

Girls

LIFE
APPLICATION[®]

Study Bible

NEW FOUNDATIONS FOR
YOUR FAITH! (see reverse)



Girls

LIFE
APPLICATION[®]

Study Bible



New Living
Translation[®]

Tyndale House Publishers
Carol Stream, Illinois

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The Books of the Bible

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

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1054	Amos	391	1 Kings
466	1 Chronicles	428	2 Kings
504	2 Chronicles	945	Lamentations
1405	Colossians	118	Leviticus
1348	1 Corinthians	1197	Luke
1367	2 Corinthians	1112	Malachi
1013	Daniel	1167	Mark
207	Deuteronomy	1121	Matthew
770	Ecclesiastes	1073	Micah
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1476	1 John	1417	2 Thessalonians
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HOW TO USE YOUR GIRLS LIFE APPLICATION STUDY BIBLE

GOD'S WORD IS MEANT FOR YOU. WHATEVER YOUR LIFE SITUATION IS TODAY, AND WHATEVER CIRCUMSTANCES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN THE FUTURE, GOD'S WORD IS HERE TO GUIDE YOU, COUNSEL YOU, ENCOURAGE YOU, AND HELP YOU. THE FEATURES IN THIS BIBLE ARE DESIGNED TO HELP YOU CONNECT WITH GOD'S WORD IN A WAY THAT IS MEANINGFUL, FRESH, AND FUN!

So get ready for the **ADVENTURE**—

GETTING TO KNOW GOD THROUGH HIS WORD—THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME.



FOUNDATIONS FOR YOUR FAITH

Inside you will find eight Foundations for Your Faith full-color sections that are designed to help you learn about the Bible, understand the Bible's big story, meet Jesus and know what it means to follow him, learn how to share your faith with others, and gain practical skills for living out what you believe.

I survived



As you encounter new experiences, feelings, and situations, it helps to know that someone else has made it through those very same circumstances—and survived! These personal survival stories, collected from older teens across the country, tell how they made it through the situations that you are facing or may soon face. Each story includes a Life Application note and additional Bible verses that you can look up to find out more about that topic. (Note: When you look up these additional verses, you will find a Life Application note or a What Now? feature accompanying each one. Be sure to read those as well!)

Check out the first one on page 69!

LIFE APPLICATION NOTES

The Life Application notes help explain specific Bible passages, show why they are important today, and help you apply them to your life.

Check out the first one on page 4!

TRUE WORTH
(1:1-27) God created everything there is—the heavens, earth, plants, and animals. When God finished creating everything else, He then chose to make people in His image. He then chose to make people in His image. This doesn't mean that God made us exactly like Himself. It means that we are reflections of God's glory. We can reflect His characteristics, like love, patience, forgiveness, kindness, and faithfulness.

Our worth is not defined by possessions, achievements, physical attractiveness, or popularity. Instead, it is based on knowing that God created us in His likeness. Putting ourselves down is finding fault with what God has made. Because we are like God, we can feel good about ourselves and our abilities. Knowing that you are a person of infinite personal worth gives you the freedom to love God, know Him personally, and make a valuable contribution to the lives of those around you.



Have you ever wondered what to do when life gets complicated and you are faced with making difficult decisions? These stories will take you through a variety of real-life situations in which someone must make a decision, then point you to Bible verses that relate to the situation. Each What Now? also includes a Life Application note on the verses it refers to. These notes will help you learn how to apply the Bible and make good choices in tough times.

Check out the first one on page 7!

Is it OK to avoid people who are different from you? Is it OK not to like your life? What about getting a tattoo or dating? This feature is designed to give you a clear picture of what the Bible has to say about the questions that are really on your mind.



Check out the first one on page 8!



This feature gives you a window into the lives of women in the Bible. Each one tells a story and includes both a question to help you apply what you learn from their experiences to your life and an Express Yourself box where you can respond to the reading by writing or drawing right in your Bible.

Check out the first one on page 19!

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A NOTE TO READERS

The *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, was first published in 1996. It quickly became one of the most popular Bible translations in the English-speaking world. While the NLT's influence was rapidly growing, the Bible Translation Committee determined that an additional investment in scholarly review and text refinement could make it even better. So shortly after its initial publication, the committee began an eight-year process with the purpose of increasing the level of the NLT's precision without sacrificing its easy-to-understand quality. This second-generation text was completed in 2004, with minor changes subsequently introduced in 2007, 2013, and 2015.

The goal of any Bible translation is to convey the meaning and content of the ancient Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts as accurately as possible to contemporary readers. The challenge for our translators was to create a text that would communicate as clearly and powerfully to today's readers as the original texts did to readers and listeners in the ancient biblical world. The resulting translation is easy to read and understand, while also accurately communicating the meaning and content of the original biblical texts. The NLT is a general-purpose text especially good for study, devotional reading, and reading aloud in worship services.

We believe that the New Living Translation—which combines the latest biblical scholarship with a clear, dynamic writing style—will communicate God's word powerfully to all who read it. We publish it with the prayer that God will use it to speak his timeless truth to the church and the world in a fresh, new way.

The Publishers

A full introduction to the NLT can be found at www.TheNLT.com/NLTintro.
A complete list of the translators can be found at www.TheNLT.com/scholars.

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Looking for answers to important questions? Check out the Scriptures under each topic.

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(See also BELIEVING IN GOD, FUTURE, GOD'S WILL, PRAYER)

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(See also ADVICE, BIBLE, ETERNAL LIFE/SALVATION, GOD'S WILL, OBEDIENCE, PRAYER, TIME WITH GOD)

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(See also ADVICE, GOD'S WILL, TIME WITH GOD)

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OLD TESTAMENT

LEVITICUS JOEL genesis
NUMBERS LAMENTATIONS JUDGES
proverbs Habakkuk
JOB PSALMS RUTH
Numbers 1+2 CHRONICLES
ecclesiastes
DEUTERONOMY ZEPHANIAH
HOSEA
Joshua
haggai
EXODUS
jeremiah
ISAIAH
ZECHARIAH
EZEKIEL
MICAH
Masachi
DANIEL
EZRA
1+2 SAMUEL
JONAH
SONG-SONGS
obadiah

GENESIS

Have you ever turned on a TV in the middle of a show? You probably turned it off because you couldn't figure out what was going on. To fully understand the plot, you needed to see the beginning of the show.

That applies to the Bible, too. Genesis is the right place to begin if you want to know the plot. Why? Because Genesis means "beginnings." In Genesis you see the creation of the universe, the first sin, the beginning of God's plan to rescue his people from sin, and how the nation of Israel began.

Genesis is the first place we learn about God's character. God didn't have a beginning. He has always existed. Chapters 1 and 2 show his creativity and power, while chapter 3 reveals his holiness and judgment of sin. Through the story of Adam and Eve and their descendants, we see God's incredible love for his people even when they constantly disobey him.

As you read Genesis, what other beginnings do you see? How do those beginnings change how you view God?

WHO Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Lot, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Esau, Joseph, and many others.

WHERE Genesis begins with the story of Adam and Eve. Their story takes place in the Garden of Eden. Other stories in Genesis take place in the parts of the world that today are called Iraq, Israel, and Egypt.

WHEN Moses probably wrote this book between 1450 and 1410 BC while leading God's people to the Promised Land of Israel.

WHY To tell about God's creation of the world and to show that God wants people to worship and obey him.

THEN GOD LOOKED
OVER ALL HE HAD
MADE, AND HE
SAW THAT IT WAS
VERY GOOD!

GENESIS 1:31

KEY POINTS

BEGINNINGS Genesis introduces God as Creator of all that exists, from planets to plants to people. All people were created in God's own image.

DISOBEDIENCE Sin results when people choose their own way instead of obeying God. Adam and Eve learned this the hard way. Only God can reverse the consequences of sinful choices.

PROMISES God promised to protect and provide for his people. He made specific promises known as *covenants*, which are binding agreements. God made a covenant with his people as a guarantee of what they could expect from him.

OBEDIENCE AND PROSPERITY Obedience to God keeps our relationship with him intact and causes us to prosper like Abraham. Prosperity doesn't necessarily mean wealth or other material possessions. Rather, true prosperity means living life as God created it to be lived—in his presence.

THE ACCOUNT OF CREATION

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* ²The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

³Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.”

And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

⁶Then God said, “Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth.” ⁷And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. ⁸God called the space “sky.”

And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

⁹Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened. ¹⁰God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants

and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened. ¹²The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

¹³And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

¹⁴Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. ¹⁵Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened.

¹⁶God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, ¹⁸to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

²⁰Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.”

²¹So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”

²³And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

²⁴Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened. ²⁵God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.


1:1 Or In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, . . . Or When God began to create the heavens and the earth, . . .

TRUE WORTH

(1:1-27) God created everything there is—the heavens, earth, plants, and animals. When God finished creating everything else, he then chose to make people in his image. This doesn't mean that God made us exactly like himself. It means that we are reflections of God's glory. We can reflect his characteristics, like love, patience, forgiveness, kindness, and faithfulness.

Our worth is not defined by possessions, achievements, physical attractiveness, or popularity. Instead, it is based on knowing that God created us in his likeness. Putting ourselves down is finding fault with what God has made. Because we are like God, we can feel good about ourselves and our abilities. Knowing that you are a person of infinite worth gives you the freedom to love God, know him personally, and make a valuable contribution to the lives of those around you.

²⁶Then God said, “Let us make human beings* in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth,* and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

 ²⁷ So God created human beings* in his own image.
 In the image of God he created them;
 male and female he created them.

²⁸Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

²⁹Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. ³⁰And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life.” And that is what happened.

³¹Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

2 So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. ²On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested* from all his work. ³And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

⁴This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth.

THE MAN AND WOMAN IN EDEN

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the

1:26a Or *man*; Hebrew reads *adam*. **1:26b** As in Syriac version; Hebrew reads *all the earth*. **1:27** Or *the man*; Hebrew reads *ha-adam*. **2:2** Or *ceased*; also in 2:3. **2:6** Or *mist*.



Life Lessons

YOU ARE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE AND PART OF HIS EXTRAORDINARY STORY.



LORD God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. ⁶Instead, springs* came up from the ground and watered all the land. ⁷Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.

⁸Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. ⁹The LORD God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

DAYS OF CREATION

DAY 1: Light (so there was light and darkness)

DAY 2: Sky and water

DAY 3: Seas and land

DAY 4: Sun, moon, and stars

DAY 5: Fish and birds

DAY 6: Animals, man and woman

DAY 7: God rested and was pleased

¹⁰A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. ¹¹The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the

entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. ¹²The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. ¹³The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates.

¹⁵The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. ¹⁶But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—¹⁷except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”



¹⁸Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” ¹⁹So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man* to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. ²⁰He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man’s ribs* and closed up the opening. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

²³“At last!” the man exclaimed.

“This one is bone from my bone,
and flesh from my flesh!
She will be called ‘woman,’
because she was taken from
‘man.’”

²⁴This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

²⁵Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

THE MAN AND WOMAN SIN

3 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

²“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied.

³“It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”

⁴“You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. ⁵“God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”

⁶The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. ⁷At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

⁸When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man* and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. ⁹Then the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.”

¹¹“Who told you that you were naked?” the LORD God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”

¹²The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God asked the woman, “What have you done?”

“The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

¹⁴Then the LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, you are cursed
more than all animals, domestic
and wild.

You will crawl on your belly,
groveling in the dust as long as
you live.

¹⁵ And I will cause hostility between you and the woman,

2:19 Or Adam, and so throughout the chapter. 2:21 Or took a part of the man’s side. 3:8 Or Adam, and so throughout the chapter.



THE SLEEPOVER

Maddy had invited her friends for a sleepover in the downstairs family room of her house. After Maddy’s parents went to bed, Shelly said, “Hey, they’re showing reruns of this really funny TV show soon. We should watch that.” “I don’t know,” Maddy said, “I’m not allowed to watch that show.” Shelly didn’t give up. “Come on. Just one episode?” *I guess it can’t hurt to see the show just once,* Maddy thought. She didn’t want to disappoint her friends. And her parents would never know.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO? CHECK OUT GENESIS 3:1-7.

Satan tempted Eve and succeeded in getting her to sin. How could Eve have resisted temptation? By following the same guidelines we can follow: (1) Pray for strength to resist, (2) say no to things we know are wrong, and (3) run—sometimes literally! James 1:12 says that God blesses those who don’t give in when tempted.

and between your offspring and her offspring.
He will strike* your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

3:15 Or bruise; also in 3:15b. **3:16** Or *And though you will have desire for your husband, / he will rule over you.* **3:20** Eve sounds like a Hebrew term that means “to give life.” **3:22** Or *the man*; Hebrew reads *ha-Adam*. **4:1a** Or *the man*; also in 4:25. **4:1b** Or *I have acquired.* Cain sounds like a Hebrew term that can mean “produce” or “acquire.”

16 Then he said to the woman,
“I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy,
and in pain you will give birth.
And you will desire to control your husband,
but he will rule over you.*”

17 And to the man he said,
“Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat,
the ground is cursed because of you.
All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.

18 It will grow thorns and thistles for you,
though you will eat of its grains.

19 By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made.
For you were made from dust,
and to dust you will return.”

PARADISE LOST: GOD’S JUDGMENT

20 Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live.* **21** And the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

22 Then the LORD God said, “Look, the human beings* have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!”

23 So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. **24** After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

CAIN AND ABEL

4 Now Adam* had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, “With the LORD’s help, I have produced* a man!” **2** Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel.

When they grew up, Abel became

a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. ³When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. ⁴Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

⁶“Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? ⁷You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”

⁸One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.”* And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.

⁹Afterward the LORD asked Cain, “Where is your brother? Where is Abel?”

“I don’t know,” Cain responded. “Am I my brother’s guardian?”

¹⁰But the LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground! ¹¹Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother’s blood. ¹²No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth.”

¹³Cain replied to the LORD, “My punishment* is too great for me to bear! ¹⁴You have banished me from the land and from your presence; you have made me a homeless wanderer. Anyone who finds me will kill me!”

¹⁵The LORD replied, “No, for I will give a sevenfold punishment to anyone who kills you.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him.

¹⁶So Cain left the LORD’s presence and settled in the land of Nod,* east of Eden.

THE DESCENDANTS OF CAIN

¹⁷Cain had sexual relations with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain founded a city, which he named Enoch, after his son. ¹⁸Enoch had a son named Irad. Irad became the father of* Mehujael. Mehujael became the father of Methushael. Methushael became the father of Lamech.

¹⁹Lamech married two women. The first was named Adah, and the second was Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the first of those who raise livestock and live in tents. ²¹His brother’s name was Jubal, the first of all who play the harp and flute. ²²Lamech’s other wife, Zillah, gave birth to a son named Tubal-cain. He became an expert in forging tools of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain had a sister named Naamah. ²³One day Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
listen to me, you wives of Lamech.
I have killed a man who attacked me,
a young man who wounded me.

²⁴ If someone who kills Cain is
punished seven times,
then the one who kills me will be
punished seventy-seven times!”

THE BIRTH OF SETH

²⁵Adam had sexual relations with his wife again, and she gave birth to another son. She named him Seth,* for she said, “God has granted me another son in place of Abel, whom Cain killed.”

4:8 As in Samaritan Pentateuch, Greek and Syriac versions, and Latin Vulgate; Masoretic Text lacks “Let’s go out into the fields.” 4:13 Or My sin. 4:16 Nod means “wandering.” 4:18 Or the ancestor of, and so throughout the verse. 4:25 Seth probably means “granted”; the name may also mean “appointed.”

IS IT OK IF I MOPE AROUND?

Does God really care if you have a bad attitude? Take a look at Genesis 4:6-7. Cain was a walking bad attitude. He didn’t care what others thought, and he certainly didn’t try to correct his attitude problem. But look at God’s warning. A bad attitude is the first step toward bigger, uglier problems. Does your attitude need adjusting?



²⁶When Seth grew up, he had a son and named him Enosh. At that time people first began to worship the LORD by name.

THE DESCENDANTS OF ADAM

5 This is the written account of the descendants of Adam. When God created human beings,* he made them to be like himself. ²He created them male and female, and he blessed them and called them “human.”

³When Adam was 130 years old, he became the father of a son who was just like him—in his very image. He named his son Seth. ⁴After the birth of Seth, Adam lived another 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ⁵Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

⁶When Seth was 105 years old, he became the father of* Enosh. ⁷After the birth of* Enosh, Seth lived another 807 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ⁸Seth lived 912 years, and then he died.

⁹When Enosh was 90 years old, he became the father of Kenan. ¹⁰After the birth of Kenan, Enosh lived another 815 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹¹Enosh lived 905 years, and then he died.

¹²When Kenan was 70 years old, he became the father of Mahalalel. ¹³After the birth of Mahalalel, Kenan lived another 840 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died. ¹⁵When Mahalalel was 65 years old, he became the father of Jared. ¹⁶After the birth of Jared, Mahalalel lived another 830 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷Mahalalel lived 895 years, and then he died.

¹⁸When Jared was 162 years old, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹After the birth of Enoch, Jared lived another 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁰Jared lived 962 years, and then he died.

²¹When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah.

²²After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in close fellowship with God for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters.

²³Enoch lived 365 years, ²⁴walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.

²⁵When Methuselah was 187 years old, he became the father of Lamech.

²⁶After the birth of Lamech, Methuselah lived another 782 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁷Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died.

²⁸When Lamech was 182 years old, he became the father of a son. ²⁹Lamech named his son Noah, for he said, “May he bring us relief* from our work and the painful labor of farming this ground that the LORD has cursed.”

³⁰After the birth of Noah, Lamech lived another 595 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ³¹Lamech lived 777 years, and then he died.

³²After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

A WORLD GONE WRONG

6 Then the people began to multiply on the earth, and daughters were born to them. ²The sons of God saw the beautiful women* and took any they wanted as their wives. ³Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not put up with* humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years.”

⁴In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times.

⁵The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. ⁶So the LORD was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. ⁷And the LORD said, “I will wipe this human race I have created

5:1 Or *man*; Hebrew reads *adam*; similarly in 5:2.

5:6 Or *the ancestor of*; also in 5:9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 25.

5:7 Or *the birth of this ancestor of*; also in 5:10, 13, 16,

19, 22, 26. 5:29 *Noah* sounds like a Hebrew term that

can mean “relief” or “comfort.” 6:2 *Hebrew daughters*

of men; also in 6:4. 6:3 Greek version reads *will not*

remain in.

from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them.”⁸ But Noah found favor with the LORD.

THE STORY OF NOAH

⁹This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. ¹⁰Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. ¹²God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. ¹³So God said to Noah, “I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth!

¹⁴“Build a large boat* from cypress wood* and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. ¹⁵Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.* ¹⁶Leave an 18-inch opening* below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper.

¹⁷“Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes. Everything on earth will die. ¹⁸But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁹Bring a pair of every kind of animal—a

male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood.

²⁰Pairs of every kind of bird, and every kind of animal, and every kind of small animal that scurries along the ground, will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹And be sure to take on board enough food for your family and for all the animals.”

²²So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

THE FLOOD COVERS THE EARTH

7 When everything was ready, the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the boat with all your family, for among all the people of the earth, I can see that you alone are righteous. ²Take with you seven pairs—male and female—of each animal I have approved for eating and for sacrifice,* and take one pair of each of the others. ³Also take seven pairs of every kind of bird. There must be a male and a female in each pair to ensure that all life will survive on the earth after the flood. ⁴Seven days from now I will make the rains pour down on the earth. And it will rain for forty days and forty nights, until I have wiped from the earth all the living things I have created.”

⁵So Noah did everything as the LORD commanded him.

⁶Noah was 600 years old when the flood covered the earth. ⁷He went on board the boat to escape the flood—he and his wife and his sons and their wives. ⁸With them were all the various kinds of animals—those approved for eating and for sacrifice and those that were not—along with all the birds and the small animals that scurry along the ground. ⁹They entered the boat in pairs, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰After seven days, the waters of the flood came and covered the earth.

¹¹When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. ¹²The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights.

¹³That very day Noah had gone into

6:14a Traditionally rendered an ark. **6:14b** Or gopher wood. **6:15** Hebrew 300 cubits [138 meters] long, 50 cubits [23 meters] wide, and 30 cubits [13.8 meters] high. **6:16** Hebrew an opening of 1 cubit [46 centimeters]. **7:2** Hebrew of each clean animal; similarly in 7:8.

WHY WORRY?

(7:13-16) How did this animal kingdom roundup happen? Did Noah and his sons spend years collecting them? Actually, God took care of that job while Noah and his sons were building the boat. They didn't have to worry about how the animals would arrive. Often we do just the opposite of Noah. We worry about details in our lives over which we have no control, while neglecting specific areas (such as attitudes, relationships, responsibilities) that are under our control. What task has God given you? What aspects of your life seem out of your control? Concentrate on what God has given you to do, and leave the rest to him.

the boat with his wife and his sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—and their wives. ¹⁴With them in the boat were pairs of every kind of animal—domestic and wild, large and small—along with birds of every kind. ¹⁵Two by two they came into the boat, representing every living thing that breathes. ¹⁶A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD closed the door behind them.

¹⁷For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. ¹⁸As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. ¹⁹Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth, ²⁰rising more than twenty-two feet* above the highest peaks. ²¹All the living things on earth died—birds, domestic animals, wild animals, small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people. ²²Everything that breathed and lived on dry land died. ²³God wiped out every living thing on the earth—people, livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and the birds of the sky. All were destroyed. The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the boat. ²⁴And the floodwaters covered the earth for 150 days.

THE FLOOD RECEDES

8 But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and livestock with him in the boat. He sent a wind to blow across the earth, and the floodwaters began to recede. ²The underground waters stopped flowing, and the torrential rains from the sky were stopped. ³So the floodwaters gradually receded from the earth. After 150 days, ⁴exactly five months from the time the flood began,* the boat came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵Two and a half months later,* as the waters continued to go down, other mountain peaks became visible.

⁶After another forty days, Noah opened the window he had made in the

boat ⁷and released a raven. The bird flew back and forth until the floodwaters on the earth had dried up. ⁸He also released a dove to see if the water had receded and it could find dry ground. ⁹But the dove could find no place to land because the water still covered the ground. So it returned to the boat, and Noah held out his hand and drew the dove back inside. ¹⁰After waiting another seven days, Noah released the dove again. ¹¹This time the dove returned to him in the evening with a fresh olive leaf in its beak. Then Noah knew that the floodwaters were almost gone. ¹²He waited another seven days and then released the dove again. This time it did not come back.

¹³Noah was now 601 years old. On the first day of the new year, ten and a half months after the flood began,* the floodwaters had almost dried up from the earth. Noah lifted back the covering of the boat and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. ¹⁴Two more months went by,* and at last the earth was dry!

¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶“Leave the boat, all of you—you and your wife, and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷Release all the animals—the birds, the livestock, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—so they can be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth.”

¹⁸So Noah, his wife, and his sons and their wives left the boat. ¹⁹And all of the large and small animals and birds came out of the boat, pair by pair.

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and there he sacrificed as burnt offerings the animals and birds that had been approved for that purpose.* ²¹And the LORD was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice and said to himself, “I will never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things. ²²As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.”

GOD CONFIRMS HIS COVENANT

9 Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth. ²All the animals

7:20 Hebrew 15 cubits [6.9 meters]. 8:4 Hebrew on the seventeenth day of the seventh month; see 7:11.

8:5 Hebrew On the first day of the tenth month; see 7:11 and note on 8:4. 8:13 Hebrew On the first day of the first month; see 7:11. 8:14 Hebrew The twenty-seventh day of the second month arrived; see note on 8:13.

8:20 Hebrew every clean animal and every clean bird.

of the earth, all the birds of the sky, all the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the fish in the sea will look on you with fear and terror. I have placed them in your power. ³I have given them to you for food, just as I have given you grain and vegetables. ⁴But you must never eat any meat that still has the lifeblood in it.

⁵“And I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person’s life. If a wild animal kills a person, it must die. And anyone who murders a fellow human must die. ⁶If anyone takes a human life, that person’s life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings* in his own image. ⁷Now be fruitful and multiply, and repopulate the earth.”

⁸Then God told Noah and his sons, ⁹“I hereby confirm my covenant with you and your descendants, ¹⁰and with all the animals that were on the boat with you—the birds, the livestock, and all the wild animals—every living creature on earth. ¹¹Yes, I am confirming my covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth.”

¹²Then God said, “I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. ¹³I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. ¹⁴When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, ¹⁵and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life. ¹⁶When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth.”

¹⁷Then God said to Noah, “Yes, this rainbow is the sign of the covenant I am confirming with all the creatures on earth.”

NOAH’S SONS

¹⁸The sons of Noah who came out of the boat with their father were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham is the father of Canaan.) ¹⁹From these three sons of Noah came all the people who now populate the earth.

²⁰After the flood, Noah began to culti-

vate the ground, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹One day he drank some wine he had made, and he became drunk and lay naked inside his tent. ²²Ham, the father of Canaan, saw that his father was naked and went outside and told his brothers. ²³Then Shem and Japheth took a robe, held it over their shoulders, and backed into the tent to cover their father. As they did this, they looked the other way so they would not see him naked.

²⁴When Noah woke up from his stupor, he learned what Ham, his youngest son, had done. ²⁵Then he cursed Canaan, the son of Ham:

“May Canaan be cursed!
May he be the lowest of servants to
his relatives.”

²⁶Then Noah said,

“May the LORD, the God of Shem, be
blessed,
and may Canaan be his servant!

²⁷ May God expand the territory of
Japheth!
May Japheth share the prosperity of
Shem,*
and may Canaan be his servant.”

²⁸Noah lived another 350 years after the great flood. ²⁹He lived 950 years, and then he died.

10 This is the account of the families of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the three sons of Noah. Many children were born to them after the great flood.

DESCENDANTS OF JAPHETH

²The descendants of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

³The descendants of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

⁴The descendants of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Rodanim.* ⁵Their descendants became the seafaring peoples that spread out to various lands, each identified by its own language, clan, and national identity.

^{9:6} Or *man*; Hebrew reads *ha-adam*. ^{9:27} Hebrew *May he live in the tents of Shem*. ^{10:4} As in some Hebrew manuscripts and Greek version (see also 1 Chr 1:7); most Hebrew manuscripts read *Dodanim*.

THE GREATEST STORIES READING PLAN

Now that you have this great new Bible, where do you start? You could open the Bible to just any old place and start reading. Or you could start at the beginning and keep going until you reach the end. But if these ideas sound a bit overwhelming, try this reading plan. It is designed to take you through the best of the Bible in one year. As you read each entry, check it off to mark your progress throughout the year. You can start it at any time, so jump right in!

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:1–2:3	How It All Started	page 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 2:15–3:24	Adam and Eve	page 6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 4:1–16	Cain and Abel	page 7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 6:9–22	Noah Gets to Build a Boat	page 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 7:1–24	All Aboard!	page 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 8:1–22	A Long Wait	page 11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 9:1–17	Rules and Rainbows	page 11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genesis 11:1–9	The Tower of Babel	page 13	<input type="checkbox"/>
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LIFE LESSONS QUICK REFERENCE LIST

GENESIS You are made in God’s image and part of his extraordinary story.

EXODUS Then and now—God takes care of his people!

LEVITICUS Living a holy life pleases God.

NUMBERS Listen to God’s directions—his way is always the right way!

DEUTERONOMY God always keeps his promises. We should also keep ours.

JOSHUA A good leader trusts God and obeys him.

JUDGES Remember what the Israelites forgot—to trust God and obey him.

RUTH The Lord provides even when our situation is most desperate.

1 SAMUEL Listening to and obeying God is always the right thing to do.

2 SAMUEL Put away pride; get right with God.

1 KINGS Build your reputation on obedience to God.

2 KINGS Be determined to tell God’s truth, no matter what.

1 CHRONICLES God has a loving plan for his family—throughout the generations.

2 CHRONICLES God punishes sin but forgives his people when they turn to him.

EZRA God wants us to serve him wholeheartedly.

NEHEMIAH Do what God wants you to do, no matter the obstacles.

ESTHER God gives us special opportunities to serve him.

JOB Stay close to God, even in the tough times.

- PSALMS** You can talk to God about anything, anytime, no matter what.
- PROVERBS** Seek God's wisdom, not just knowledge.
- ECCLESIASTES** Only God can give your life true meaning.
- SONG OF SONGS** Love is special and should be protected.
- ISAIAH** God will give you the courage to speak out for him.
- JEREMIAH** Pleasing God is the only success that matters.
- LAMENTATIONS** God can give you compassion for the people around you who don't know him.
- EZEKIEL** Obedience to God is a choice—the most important choice of all.
- DANIEL** God wants you to be courageous and faithful.
- HOSEA** God loves you no matter what.
- JOEL** Forgiveness comes when we turn away from sin and toward God.
- AMOS** God has a passion for justice.
- OBADIAH** God will punish those who harm his children.
- JONAH** No one is beyond redemption.
- MICAH** You can decide to be a person who lives the way God wants.
- NAHUM** God will triumph over his enemies.
- HABAKKUK** God hears your questions; listen for his answer.
- ZEPHANIAH** When you confess your sins and trust in God, he will forgive you.
- HAGGAI** God wants to be number one in your life.
- ZECHARIAH** You can trust God with your future.
- MALACHI** How we live and what we give shows whether our love for God is genuine.
- MATTHEW** Believing in Jesus will change your life forever.
- MARK** Jesus calls us to serve others.
- LUKE** Jesus came to seek the outsiders.
- JOHN** God sent Jesus to give us life.
- ACTS** God will give you the courage to tell your friends about Jesus.
- ROMANS** We all are sinners, but through Christ's death we can become forgiven children of God!
- 1 CORINTHIANS** In Christ and the Spirit, God has provided everything we need to live for him.
- 2 CORINTHIANS** The Christian life is full of struggles, but God comforts us through them all.
- GALATIANS** In Christ, we are free to live lives of love.
- EPHESIANS** God desires for us to live in unity with all fellow believers.
- PHILIPPIANS** The secret to joy is a relationship with Jesus.
- COLOSSIANS** Christ is the fullness of God and our source for true wisdom.
- 1 THESSALONIANS** Because of Christ, we no longer need to fear death.

2 THESSALONIANS Christians must patiently watch for Christ's return and work for his Kingdom while they wait.

1 TIMOTHY Whatever your age, you can be a good example of how to follow Christ.

2 TIMOTHY A strong foundation in Christ enables us to keep going when times are tough.

TITUS God wants us to be living examples of our faith.

PHILEMON Because we are reconciled to God through Christ, we must seek reconciliation with others.

HEBREWS Christ is greater than everything and is the only one worthy of our devotion.

JAMES Genuine faith leads to loving action.

1 PETER In Christ we have hope for the future, even if we face suffering now.

2 PETER Growing in faith and knowledge of Christ helps us guard against false teaching.

1 JOHN We can have complete confidence in God. He is light, love, and life.

2 JOHN When we live in the truth, we are not easily fooled.

3 JOHN Christians should be hospitable and generous in supporting God's work.

JUDE We are called to defend God's truth against those who oppose and twist it.

REVELATION Jesus will return one day as the victorious King! God wins!