

BIBLE STUDIES FOR CHILDREN

GENESIS



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This book is a guide for teachers of children. It is written to help teachers to mentor children as they study together the biblical book of Genesis. Each lesson includes a verse for memorization, a biblical commentary, a list of important words, and some activities. Lessons are based upon a biblical story. After the story, discussion questions are provided to encourage children to apply to life what they learn.

The guide also contains the basic instructions you will need to organize a quizzing program for children. This program will challenge the children's knowledge of biblical text. The competitive games inspire children to study the book of Genesis. Each lesson includes basic and advanced review questions. This book includes the *Children's Quizzing Official Rules and Procedures*, an attendance sheet, a sample score sheet for quiz competition, and reproducible award certificates.



Bible Studies for Children

Genesis

© 2013 Nazarene Publishing House
ISBN 978-1-56344-759-4

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Published by
KidzFirst Publications
17001 Prairie Star Parkway
Lenexa, KS 66220 (USA)

This edition published by arrangement with Nazarene Publishing House, Kansas City, Missouri USA
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The first Children's Bible Quiz, created by Rev. William (Bill) Young, was introduced with three demonstration teams from the Kansas City District - Kansas City First, Kansas City St. Paul's, and Overland Park - at the 1968 General Nazarene Young People's Society Convention in Kansas City, Missouri (USA).

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WELCOME!

Welcome to *Bible Studies for Children: Genesis!* In this collection of biblical studies, the children will learn about God's holiness and his faithfulness to his people, even when they make a bad choice.

Bible Studies for Children: Genesis is one of six books in the *Bible Studies for Children* series. These studies help children to gain an understanding of biblical chronology and the meaning of biblical events. As the children learn about the lives of the people in these studies, they discover God's love for all people and their place in his plan. God sometimes uses miracles to achieve his purposes. He often works through people to accomplish what he wants to do.

The philosophy of *Bible Studies for Children* is to help the children to understand what the Bible says, to learn how God helped the people, and to know God through a relationship with him. This includes biblical study, biblical memorization, and application of biblical teachings in real life situations.

Bible Studies for Children uses the *New International Version* of the Bible.

BOOKS

The following is a short description of the books in this series and the way that they interact with each other.

Genesis provides the foundation. This book tells how God created the world from

nothing, formed a man and a woman, and created a beautiful garden for their home. These people sinned, and they experienced the consequences for their sin. Genesis introduces the plan of God to reconcile the broken relationship between God and the people. It introduces Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God made a covenant with Abraham and renewed that covenant with Isaac and Jacob. Genesis ends with the story of Joseph who saves civilization from famine. The famine compels the people of God to move to Egypt.

Exodus tells how God continued to keep his promise to Abraham. God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The Lord chose Moses to guide the Israelites. The Lord set up his kingship over the Israelites. He led and ruled the Israelites through the establishment of the priesthood and the Tabernacle, the Ten Commandments and other laws, and the prophets and the judges. At the end of Exodus, only a part of the covenant of the Lord with Abraham is complete.

Joshua/Judges/Ruth tells how God completed his covenant to Abraham that began in Genesis. The Israelites conquered and settled into the land that God promised to Abraham. The prophets, the priests, the Law, and the worship rituals declared that God was the Lord and the King of the Israelites. The 12 tribes of Israel settled into the Promised Land.

This book emphasizes these judges: Deborah, Gideon, and Samson.

In **1 and 2 Samuel**, the Israelites wanted a king because the other nations had a king. These studies tell about Samuel, Saul, and David. Jerusalem became the centre of the combined nation of Israel. This study shows how the people react differently when someone confronted them with their sins. While Saul blamed others or made excuses, David admitted his sin, and he asked God for forgiveness.

Matthew is the focal point of the entire series. It focuses on the birth, the life, and the ministry of Jesus. All the previous books in the series pointed to Jesus as the Son of God and the Messiah. Jesus ushered in a new era. The children learn about this new era in several events: the teachings of Jesus, his death, his resurrection, and the mentoring of his disciples. Through Jesus, God provided a new way for the people to have a relationship with him.

At the beginning of **Acts**, Jesus ascended to heaven, and God sent the Holy Spirit to help the Church. The good news of salvation through Jesus Christ spread to many parts of the world. The believers preached the gospel to the Gentiles, and missionary work began. The message of the love of God transformed both the Jews and the Gentiles. There is a direct connection between the evangelism efforts of Paul and Peter to the lives of the people today.

CYCLE

The following cycle of using this series is specifically for those who participate in the optional quizzing aspect of the *Bible Studies*

for Children. You will find more information about this in the section called “Children’s Bible Quizzing” on page 112.

Genesis (2013-2014)

Exodus (2014-2015)

Joshua/Judges/Ruth (2015-2016)

1 & 2 Samuel (2016-2017)*

Matthew (2017-2018)

Acts (2018-2019)

* *Indicates a World Quiz Year*

SCHEDULE

Each book in the series has twenty studies. Allow one to two hours of class time. The following schedule is a suggestion for each study.

15 minutes for the **Activity**

30 minutes for the **Biblical Lesson**

15 minutes for the **Memory Verse**

30 minutes for the **Additional Activities** (optional)

30 minutes for the **Quizzing Practice** (optional)

TEACHERS PREPARATION

Thorough preparation of each study is important. The children are more attentive and gain better understanding of the study if you prepare it well and present it well. **Bold text** in each study indicates suggested words for you to say to the children. The following steps will help you prepare.

Step 1: Quick Overview. Read the Memory Verse, Biblical Truth, and Teaching Tips.

Step 2: Bible Passage and Biblical Commentary. Read the verses in the Bible study passage, the information in the Biblical Commentary, and any Words of Our Faith.

Step 3: Activity. This section includes a game or other activity to prepare the children for the biblical lesson. Become familiar with the activity, the instructions, and the supplies. Bring any necessary supplies to the class with you. Set up the activity before the children arrive.

Step 4: Biblical Lesson. Review the lesson and learn it so that you can tell it as a story. A simple version of the scripture passage is included at the end of this book to help you prepare. The children want the teacher to tell the story rather than read it from the book. Use the Words of Our Faith from each lesson to provide additional information as you tell the story. After the story, use the review questions. They will help the children to understand the story and to apply it to their lives.

Step 5: Memory Verse. Learn the memory verse before you teach it to the children. A list of the memory verses and suggested memory verse activities are on pages 108-111. Choose from the activities to help the children to learn the memory verse. Become familiar with the activity that you choose. Read the instructions and prepare the supplies that you will bring to class.

Step 6: Additional Activities. The additional activities are an optional part of the study. These activities will enhance the children's biblical study. Many of these activities

require additional supplies, resources, and time. Become familiar with the activities that you choose. Read the instructions and prepare the supplies that you will bring to class.

Step 7: Quizzing Practice. Quizzing is the competition part of *Bible Studies for Children* and you will find more information in the section called "Children's Bible Quizzing" (page 143).

Quizzing is an optional part of the study. If you choose to participate in quizzing, spend time with the children in their preparation. There are practice questions for each study. The first ten questions are for a basic level of competition. The questions are simple, and there are three possible answers for each question. The next ten questions are for an advanced level of the competition. There are four possible answers for each question, and these questions are more comprehensive. Children, with the guidance from their teacher, choose their level for the competition. Based on the number of children and the resources that are available, you may choose to offer only the basic level or only the advanced level. Before you ask the practice questions, read the scripture passage to the children.

STUDY 1

Genesis 1:1-31; 2:2-3, 7
In the Beginning

Memory Verse

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1).

Biblical Truth

God is the creator of the world.

Teaching Tip

As you lead the Bible study, remember that the power of God the Creator and the uniqueness of the people he created are the most important ideas of this study

BIBLICAL COMMENTARY

Creation displays the power of God. God spoke the words, and the lifeless planet responded. God’s creation brought life out of emptiness and order from chaos. God called to creation and creation responded. This is God’s first commandment.

God invited creation to come into being for delight and enjoyment, and “it was so”. Similarly, creation eagerly responded with gratitude and delight.

Genesis 1:26-27 refers to the involvement of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in creation.

God did not create everything haphazardly. Instead, everything has a purpose. People are most happy when they serve a noble purpose or work for something greater than themselves. In Genesis 2 and 3, we learn that God trusted the man and woman to take care of his special garden. This was an important task. It was not drudgery for Adam and Eve. They were content with their job.

From the beginning, God acted for the good of creation. To the man he gave a beautiful home and good food. He gave a caretaker to the garden. He warned Adam of the danger. He gave a helper to Adam.

God also set an example for people by resting on the seventh day. This does not imply that God was tired. Creation was complete, and God was content with what he created. He is also satisfied when the creation turns its at-

tention to the creator. When Christians observe the Sabbath, it indicates their faith and trust in God. Resting reminds us, the created, to submit our will to God, the creator.

WORDS OF OUR FAITH

man -- humanity. God made a male and a female. Together he called them man or mankind. They were both created in the image of God.

ACTIVITY

Before the children arrive, choose an outside location for this activity. You will lead the children on a nature walk to this location. Find a space for the children to sit so that they will be able to discuss what they see.

During the class, say, **Today we will take a nature walk. As we walk, look at everything around you. Think about what you see: the sky, the grass, the flowers, the birds, the animals, and the people.**

Lead the children to the location you chose. Encourage the children to share with the class the things they saw as they walked.

Say, **The Bible is a book that tells the story of God. The book of Genesis tells us that God created the world. God created the ground where we sit. He created the sky above our heads. God created the plants, the trees, and the flowers. God created the animals. He also created people.**

Pray with the children. Thank God for everything he created. In your prayer, say the name of each child and thank God for him or her.

Return to the classroom.

BIBLICAL LESSON

Prepare a Bible story based on the lesson's scripture verses. Children will understand the lesson better if you tell them the story rather than reading it to them. A simpler version of this story is printed in the back of this book, on pages 112-113. This story is easier to read and understand.

After the story, encourage the children to discuss the story by asking the following questions. This will help them apply it to their lives. There may not be a right or wrong answer.

- 1. What would you say to God if you watched him create everything on the earth?**
- 2. How did God create people differently from the rest of creation? How does that difference make you feel about God?**
- 3. God set the example for us on the seventh day. He rested. Do you like to rest? Do you think it is important? Why or why not?**
- 4. What is the most important idea in the memory verse, Genesis 1:1?**

Say, **Close your eyes and think about your favourite animal, your favourite colour, your favourite fruit, your best friend, and a family member. God created col-**

ours, plants, animals, and people.

God is powerful and creative. The Bible says that God cares for everything he made. God made people. God created people to have a relationship with him. You can praise God because he is the Creator of the entire universe, and he cares for you.

MEMORY VERSE

Practice the study's memory verse. You will find suggestions for memory verse activities on pages 110-111.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Choose from these options to enhance the children's Bible study.

1. Create an art project about creation, including papier-mâché models, clay figures, dioramas, paintings, posters, murals, or chalk drawings. Provide the children with a variety of craft supplies. Encourage the children to be creative.
2. Ask the children about how God created the world. Then, discuss with them why it is more important that we understand the one who created everything is more important than how it was done.

QUESTIONS FOR BASIC COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read Genesis 1:1-31; 2:2-3, 7 to them.

1 Who created the heavens and the earth? (1:1)

1. Man
2. **God**
3. No one

2 What did God create on the first day? (1:3, 5)

1. Sea life
2. Plants and trees
3. **Light**

3 What did God do on the second day? (1:7-8)

1. Created the stars
2. **Separated the waters**
3. Created man

4 What did God tell the land to produce on the third day? (1:11, 13)

1. Livestock and wild animals
2. **Trees and plants**
3. Both answers are correct.

5 Why did God create the greater lights and the lesser lights? (1:14-18)

1. To separate the day from the night
2. To mark the seasons
3. **Both answers are correct.**

6 When did God create birds? (1:20, 23)

1. The third day
2. The fourth day
3. **The fifth day**

7 How did God create man? (1:26-27)

1. From the water of the ocean
2. From the clouds of the sky
3. **In the image of God**

8 What did God give to the man and the woman to eat? (1:29)

1. Meat
2. **Seed-bearing plants and fruit**
3. Both answers are correct.

9 What did God do on the seventh day? (2:2-3)

1. God blessed the day and called it holy.
2. God rested.
3. **Both answers are correct.**

10 From what did God form man? (2:7)

1. **From the dust of the ground**
2. From the air
3. Both answers are correct.

QUESTIONS FOR ADVANCED COMPETITION

To prepare the children for competition, read Genesis 1:1-31; 2:2-3, 7 to them.

1 What was the earth like before creation? (1:2)

1. Formless
2. Empty
3. Covered in darkness
4. **All of the answers are correct.**

2 What happened to the waters on the third day? (1:9-11)

1. They dried up.
2. They gathered in the sky.
3. **They were gathered in one place as seas.**
4. All of the answers are correct.

3 What did God create on the fourth day? (1:16, 19)

1. **Sun, moon, and stars**
2. Plants and trees
3. Birds and sea life
4. Animals and people

4 On the sixth day, what did God create according to their kinds? (1:25)

1. Wild animals
2. Livestock
3. All the creatures that move along the ground
4. **All of the answers are correct.**

5 In whose image did God create man? (1:26)

1. Animals
2. **God**
3. The earth
4. The sky

6 When God created man and woman, what did he say to them? (1:28)

1. "Fill the earth and subdue it."
2. "Rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that lives on the ground."
3. "Be fruitful and increase in number."
4. **All of the answers are correct.**

7 What did God give to the man and woman to eat? (1:29)

1. **Seed-bearing plants and fruit**
2. Birds
3. Animals
4. All of the answers are correct.

8 Finish this verse, "God saw all that he had made . . ." (1:31)

1. ". . . and he was sad."
2. ". . . and he needed rest."
3. **". . . and it was very good."**
4. All of the answers are correct.

9 Why did God bless the seventh day and make it holy? (2:3)

1. He needed a break.
2. **He rested on this day from all the work of creating he had done.**
3. He could not think of anything else to create.
4. He wanted to go to church.

10 From what did God form man? (2:7)

1. **The dust of the ground**
2. The air
3. The water
4. The plants