

Life Lesson 2
Beginning at the Beginning
Text: Genesis 1-3

Introduction

Open your Bible to the very first book. What is it called? Genesis. That means, “beginning.” It’s a good name for this book, because it is the beginning of the Bible and it’s about the beginning of the world.

Genesis and the next four books are called the books of the law. They were written by God, of course, but God used a man named Moses to write His words down.

There are two main parts to the book of Genesis. One part is about the early days on the earth. That part is called the “primeval period.” Long words are fun to learn, but if you would like it better, you can call this part, “early days.” It’s about the things that happened when the earth was young. In that part we will learn about the creation, the fall (when Adam and Eve sinned), the flood of Noah’s day, and the tower of Babel.

The second part of Genesis is about early people, or the “patriarchal period.” That’s a good long word to learn! “Patriarch” means “father.” In this part of Genesis, we will learn about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph who were the fathers of the Hebrew nation.

Now, let’s look at chapter one of Genesis and see what our world was like in the beginning.

The Story

Close your eyes as tightly as you can. What do you see? Nothing! That’s what the world was once like. It was just darkness.

On the first day God made light and separated it from the darkness. Now we don’t have to live in the dark. We can see where we are going.

On the second day God made clouds and air. He made the atmosphere around the earth. Have you ever thanked God for the air you breathe? You couldn't live long without it!

Now we are to day three. What did God make on that day? He separated the sea from the dry land and made grass and trees and flowers to grow on the land. Can you imagine the light shining on the brand new world full of fresh flowers and trees? It's already a big change from just two days ago. But it's still a silent world, because there are no birds or animals or people yet.

On the fourth day God made the sun, moon, and stars, and He hung them in place in the sky. It takes a wonderfully powerful God to do things like that!

On the fifth day the world became a little noisier. God made the birds. Their new songs could be heard for the first time in God's brand new world. He made the fish and sea creatures on that day, too.

On day six, another big change came to the world. God made the animals. Many people believe that animals started from little wiggly worm creatures that decided to come to life and crawl up on the land. They gradually turned into animals and then people. That sounds pretty silly, doesn't it?

God said the animals would reproduce after their own kind. That means that their babies would look just like the parents. Giraffe babies would never look like elephants and a mother kangaroo could never have a kitten for a baby. They would never change, or evolve, but would always reproduce after their kind.

God made another important creation on day six. He made people. In Genesis chapter two we learn about the people God made. First He made a man and named him Adam. He made Adam after His own image. That means He made Adam like Himself. That doesn't necessarily mean that God has two arms and two legs and a head like ours. We know that God is a spirit and

doesn't have the same type of body that we have. He made Adam with the ability to think and create. He gave him the job of thinking up names for all the animals God had created.

Adam was happy with this new home and all the animals in the world for pets. Best of all, he could walk and talk with God. At this time Adam was still perfect and had never sinned. But God knew that Adam needed more than the animals to keep him company. He made a woman to be Adam's wife. Adam named his wife, Eve.

Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful garden that God made just for them. It was called the Garden of Eden. God gave them the job of dressing and keeping the garden. That must have been a pleasant job. There weren't any weeds back then, and no bugs.

God made the world and everything in it in the first six days. On the seventh day He rested. He wasn't tired. We know that God never gets tired or sleepy. He rested because it was finished. He had made everything that needed to be made, and it was good.

The Life Lesson

If you painted a picture, who would it belong to? To you, of course. You could hang it up in your bedroom, or give it to your mother, or throw it away. It would be your picture and you could do whatever you wanted with it.

Who made the world? God did. So everything belongs to God.

You are God's creation and you belong to Him, because He made you. Sometimes we forget that God made us and we start thinking of our lives as our own. We want to make our own decisions and go our own way. Then we get mad when things don't go the way we think they should.

That is what sin is. It's wanting to be our own god, our own boss, instead of realizing that we belong to God and He has the right to be our boss. Salvation means surrendering to God as

our owner and master. We agree to go His way instead of our own way.

Let's look in Isaiah 53:6. What does this verse say we are all like? Like sheep trying to run off in our own way. That's sin, and all sin must be punished by death and an eternity in hell.

Look in the last part of the verse. This part is the wonderful part for us. Jesus, Himself, paid the penalty for the sins of His people so they could be forgiven.

Do you know that Jesus has paid for your sins, or are you still trying to go your own way?
Knowing how you stand with God is the most important thing in the world!

Review Questions

What is the first book of the Bible?

Genesis

What does "Genesis" mean?

Beginning

What are the two main parts of the book of Genesis?

The primeval period and the patriarchal period, or early days and early people.

What four things happened in the primeval period?

The creation, the fall, the flood and the tower of Babel.

Who are the four patriarchs?

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph

What did God make on the first day?

He made light and separated it from the darkness.

What did God make on day two?

Clouds and air.

On what day did God make plants?

Day three

On what day did God make the sun, moon and stars?

Day four.

What did God make on day five?

Birds and sea creatures.

What did God make on day six?

Animals and people.

What did God do on the seventh day?

He rested.

Why did God rest on the seventh day?

Because His work was finished.

Who were the first people God made?

Adam and Eve

Where did they live?

In the Garden of Eden.

What was their job?

To dress and keep the garden.

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