife." (Luke 17:32)
- The sin of Sodom is described by Ezekiel as "arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me." (Ezekiel 16:49-50)

Sodom and Gomorrah Outline of Story

- I. Three angels visited Abraham.
 - A. They wanted to see if Sodom was really wicked.
 - B. Abraham worried about his nephew Lot in Sodom and asked the LORD to spare the city if 10 righteous people were found.
- II. Two angels arrived in Sodom and stayed with Lot.
 - A. Men from the city went to Lot's house and were violent.
 - B. The angels struck the men with blindness.
 - C. The behavior of the men convinced the angels that Sodom should be destroyed.
- III. The angels helped Lot's family escape to Zoar.
- IV. God destroyed Sodom.
 - A. The city was a wasteland.
 - B. Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt.
 - C. Abraham saw the smoke from the city.

Possible Discussion Ideas

- 1) The danger of bad company, bad friends, living in a wicked city.
- 2) The danger of "worldliness," not thinking about honoring God in all that you do, and instead being just like the world in which we live.
- 3) The importance of pleasing God in ALL things, including where we live, who our friends are, who we marry, etc.
- 4) The danger of being too patient and too kind when men are acting very wickedly. God, our holiness and consecration to Him, must be the foundation for our patience and kindness to men.
- 5) The importance of having a Christian witness to our neighbors, and of praying for them.
- 6) Children please God, they are holy, when they honor and respect their parents.
- 7) The law of God tells us how to be holy. Lev. 19:2 ("Be ye holy, for I am holy") is the header of a section that gives a 70-commandment commentary on the ten commandments. This section in Leviticus on holiness is the center of Leviticus, which is the center of the Pentateuch. A desire to obey and love God's law is central to practical holiness.
- 8) The 4th Commandment, the Christian Sabbath or Lord's Day, is an important and practical way to train ourselves in holiness. It is to be honored, set apart, for certain purposes. If we honor God with the first of our time (and the first of our money) we are taking the first steps towards practical holiness. Review RCC's membership covenant: "I will keep the Lord's Day, the Christian Sabbath, worshipping and resting in the finished work of Jesus Christ, the risen Savior, refraining from unnecessary commerce and labor, enjoying opportunities of Christian fellowship, and benevolent activities, as the Lord provides."
- 9) When people sin in your presence, try to persuade them not to, but if they persist, leave and tell a parent!
- 10) Today, God comes to inspect us, the way the angels inspected the people at Sodom and Gomorrah. Are there sins that you need to confess before you meet with God this morning? Are there new commitments to be holy that you should make?

Activities

- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "The Holiness Code and Law of Love" p. #46.
- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Sodom and Gomorrah" P. #13.

Lesson 15 Isaac: Altars and Wells

Text: *Genesis 21-26*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham. [Isaac's faithful response was an altar and a well—worship and service]
Genesis 26:24b

Character Quality: Service

Focus Songs

Father Abraham
Take My Life
Be Ye Kind to One Another

Lesson

In today's lesson, we tell the story of Isaac. Use the 3 coloring sheets in conjunction with the following 3 narratives, which will need to be slimmed down. Here is a summary:

- 1) The birth of Isaac: God keeps His promises. His promises are to the children of the faithful as well. God normally works through families. Children of the faithful are heirs of the covenant of promise, and are to be baptized after they are born, as Isaac was circumcised. We are to trust God fully. Abraham believed that God would raise Isaac from the dead. If we believe His promises to us as His children, we can do the hard things this week that God calls us to do.
- 2) Isaac marries Rebekah: God will provide all we need to fulfill our mission in life. In Isaac's case, and for most of us, this will include a family and children. Isaac trusted God to use Isaac's father Abraham to be part of the process of finding a wife. It is very important to not marry those who follow other gods. Isaac was by a well when he went to meet his wife. The well is a picture of the garden, and of service, providing water for others. We are to serve God and man, and He will provide all our needs. We are to get our parents help in finding mates.
- 3) The covenant with Isaac: God repeats the promises to Isaac. This assurance comes in the context of Isaac digging wells, which are a picture of the Garden of Eden and of ministry to others. Isaac persevered in ministry and worship, in spite of the hatred of others, and God blessed him mightily for this! The same ones who were his enemies became his friends! We are to be servants, not growing weary in well doing.

1) The Birth of Isaac

As the LORD had promised Abraham and Sarah (see Genesis 18:10), he fulfilled his word to them and Sarah became pregnant. She was 90 years old and Abraham was 100 when the child was born. Abraham had patiently and faithfully waited for 25 years for God to keep the promise he had made to him at Haran (HA-ran) (see Genesis 12:1-4; Old Testament Lesson 7). The birth brought great joy to both Abraham and Sarah. Sarah acknowledged that God had brought this joy to her, and now others would laugh and be joyful with her when they heard about this great thing. God had permitted her to bear a son for Abraham in his old age.

In accordance with what God had instructed earlier, Abraham named the boy Isaac (Genesis 17:19). Also, in keeping with the commandment given to Abraham earlier (Genesis 17:9-13), Abraham circumcised Isaac on the eighth day of the boy's life.

In Chapter 22, God tests Abraham's faith. He tells him to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham obeys, Hebrews 11:19 telling us that he knew that God would raise up Isaac from the dead. He had told his servants that they both would come back from the mountain (Genesis 22:5). The substitute animal is, of course, a picture of our blessed Savior.

Points to Remember

- Isaac means "laughter," and it was God who chose his name (Genesis 17:19).
- Romans 4:18-22 records a testimony of Abraham's great faith in believing "against all hope" that God would provide a son to him and Sarah, even though they were well beyond childbearing years. Abraham did not waver in his faith "regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised."

The Birth of Isaac

- I. God fulfilled his promise to Abraham.
 - A. Sarah became pregnant and gave birth to a son.
 - B. Abraham was 100 years old when the baby was born.
- II. The baby's birth brought great joy to the couple.
 - A. Abraham named the child Isaac (Laughter).
 - B. The name came from God.
 - C. Abraham circumcised Isaac on the eighth day.

2) Isaac Marries Rebekah

Abraham was now very old, and Sarah had died a few years earlier. Isaac had not yet married. Abraham assigned his chief servant to go to the land of Abraham's relatives to seek a wife for Isaac. He instructed the servant that it was important that Isaac not take a wife from among the Canaanites, but that she should be from his own people. He made the servant promise this with an oath. Abraham told the servant that God would send an angel ahead of the servant so that he could be successful.

The servant left with 10 camels and many gifts. He traveled to Nahor's (NA-hor) town and stopped at the well where the women came to draw water. He prayed to God that if the girl from

whom he requested water responded, “Drink, and I’ll water your camels, too,” then he would know this was the girl God had chosen to be Isaac’s wife.

Before he even finished his prayer, Rebekah came to the well. She responded as the servant had prayed. So he gave her some gold jewelry and asked whose daughter she was. Learning she was Abraham’s relative, he praised God.

Rebekah then ran and told her family. Her brother Laban (LA-ban) welcomed the servant and offered dinner. The servant asked that Rebekah be allowed to go with him and marry Isaac. Laban and Rebekah’s mother both acknowledged that God’s hand was involved in the event. They permitted Rebekah to go. Isaac married Rebekah and loved her.

Points to Remember

- Isaac was 40 at the time of his marriage to Rebekah (Genesis 25:20). His mother, Sarah, was dead, but his father, Abraham, lived to see his grandsons, Jacob and Esau, born.
- The importance of not marrying the people from other nations, who worshiped other gods, was stressed not only in Abraham’s day but also throughout Israel’s history. The principle became an integral part of the Law of Moses. The failure to abide by this principle caused much grief to Israel (see Deuteronomy 7:1-6 and Judges 2:10-3:6 for examples).

Isaac Marries Rebekah

- I. Abraham, now widowed, believed Isaac needed a wife.
 - A. He sent a servant to find a wife in the land of Abraham’s relatives.
 - B. He said God would first send an angel to help.
- II. The servant stopped at a well where women gathered.
 - A. He prayed that God would show him which girl would be the right one for Isaac.
 - B. Rebekah went to the well and responded to the servant’s request.
 - C. The servant learned that she was Abraham’s relative and would be a suitable wife.
- III. Rebekah told her family about the servant.
 - A. The family welcomed the servant.
 - B. They gave Rebekah permission to go to marry Isaac.
 - C. Isaac married Rebekah.

3) The Covenant with Isaac

After Abraham died, there was a famine in Canaan. As a result, Isaac went to Abimelech (a-BIM-e-lek), king of the Philistines, in Gerar (GE-rar), a Philistine city in Canaan. God gave specific instructions that Isaac should not continue heading south into Egypt but should stay in Canaan for a while. Then God repeated to Isaac the promises he had made to Abraham, that Isaac and his descendants would be as numerous as the stars, would receive the land of Canaan, and would be a source of blessing to other nations.

Isaac planted crops and reaped a great harvest because the LORD blessed him. He became very wealthy, and his flocks grew so large that the Philistines were envious of him. Because of their

envy, the Philistines filled with dirt the wells that Isaac's father, Abraham, had dug. Abimelech ordered Isaac to move away from the Philistines because Isaac had become so powerful. He moved to the Valley of Gerar and reopened the wells there. This angered the Philistines even more, and they said the water was theirs. So Isaac moved farther and dug another well, but again the Philistines quarreled with him over it. Finally, after the third well, there was no dispute. Isaac then went to Beersheba where God again appeared to him. God told Isaac not to be afraid because he was with him and would bless him because of God's promise to Abraham. Then Abimelech went to Isaac and explained that the Philistines clearly saw that God was with Isaac. They wanted to make a treaty with him, and they didn't want Isaac to harm them. Isaac consented to this, and after giving them a feast, he sent them away in peace.

Points to Consider

- Isaac was the result of a promise given to Abraham. Now that Abraham was dead, God repeated his promises to Isaac. Isaac would have been told all this from Abraham as he was growing up, but now God spoke to him directly.
- Although this Abimelech may have been the same person that Abraham had dealt with (Genesis 20:1-18), it is likely that he was a successor. Abimelech (meaning "royal father") was a general title like "Pharaoh."

The Covenant With Isaac

- I. A famine caused Isaac to go to King Abimelech.
 - A. God said Isaac shouldn't move but should stay in the land.
 - B. God promised to bless him there.
- II. The LORD richly blessed Isaac.
 - A. His harvests were great.
 - B. He became wealthy and had large flocks.
 - C. The Philistines were envious and filled Isaac's wells with dirt.
 - D. Abimelech finally ordered Isaac to leave the area.
- III. Isaac moved.
 - A. The Philistines still quarreled about the wells.
 - B. God told Isaac not to be afraid.
 - C. The Philistines saw that God was with Isaac and requested a treaty with him.
 - D. Isaac and the Philistines made a treaty to be peaceful.

Activities

- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Isaac Marries Rebekah" p. #16.
- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "The Covenant With Isaac" p. #18.
- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "The Covenant With Isaac"

³⁴When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite. ³⁵And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah. Genesis 26:34,35

Esau was a very sinful man. But, Isaac loved him more than he loved Jacob. Sometimes fathers sin, and this father sinned greatly. Instead of obeying God and giving his blessing to the perfect Jacob, he wanted to give it to the sinful Esau. Instead of rewarding Jacob for all his good work, for his godly behavior, Isaac wanted to reward Esau who had very ungodly behavior.

But Isaac's wife, Rebekah, feared God, and wanted to do all she could to obey Him. She arranged things so that Isaac ended up blessing Jacob when he thought he was blessing Esau. Jacob, in obeying his mother, finally received the blessing from Isaac that had been promised to him and due to him for a long time. It was due to him both because of God's choice of him and because of his godly conduct. But Esau was very mad. He hated Jacob and wanted to kill him. So Jacob had to move far away.

God blessed Jacob while he was gone, and we will talk more about that next week. But finally, Jacob returned back to the promised land. Jacob was the rightful heir of Abraham and Isaac, and the rightful recipient of the blessings of God—land, many children, and bringing blessing to the nations.

When Jacob returned home, Esau was waiting for him. He had heard Jacob was coming, so he got his many men ready to meet Jacob. What would Esau do? After all the years, would he still be angry with Jacob? Would he kill him?

And what would Jacob do? He was now very rich and powerful; he had much money and many children. Would he hire some men to kill his wicked brother? Would he be angry with Esau because Esau wanted to kill him many years before? What would you do?

Well, we are told the story of their reunion in Genesis 33. Jacob took steps to show Esau he wasn't angry anymore. Before he met Esau, he sent ahead many, many gifts to Esau. Then, as he approached Esau, he bowed seven times to the ground! He honored Esau, and humbled himself before him! He was kind to Esau, showing him grace and favor, indicating his great desire for friendship and not war. The result of this perfect man acting wisely and perfectly, in brotherly kindness to his brother who hated him is found in Genesis 33:4, "But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept."

Jacob's brotherly kindness to Esau led Esau to show Jacob brotherly kindness as well. God had changed Esau's heart by Jacob's actions.

In a very important part of this story, the two brothers talked:

⁸Then Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company which I met?" And he said, "These are to find favor in the sight of my lord." ⁹But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." ¹⁰And Jacob said, "No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me.

*¹¹“Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough.” So he urged him, and he took it.
Genesis 33:8-11*

You see, God loved Jacob because he was God’s chosen and because he was such a good man. But God also intended to bless Esau. But to get the blessings of God upon him, Esau had to come to realize that his blessings had to come not directly, but from the hand of his younger brother.

Now, Jacob was a picture of Jesus, as all the great Old Testament saints were. His life was intended to serve as a model for us. So we should love our bothers and be kind to them, even when they have treated us very badly. Who will you be like this week—Cain or Jacob?

But Jacob also pictures Jesus to us. While we may sometimes think we are very good people, like Jacob, we know that all too often, we are like Esau. We tend to sin very easily, we get angry with our brothers and sisters and fight. We are not perfect like Jacob was. But God intends to bless us, through the greater Jacob, the Lord Jesus Christ. When Jacob fooled his father into doing what God wanted his father to do, he used Esau’s outward appearance. To make his skin hairy like Esau he used some hides. We might say that Jacob “carried” Esau before the father, and eventually Esau was blessed by the blessings the father gave the son, that Isaac gave to Jacob.

Our heavenly Father wants us to know that His beloved Son was really and truly perfect, and through His work blessed all those who accept blessing from His hand.

The greatest blessing we can be is to be patient and kind, loving, representing our Father in heaven and the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who are love.

Activities

- Children’s Bible Activity Sheets: “Jacob and Esau” p. #17.
- Children’s Bible Activity Sheets: “Jacob and Esau”
- Children’s Bible Activity Sheets: “Jacob and Esau Meet Again” p. #26.

heaven and get directions on how His will might be done on earth as it is in heaven (the Lord's Prayer).

5) The Lord, at the top of the ladder, repeats the covenant promises to Jacob. I would recommend reading this text (vv. 13-15) and asking the children to spot the three elements of the covenant promise—land, seed, blessing to the nations.

6) Jacob changes the name to Bethel. Bethel means house of God. The city has a new name, it is a new city, made so by God's presence and His people claiming it for him. Bethel was the same location where Abraham and Lot had separated because of the quarrels between their servants. It was also here that God made the same promises to Abraham (see Genesis 13:14-17).

7) Jacob promises to tithe to the God who will provide for him. These verses (20-22) can be read as a vow, emphasizing that SINCE God provide for Jacob, surely Jacob will give God the tithe, or tenth, of all his income. The part stands for the whole. All of Jacob's life is being rededicated to God. Jacob is generous, he knows that all the resources God will give Him are really God's, and thus, he gives to God the tenth. He will not hold tightly to what God gives him. Tithing is the root, which will later give fruit to his generous gifts to Esau.

I would conclude by pointing the children to the many covenant blessings God has showered upon them—loving parents, knowledge of the Bible, salvation through Jesus, friends, food, etc. This is because Jesus died and was raised up; He is our ladder to heaven. Because He has done so much for us, we should pledge ourselves to honor Him with our money and all that we have.

Activities

- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Jacob's Dream" p. #20.
- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Jacob's Dream"

Lesson 18 Jacob and Israel: Wrestling with God

Text: *Genesis 32:24-32*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

⁴Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Focus Songs

Take My Life

Character Quality: Perseverance

Lesson

Today's lesson takes place as Jacob returns to the Promised Land, and prepares to meet with Esau.

It would be good to review the story of Jacob's life. Both the review and the actual story can be done quite dramatically. Jacob was born a twin, no doubt had troubles with the ungodly Esau all his life, and he had problems with a tyrannical dad (Isaac) who preferred the ungodly Esau over the "perfect" Jacob. His mother secured God's intended blessing on Jacob, but this resulted in Esau's wanting to kill Jacob. Because of this, and because Isaac has finally come to his senses and sends Jacob away to get a godly wife, Jacob moves far away from home. He works for Laban, trying to get Laban's permission to marry Rachel, whom he dearly loved. Laban is as bad as Isaac was, cheating Jacob and tricking him into marrying Leah, Rachel's sister instead! Jacob doesn't revolt, he is patient and kind, and works a total of 14 years to get his beloved wife Rachel. Laban changed Jacob's wages many times, cheating him over and over, badly mistreating him. Finally, Jacob leaves and goes back to the Promised Land. Laban still troubles Jacob as he leaves. After today's text, Jacob will be reunited with Esau in peace.

But first, he has to cross the river! Tell the story, reading the verses and commenting.

*²⁴Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.
Genesis 32:24-32*

In a way, this wrestling incident in the middle of the night is like all of Jacob's life. A very bad brother, a tyrannical dad, and a mean and cheating father-in-law troubled him.

Now, as he is about to reenter the promised land, someone comes to him and fights him. Who is it? Is it Isaac, mad at him for getting the blessing he wanted to give to Esau? Was it Esau, come to kill him in his anger? Is it Laban, making one last attempt to get him to keep working for him? Who do you think it is? The story tells us who it is. Listen!

²⁵Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. ²⁶And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" ²⁷So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." ²⁸And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there. ³⁰And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." ³¹Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip. ³²Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank. Genesis 32:24-32

Who was it? Yes, it was God Himself! Now, surely God could have beaten Jacob at wrestling. But, you see, God wrestling with Jacob here is meant to tell him and us that when he wrestled against his brother, his dad and his father-in-law, ultimately, it was God at work to test Jacob, to see if he would be patient and kind. And God was producing character in Jacob by his many trials. God is sovereign over all things. He uses sin sinlessly to mature His people, to make them fit to rule for Him. Because Jacob wrestled right, with patience and perseverance, God blessed him with a new name, Israel. Israel means both ruled by God and ruling for God. Only those who are ruled by God, who are patient and kind even when very bad things happen for a long time, are fit to rule for God. Jacob is made to limp by God. This shows us who is really in charge, who is really the strongest! God is! But it is also a picture of Jacob's dependence not on his own strength, but on God. And as Jacob walks into the promised land, he is limping, but he is also walking into the rise of a brand new day, with a name that means God will use him mightily as he rules over himself and others for God's glory.

We are to be like Jacob. We are to see all the troubles we have as coming from God's hand ultimately. God means it all for our good. We are to be patient and kind, not impatient and unkind. And we are to persevere; we are to keep doing what's right until the wrestling is finally over and we walk, limping with dependence on God into a sunrise, not a sunset.

Only Jesus can give us patience. Only Jesus can give us kindness. And only Jesus can give us perseverance, the ability to keep doing what's right, to keep doing things God's way, even though it is very hard.

What kinds of troubles do you have that you need perseverance in? Do you know that God is using even our trials to make us stronger, to make us Israel, those who would rule for God? Jesus comes to us every Lord's Day to give us His character. Let's ask Jesus to give us His perseverance today.

Activities

- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Jacob Wrestles with an Angel" p. #25.

Lesson 19 Joseph and His Brothers: Into the Pit

Text: *Genesis 37*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

⁴*Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.* *1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

Focus Songs

Be Ye Kind to One Another
Have Patience

Character Quality: Brotherly Kindness

Lesson

We have been memorizing 1 Corinthians 13, which tells us what true love, biblical love is like. It is patient and kind. Like Abraham, it is patient, waiting for God's timing, not ours. It is also kind, the word meaning useful to others, the way, for instance, Jacob was kind to Esau. 1 Corinthians goes on to tell us more. The next phrase tells us that love does not envy.

Who can tell me what envy means?

After discussion, talk about the difference between coveting and envying. To covet means you want something someone else has. To envy means you want what they have, but you know you can't get it, and therefore you try to destroy it.

Today, we turn our attention to the last great figure of the book of Genesis. We will be talking today and for the next two weeks about the life of Joseph. You remember that Genesis began with the garden of God, and with man disobeying God. The whole world suffered because of it. Well, by the end of the book of Genesis, the whole world is brought once more to love, obey and worship God. Not every last man and woman, but for the most part, the whole world comes to faith in God by the end of the book of Genesis. And God used a man named Joseph to bring this to pass.

Joseph was one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Who was Israel? Jacob (Israel) had twelve sons, and one of them was Joseph. [Use the family chart to talk about Joseph's father (Jacob), grandfather (Isaac), and great-grandfather (Abraham).]

Today we learn that Jacob loved Joseph very much. And, Joseph must have been very faithful, because his father trusted him more than all his brothers. You've probably heard of the coat that Jacob gave Joseph. In the Bible, the coat or robe that Joseph was given was a symbol of his

ruling authority. Have you ever seen a judge? They wear robes, showing that God has trusted them with authority over other men. That doesn't make them better men than your fathers, for instance. But it means God wants them to rule in some way. In the same way, Jacob trusted Joseph and gave him authority; he gave him a heavy robe.

His brothers didn't like this. The Bible says they hated him so much that they couldn't talk nicely to him. What should their attitude have been?

This part of Genesis goes on to tell us that Joseph had a dream about sheaves of grain. Joseph's sheaf stood upright, while the sheaves of each brother bowed to his sheaf. When he told his brothers about the dream, they hated him even more.

In another dream, Joseph saw the sun, moon and 11 stars bow to him. Now, even Joseph's father scolded him for thinking the family might someday bow to Joseph. The jealousy of the brothers increased.

Sometime later, Jacob sent Joseph out into the field to see if all was well with his brothers who were keeping the flocks. As the brothers saw Joseph approaching them, they plotted to kill him! This is what Cain did to Abel, remember? These brothers were unkind, they didn't have brotherly love. They were acting like Cain, not like their father Jacob, who was kind to Esau, even though Esau wanted to kill him.

Envy is taking control of the brothers. They couldn't have Joseph's ruling ability or the trust of their father. So, they decided since they couldn't be like Joseph, they would kill him.

But one brother, Reuben, wasn't as full of sin as the others. He tried to save Joseph. He encouraged them not to kill Joseph but to just place him in a cistern there in the desert. Reuben planned to sneak back to free Joseph and return him to his father. The brothers did as Reuben suggested.

Later, as the brothers were eating, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites heading toward Egypt. Judah suggested that instead of killing their own flesh and blood, they could sell Joseph as a slave. They sold Joseph to some Midianite merchants. The merchants took Joseph to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar the captain of Pharaoh's guard. To cover their crime, the brothers took Joseph's robe, dipped it in blood and ripped it into many pieces. They then returned and led Jacob to believe that a wild animal had killed Joseph. Jacob recognized the robe and mourned for his son.

This story is a strong warning against the sin of envy. We are like Joseph's brothers. We are tempted to be envious of other boys and girls. We may want to look like them, have their toys, their clothes, their money, or their house. We may want to do as good at school as them. But if we are not very careful, we may end up not just wanting to do better ourselves, but destroying what it is in our friends or siblings that we want. See what terrible things envy leads us to do!

So, this story tells us when we start to envy others, we are no longer acting loving. We are to repent of that sin of envy, and start helping the one we were envying. After all, love is kind, which means useful.

But as the story of Joseph's life goes on, we are told something about patience as well. Joseph kept doing the right thing, even though his brothers hated him. He will also do the right thing in Egypt, but once more he will end up in a pit! But in the Bible, sufferings always come before great blessings. The pit is a sign that says great promises are coming! Joseph will end up coming up out of another pit and feeding the whole world, and leading many people to worship God. Joseph, like Abraham, was patient. Joseph, like Jacob, was kind. And Joseph, as we shall see, is holy. He was dedicated to serving God in every area of his life. He trusted God, even when things looked very, very bad. In the New Testament, Paul is thrown into jail, sort of like Joseph being thrown in a pit. You know what Paul started doing? He sang praises to God! He knew he was going to get something really good from God! Great blessing usually follows the troubles God gives us. God wants us to remember Joseph's brothers, and not be envious. And he wants us to remember Joseph and patiently trust God, even when things look very bad for us. God is at work.

All this is true because of the greater Joseph, the Lord Jesus Christ. Joseph went through a picture of death. He was "buried," his clothes were bloody; his father thought he had died. But he didn't. But Jesus actually died on the cross for you and me. He was put into a burial pit. And the Bible tells us that it was envy, the same sin as that of Joseph's brothers, which led sinners to kill Jesus. But after Jesus went to the cross, he was given a crown. You know that all too often, we are like Joseph's brothers instead of like Joseph. But Jesus forgives us. He died for our sins. And He was raised up out of the pit so that we might come up out of our pits of sin and serve Him with patience and kindness, leaving behind envy. Let's pray that He would give us his patience and love in the worship service today, and keep us from envy.

Activities

- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Joseph is Sold into Slavery" p. #27.

Lesson 20 Joseph as Prisoner: Back Into the Pit

Text: *Genesis 39-40*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

*O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.
Psalm 96:9*

Focus Songs

*Holy, Holy, Holy
O Be Careful Little Eyes*

Character Quality: Holiness

Lesson

Today, we finish up the story of Joseph's life. The story elements may include the following:

1) As he was thrown into a pit in Canaan, then brought up to be sold into slavery, so Joseph was also brought up out of base servitude by Potiphar, because of his excellent service.

*Do you see a man who excels in his work?
He will stand before kings;
He will not stand before unknown men.
Proverbs 22:29*

Joseph was diligent, so Potiphar made him the head over his house, and over the jail, which Potiphar was in charge of.

2) But Joseph had to go into a pit again! Potiphar's wife liked Joseph, and tried to seduce him. But unlike the Sethites, Joseph was holy. When Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to kiss her, he refused. She lied to her husband about him, so her husband threw Joseph into jail. Back to the pit!

3) In jail, Joseph interpreted the meaning of dreams that Pharaoh's cupbearer and Pharaoh's baker had. (They had been thrown into jail.) All Joseph asked was that they remember him! But, when Pharaoh let the cupbearer out of jail, he forgot about Joseph. Joseph stayed in the pit.

Activities

- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Joseph Interprets Dreams" p. #28.

Lessons 21-22 God Exalts Joseph to Rule thereby Saving the Entire World, Parts 1 & 2

Text: *Genesis 41-50*

Poem: *For the Lord's Day Morning*

Memory Verse

*O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.
Psalm 96:9*

Focus Songs

*Holy, Holy, Holy
O Be Careful Little Eyes*

Character Quality: Holiness

Lesson

- 1) Now, Pharaoh had a dream, and finally the cupbearer remembered Joseph! Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream for him. Pharaoh was so grateful; he brought Joseph up out of the jail, or pit. But not just out of prison! Joseph became Pharaoh's right hand man, the most powerful man in the empire, the most powerful man in the entire world!
- 2) All the world was in the grips of a famine. No one had enough food to eat. But Joseph was wise, and God told him about the famine seven years before it happened. Joseph had the Egyptians save up most of their food during the seven years of good crops. So, while the whole world began to starve, Egypt had plenty of food. God brought this to pass so that Joseph would feed the whole world.
- 3) Even Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to get food. They repented of their sins against him, and he forgave them. Finally, even Joseph's father, Jacob, came to live in Egypt. Even the Pharaoh himself came to trust in God.

The book of Genesis began with man's creation and fall. This fall happened in three waves:

1. Impatience (Adam)
2. Hatred (Cain)
3. Unholiness (the Sethites)

As the book concludes, we see that God has blessed His people with

1. patience (Abraham)
2. brotherly love (Jacob)
3. holiness (Joseph)

The effects of man's sins have been rolled back, and the whole world knows that Joseph's God is the only true God who can give life to the world. Truly the book of Genesis is a gospel, a story about good news.

But this good news is not because man is better. No, it is because Jesus will come several thousand years later, and die for our sins, and give us his life to live.

Jesus is the greater Joseph. He is holy, totally dedicated to God the Father. He gives us his holiness today. Joseph gave all the world bread to eat. Jesus comes to His people today and gives us bread as well. He assures us that he died for our sins, and is making us like him: patient, kind and holy.

Lesson 21: Activities

- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams" p. #29.
- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams"

Lesson 22: Activities

- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Joseph Meets His Brothers" p. #31.
- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "Jacob's Family Moves to Egypt" p. #32.
- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "The Deaths of Jacob and Joseph" p. #33.
- Children's Bible Activity Sheets: "The Deaths of Jacob and Joseph"

Lessons 22-23

Final Exam Material

1. Know that Genesis means “Beginnings”
2. Know the 7 days of creation, and the 7 feasts of Leviticus 23
 - Day 1 - Light Sabbath
 - Day 2 - A Dividing Firmament Passover
 - Day 3 - Some Plants Firstfruits
 - Day 4 - Ruling Lights (Sun, moon, stars) Pentecost (Law Given)
 - Day 5 - Teeming Birds and Fish Trumpets
 - Day 6 - Animals and Man Day of Atonement
 - Day 7 - Sabbath Feast of Booths
3. Know the three basic actions of God in creation.
Lighting, Forming and Filling.
4. Know our basic outline (ANA): 3 Covenants, 3 Room Names (mountains)

<u>Covenants</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Mountains</u>	
Adam	Chapters 1-6	Eden	3 Falls
Noah	Chapters 7-11	Ararat	Recreation and New Fall
Abraham	Chapters 12-50)	Moriah	3 Recoveries
5. Know the major theme of the book: 3 Falls and 3 Recoveries
 - Adam – Impatience
 - Cain – Brotherly Hatred
 - Sethites (sons of God) - Unholiness
 - Abraham - Patience
 - Jacob – Brotherly Kindness
 - Joseph - Holiness
6. Know the correct order of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph
7. Exhibit patience, brotherly kindness and holiness in class.