

Reading the Bible isn't a race. Let the pages unfold at a pace that allows your spirit to breathe.

GENESIS 1

In six days, God brings the entire universe and its many wonders to life. All three persons of the Trinity are active in creation (1:26). Human beings—made in the image of God—are the culmination of creation, which God deems “very good.”

What do you enjoy most about God's creation?

GENESIS 2

Sabbath, a weekly day of rest, is woven into the DNA of creation, reflecting the fact that God intentionally paused after six days of creation. The mysterious beauty of Adam and Eve’s “one flesh unity” is explained in greater detail.

How is observing the Sabbath a countercultural act today?

GENESIS 3

Eve is tempted and disobeys God’s singular rule—not to eat the fruit of one specific tree in the garden. She offers the fruit to Adam, who also eats, and the consequences roll in like thunder. Adam and Eve are permanently evicted from the garden, the gates are closed, death is introduced, and the ground is cursed. Yet God already has a plan to account for their sin.

Why did Adam and Eve disobey God? Why do we?

GENESIS 4

Adam and Eve begin having children. Their oldest son, Cain, in a fit of jealousy over his unaccepted offerings to God, kills his brother Abel. Although the Ten Commandments won’t arrive for many centuries, Cain knows murder is wrong. He becomes a wanderer, but God mercifully marks Cain. This reminds us of God’s unfailing care after of our own poor choices.

How does the story of Cain show the seriousness of sin?

Take Your Time and Learn More

- In the beginning: JOHN 1:1–5
- Sabbath rest for God’s people: HEBREWS 4:1–11
 - Temptation: JAMES 1:13–15
- First born: COLOSSIANS 1:15–20

The greatest truths in scripture are often revealed in the unhurried moments.

GENESIS 5

Tracing the roots from Adam to Noah, this genealogy—and all the family lineages listed throughout scripture—remind us that every single person created by God has a purpose and a story. One story of significance: Enoch. The Bible’s brief but powerful passage about Enoch says he “walked with God, and he was not, for God took him” (5:24).

If your life with God were described in a single sentence, what would it be?

GENESIS 6

Humanity is growing increasingly wicked, and God now regrets creating humans. Choosing to spare Noah and his family due to their righteousness, God uses the word *covenant* for the first time (6:18). He instructs Noah to build an ark—a giant boat—one and a half football fields long, six interstate lanes wide, and four stories tall.

How do you choose to live righteously in a world where evil is prevalent?

GENESIS 7

God instructs Noah to enter the ark with his family and pairs of every animal. And then, 1,656 years after creating Adam, God spectacularly floods the earth for forty days and nights. Every living thing outside the ark dies: only Noah and those who are with him survive (7:23).

How does Noah's faith challenge you to trust God when His instructions don't make sense?

GENESIS 8

The ark comes to rest on the mountains of Ararat, and Noah sends out a series of birds to find dry land. A dove returns with an olive leaf, and God tells Noah it is time to leave. So Noah and his family exit the ark, build an altar, and worship the Lord.

What are you currently waiting on God's timing for?

Take Your Time and Learn More

- Enoch: HEBREWS 11:5
- Universal unrighteousness: ROMANS 3:10–25
 - Noah: HEBREWS 11:7
- Burnt offerings: LEVITICUS 1:3–17

*Bible study is truly a lifelong journey.
Relax and enjoy the trip.*

GENESIS 9

Everything on earth has changed. God tells Noah's family to have children, and He promises never again to destroy the earth with a flood. Noah's sons are blessed, but Ham's disrespect leads to a curse on his son Canaan. Noah lives 350 years after the flood, and then he dies.

When have you witnessed God's faithfulness in a season of change?

GENESIS 10

Often called the "Table of Nations," this remarkable list traces the origins of various people groups. It begins with Noah's sons and includes their languages and territories—all of which will be verified through modern archaeology. God's faithfulness exists on every page.

What does the diversity of nations and languages teach you about God's creativity?

GENESIS 11

The people of Babel—a name for the early city of Babylon—begin building a tower to make their name great. So God saves them from themselves by confusing their language and scattering them across the earth. This is the first recorded attempt by the Babylonians to rebel against God.

How do you know if your ambition is pleasing God or simply self-promoting?

GENESIS 12

God tells a childless old man named Abram to leave his country and his father's household and go "to a land that I will show you" (12:1). God also makes a covenant with Abram. He promises to bless him, make him a great nation, and benefit all nations through him. Abram obeys.

*Are you willing to step out in faith and obedience,
even if it means leaving your comfort zone?*

Take Your Time and Learn More

- Rainbow: REVELATION 10:1
- Genealogy of Noah: 1 CHRONICLES 1:4–23
 - Babel: LUKE 1:51
- Genealogy of Abram (later called Abraham): MATTHEW 1:1–2

*Try to forget the demands of life for a while.
You're spending quality time with God.*

GENESIS 13

Abram and his nephew Lot journey together until conflicts erupt among their herders. Abram suggests they part ways and graciously allows Lot to choose his portion of the land. Lot selects the fertile plains of Jordan, leaving Abram with the rest. God reaffirms His promise to bless Abram and his descendants.

How much patience, humility, and grace do you show when handling conflict?

GENESIS 14

Abram rescues Lot, who had been captured during a war between regional kings. He then encounters and receives a blessing from Melchizedek, who is both a king and a priest—a rare combination that foreshadows Jesus. Abram refuses the spoils offered by the king of Sodom, demonstrating trust in God's provision.

In what areas might you trust God's provision more fully?

GENESIS 15

God reassures Abram about His promise of descendants and land. And Abram, despite being an old man, believes God. Consistent with the rest of scripture, God counts Abram's belief—not his rituals or sacrifices—as righteousness (15:6). God then confirms His promise to Abram with a special type of covenant.

What is a promise God has made to you that you can honor by believing?

GENESIS 16

Unable to bear children, Abram's wife, Sarai, takes matters into her own hands. She gives her maidservant, Hagar, to Abram as a surrogate. When Hagar conceives, Sarai is harsh and Hagar flees. God's tenderness is revealed: His covenant commitment isn't to Hagar, yet He pursues her (16:13). Hagar returns and gives birth to Ishmael.

When you have an unmet desire, do you patiently trust or creatively scheme?

Take Your Time and Learn More

- Conflict resolution: ROMANS 12:17–19
 - Melchizedek: HEBREWS 7:11–22
- Abraham's faith: HEBREWS 11:8–19
 - Hagar: GALATIANS 4:24–25

Good things come to those who wait—on the Lord, that is.

GENESIS 17

God's name *El Shaddai*—the God who satisfies—is first used (17:1). God reaffirms His covenant with Abram, renaming him Abraham and promising to make him the father of many nations. God also institutes circumcision as a sign of this covenant. Sarai becomes Sarah, and God promises her a son, Isaac, through whom the covenant will be established.

How well do you trust God to meet your needs and fulfill His promises in your life?

GENESIS 18

Three visitors—one of whom is the Lord—come to Abraham, and Abraham shows good hospitality. Over dinner, the guests promise that Sarah will soon give birth to a son. Sarah, being ninety years old, laughs in disbelief. Abraham intercedes for Sodom, bargaining with God not to destroy the city if even ten righteous people can be found there.

How comfortable are you with welcoming people into your home and practicing hospitality?

GENESIS 19

God can't find ten righteous men in Sodom, so He destroys the city along with neighboring Gomorrah. Lot's family is spared, though, as angels warn Lot to flee. His wife looks back and turns into a pillar of salt. Lot escapes to Zoar, where his daughters—apparently believing they are the last people on earth—get him drunk to conceive children. This leads to the births of Moab and Ammon.

What might God want you to leave behind so that you can follow Him completely?

GENESIS 20

While sojourning in Gerar, Abraham fearfully claims that Sarah is his sister. King Abimelech takes the beautiful woman with intentions to marry her, but God warns him in a dream and closes all the wombs in his household. Abimelech rebukes Abraham and returns Sarah unharmed. Abraham prays for Abimelech, and God heals him and his household.

Have you ever been tempted to compromise your integrity in challenging situations? What happened?

Take Your Time and Learn More

- Circumcision: ROMANS 4:9–12
 - Sarah: ROMANS 9:9
- Sodom and Gomorrah: 2 PETER 2:7–9
- Repeated deception: GENESIS 26:6–11

*The Bible is countercultural, and so is Bible study.
There's no need to rush through this.*

GENESIS 21

Finally, the long-awaited Isaac is born, fulfilling God's twenty-five-year-old promise. Sarah, who once laughed in disbelief, now laughs with joy (21:6). Ishmael, now fourteen years old, is sent away with Hagar, but God will protect them. King Abimelech and Abraham make a covenant of peace, and Abraham lives a long time in the land of the Philistines.

How does God's faithfulness to Abraham encourage you to trust God's promises to you?

GENESIS 22

God tests Abraham's faith, asking him to offer his only son, Isaac, as a sacrifice. Abraham obeys, believing God will provide (22:8). At the last moment, God does provide a ram for the offering. This event foreshadows God's ultimate sacrifice of His own Son, Jesus, and demonstrates Abraham's unwavering trust and obedience to God's commands.

Has God ever called you to sacrifice something dear? How did you respond?

GENESIS 23

Sarah dies at age 127 in Hebron. Abraham mourns her, and the Hittites generously offer him a burial site for Sarah. He buys the cave of Machpelah and buries her there. This marks the first land Abraham owns in Canaan, beginning the fulfillment of God's promise (17:8).

What does the Hittites' generosity teach you about how to treat strangers in need?

GENESIS 24

Abraham is getting old and wants to find a wife for Isaac—specifically one from among his people. Abraham sends out a servant to seek a woman, and God's faithfulness becomes evident when the man returns with Isaac's distant cousin Rebekah. Isaac joyfully receives Rebekah and loves her (24:67). God's covenant with Abraham's descendants continues.

How do you trust God's guidance when seeking important decisions for your life?

Take Your Time and Learn More

- Hagar and Sarah: GALATIANS 4:21–31
- Abraham and Isaac: JAMES 2:21–24
 - Machpelah: ACTS 7:16
- Journey to find a wife: GENESIS 29:1–30

*God speaks in the quiet moments.
Approach His Word with calm expectation.*

GENESIS 25

Abraham marries Keturah and has six more sons. But he gives everything he has to Isaac—the child of God's promise—before dying at age 175. Isaac and Rebekah give birth to twins—Esau and Jacob—whose relationship is marked from the beginning by conflict and competition. Esau foolishly sells his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew.

How do you safeguard your important relationships from jealousy and competition?

GENESIS 26

History repeats itself as Isaac lies about Rebekah being his sister and not his wife. Even so, God protects and blesses Isaac abundantly. In spite of opposition, Isaac digs wells and makes peace with the Philistines. God reaffirms His covenant with Isaac, even as Esau causes "grief of mind to Isaac and to Rebekah" (26:35).

Have you ever allowed fear of man, instead of trust in God, to guide your decisions? What happened?

GENESIS 27

Old and blind, Isaac knows he needs to bless his oldest son, Esau. But Rebekah schemes for her favorite son, Jacob, to receive the blessing instead. Disguised as Esau, Jacob deceives Isaac—meaning Jacob now owns Esau's birthright and blessing. Because of Esau's fury, Jacob realizes he'll need to leave home to save his life.

How does manipulation ultimately insult God's goodness?

GENESIS 28

Isaac blesses Jacob and instructs him not to marry a Canaanite woman. So Jacob begins a journey to find a wife from his mother's people. One night, he dreams of a ladder reaching up to heaven. God reaffirms the covenant He had made with Abraham and Isaac, promising to bless Jacob and his descendants. When he wakes, Jacob vows to serve God.

What events in your life have served as catalysts to draw you closer to God?

Take Your Time and Learn More

- Esau's birthright: HEBREWS 12:16–17
- Similar deception: GENESIS 12:10–20
- Jacob over Esau: MALACHI 1:2–3
- Jacob's ladder: JOHN 1:51

*Before you read, pray. Ask God to
speak His truth to your spirit.*

GENESIS 29

Jacob meets a beautiful shepherdess named Rachel at a well in Haran. He agrees to work seven years for her father in order to marry her. But just as Jacob deceived Esau with a false identity, so Laban deceives Jacob by giving Rachel's older sister, Leah, to Jacob. Jacob then works seven more years for Rachel.

Do you believe God is able to use even your sins to accomplish His good will for your life? How?

GENESIS 30

Nobody benefits from Laban's deception. Jacob hates Leah, and the sibling rivalry between the sisters creates ongoing tension and strife. Unable to conceive, Rachel gives her servant to Jacob to bear sons. Seeing this, Leah gives her servant to Jacob, bringing more sons. Finally, Rachel gives birth to a son, Joseph. Jacob decides it's time to return home.

In what ways can you please God when others treat you unfairly?

GENESIS 31

After twenty years of mistreatment and deception, Jacob decides to leave Laban's household. God directs him to return with his family to Canaan, but before he leaves, Rachel steals her father's household idols. Laban pursues Jacob and searches for the idols but never finds them. After a heated exchange, Jacob and Laban agree to go their separate ways.

How do Christians today mix worldly "idols" with Christian beliefs?

GENESIS 32

Jacob sends messengers ahead to tell Esau of his return. They return saying Esau is coming to meet him with four hundred men. Afraid, Jacob sends everyone ahead and stays alone. That night, Jacob wrestles with the angel of God, refusing to let go until he receives a blessing. Jacob is renamed Israel, and God reiterates the name change in Genesis 35.

How do you handle situations where you fear potential conflict?

Take Your Time and Learn More

- Jacob's time in Aram: HOSEA 12:12
- Sons of Jacob: 1 CHRONICLES 2:1–2
- God's protection of Jacob: PSALM 105:12–15
- Testing by God: PSALM 17:3

Don't hurry, don't worry. God's Word provides everything you need for living well.

GENESIS 33

Jacob sees Esau coming with four hundred men—just as the messengers said—and it looks like Esau may finally take revenge on Jacob for the stolen birthright and blessing. Instead, Esau ‘ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him. And they wept’ (33:4). In gratitude, Jacob builds an altar and worships the God of Israel.

How do asking for and receiving forgiveness both require humility?

GENESIS 34

Jacob and Leah's daughter, Dinah, is raped by Shechem, a Hivite prince. Shechem then asks Jacob and his sons for permission to marry Dinah. Jacob's sons are angry, but they agree to the marriage. . .under the condition that all Hivite men be circumcised. Then, while the men are recovering, Dinah's brothers Simeon and Levi kill all the males of the city.

What is the difference between justice and revenge?

GENESIS 35

Jacob returns to Bethel, where he had the dream of a ladder to heaven (Genesis 28). God reaffirms His covenant and officially changes Jacob's name to Israel. A sad series of events occurs: Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin, Reuben (Jacob's firstborn) sleeps with his father's concubine, and Isaac (Jacob and Esau's father) dies at age 180.

In what ways can you cultivate a greater sense of reverence and awe for God?

GENESIS 36

Esau, also known as Edom, settles in the hill country of Seir, and his family grows. This further fulfills God's promises to Abraham regarding the multiplication of his descendants. Also, it distinguishes Esau's lineage from the lineage of Jacob, who now inherits the covenant blessings.

How might these genealogies inspire you to trust God's sovereignty over your own legacy?

Take Your Time and Learn More

- Reconciliation with a brother: MATTHEW 5:23–24
 - Vengeance for rape: 2 SAMUEL 13
 - Jacob's journey to Bethel: HOSEA 12:4–5
 - Esau's descendants: OBADIAH 1–6

God loves it when you read and study His Word.

GENESIS 37

Joseph is Jacob's favorite son, which creates problems. A jealousy-fueled series of events leads to Joseph's brothers selling him into slavery. The brothers cover Jacob's robe in goat's blood to deceive Jacob into thinking Joseph had died. This ironically parallels the time Jacob used his brother's cloak and a slaughtered goat to portray himself as Esau to his father.

How do you cultivate a heart of contentment when you're tempted with jealousy?

GENESIS 38

Judah—Jacob and Leah's fourth son—marries a Canaanite and has three sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah. When Er dies childless, Judah asks Onan to marry the widow and fulfill the duty of carrying on the family line. He refuses and is killed by God, so Tamar disguises herself and tricks Judah into sleeping with her. Tamar becomes pregnant with twins by her father-in-law.

Tamar is one of the few women listed in Jesus' genealogy. Does that change how you see her?

GENESIS 39

Joseph is sold into slavery in Egypt and serves in Potiphar's house. Despite temptation from the master's wife, Joseph remains faithful to God by refusing her sexual advances. This leads to false accusations of assault, and Joseph is imprisoned. God blesses him, however, and he gains favor—even in prison.

How does Joseph's story encourage you to stay faithful to God no matter what?

GENESIS 40

Joseph interprets dreams for Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker while all three are imprisoned. Both dreams foreshadow the men's fates: the cupbearer will be restored to his position, but the baker will be executed. Joseph demonstrates his gift of dream interpretation and continues trusting God despite his difficult circumstances.

Do you trust in God's timing and purpose, even when it seems others have forgotten you?

Take Your Time and Learn More

- Joseph's life: ACTS 7:8–14
- Judah and Tamar in genealogy of Christ: MATTHEW 1:3
 - Joseph's time in Egypt: PSALM 105:17–19
 - Remembering those in prison: HEBREWS 13:3

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GENESIS 41

Pharaoh dreams of seven fat cows devoured by seven lean cows, and seven plump ears of grain consumed by seven thin ears. Joseph explains there will be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. In appreciation, Pharaoh elevates Joseph—now thirty years old—to be Egypt's second-in-command to prepare for the coming crisis.

How does this promotion prove God's kindness not only to Joseph but to Egypt, God's enemy?

GENESIS 42

Famine prompts Jacob's sons—Joseph's brothers—to journey to Egypt to buy grain. Joseph oversees grain sales, and he recognizes his brothers immediately. The men bow to Joseph, fulfilling his prophetic dream. Joseph tests his brothers by accusing them of spying, detains Simeon, and demands the others return with their youngest brother.

How has God graciously worked through situations in your life that felt unfair at the time?

GENESIS 43

The famine persists in Canaan, prompting Jacob's sons to return to Egypt to buy grain. Judah pledges to protect Benjamin, convincing a hesitant Jacob to let him go. In Egypt, Joseph invites them into his home for a meal, seating them oldest to youngest at his table. The brothers are understandably amazed (43:33).

In what specific ways does Joseph's story remind you that God is working in all things?

GENESIS 44

Joseph devises a way to test his brothers' integrity: he plants a silver cup in Benjamin's sack, framing him for theft. When the brothers are "caught," Judah displays a changed heart by pleading for Benjamin's release. Where Judah once suggested the brothers kill Joseph, he now offers himself as a slave in Benjamin's place.

How is Judah a picture of Christ in this chapter (specifically in verse 33)?

Take Your Time and Learn More

- Dream interpretation: DANIEL 2:1-30
- Joseph as deliverer: ACTS 7:9-14
- Showing kindness to foreigners: DEUTERONOMY 10:17-19
- Forgiveness: MATTHEW 6:14-15

The greatest truths in scripture are often revealed in the unhurried moments.

GENESIS 45

Overcome with emotion, Joseph finally reveals his identity. He assures his brothers of God's sovereignty. It's been over twenty years since they've seen each other, and Jacob's sons are stunned. Joseph sends for their father, instructing the entire family to return with him to Egypt. When he hears the news about Joseph, Jacob will be just as shocked as his sons had been.

When have you experienced unexpected reconciliation or forgiveness in a relationship?

GENESIS 46

Jacob and his family move to Egypt due to the famine. Jacob has now been humbled by life, and God reassures him in a vision that this is the right decision. In Egypt, Joseph reunites with his father. Pharaoh welcomes the family and offers them the best of Egypt. They settle in Goshen, and Joseph helps them adjust.

How have you handled seasons of major change? Could you sense God working in the background?

GENESIS 47

Joseph brings his family before Pharaoh, securing their settlement in Goshen. The famine worsens, and Joseph implements a system to exchange land and labor for food, which consolidates Pharaoh's power. Despite the hardship, the Israelites thrive in Goshen, demonstrating God's provision. Jacob lives in Egypt seventeen years.

How has God met your unfaithfulness with His faithfulness, as He did with Jacob's family?

GENESIS 48

Jacob blesses Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. And despite Joseph's attempt to correct him, Jacob intentionally blesses Ephraim, the younger, over Manasseh, the elder. This reflects a recurring theme in scripture: God does what is least expected, blessing individuals according to His purposes rather than human conventions.

How might God's pattern of unlikely blessings challenge your understanding of merit?

Take Your Time and Learn More

- Joseph's faith: HEBREWS 11:22
- Jacob's sons in the wilderness: NUMBERS 26:5-51
- Joseph's family in Egypt: JOSHUA 24:1-4
- Ephraim: JEREMIAH 31:9