



DAILY BIBLE READING

GROWTH IN GENESIS (PART 1)

Tim Blagg

Read. Ask. Live. Love

Daily Bible Reading

What?

Sometimes we find it hard to read the Bible, don't we? At church we hear it all the time: "*read the Bible more.*" But how? Some of the devotionals on offer seem to have less Bible than story. Some of the Bible reading plans seem too big to take on all at once; what should I think about? How can I possibly know what questions to ask as I read through God's word?

It's in light of these questions that these daily bible readings have come into existence! The aim is to help you read God's word for yourself and ask some of the questions to comprehend what God is saying to you today through his living and active word, with the hope asking these sorts of questions for yourself as you read through the Bible in bigger doses that this has to offer. It's a tool, and hence it's only as valuable as our use of it.

My prayer for you as you use these - whether by yourself or with your family around the dinner table - is that God will work through his word to grow you into the fullness of Christ and bring you joy as you come to know him through his word.

How?

The way to approach it every day (as recommended) is:

- 1) Pray to God; it is his word we're reading, so ask him to help you understand it.
- 2) Read the passage once or twice.
- 3) ASK: Go through each question, looking back at the bible to think through them.
- 4) Pray about what you have learned; ASK God's help, LIVE out the applications for today and in it all, LOVE God even more.

Want more?

If you want more studies like these ones, check out our online database at www.trinitycity.church/youth - just follow the links. Alternatively, if you're looking for more in depth bible reading plans, many can be found in study bibles or online. Chat to your bible study group leader or pastor for more information.

In Christ,

Tim

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Growth in Genesis - Part 1 (Genesis 1:1-13:18)

Week 1

Monday

- Read Genesis 1-2

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 56 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. Take a moment and put yourself into the shoes of an Ancient Babylonian boy or girl. You would have been brought up believing in many gods, who made people to do all the work for them and didn't really like people. What is different about the God of the Bible?

- Growth for Today:

- We have such a powerful God who makes everything just by saying it should be. Take a moment to think about some of the promises God makes. Promises like “I am with you always, to the end of the age,” (Matthew 28:20) or “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.” (John 10:10) How do you feel knowing that the same God who made all things just by speaking has made these promises?

Tuesday

- Read Genesis 1:1-13

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who is in control through these verses?
2. Did you notice any pattern in the way that the first three days happened? What stuff gets repeated?
3. A lot of debates today in Genesis are about how old the world is or about the science behind creation versus evolution. These are good questions to ask, but they aren't the questions that Genesis cares about. What does Moses want the readers of Genesis to know without doubt?

- Growth for Today:

- One of the funny things about Christianity and science is that without us understanding the world the way God made it in Genesis 1, we couldn't do science! Science needs conditions to be ordered and stable to work. If God didn't create the world He did, we wouldn't be able to do science at all. Spend some time today giving thanks to God for making the world so orderly (and making science!).

Wednesday

- Read Genesis 1:14-25

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does God make on days 4-6?
2. What relationship is there between what God makes on these days and what he made on days 1-3?
3. Given what we've seen so far of God's creative power and his plans, God is a God who has a purpose behind what he does. How have you seen God purposefully acting in Genesis 1 so far?

- Growth for Today:

- A classmate in school, Eve O'Loushen, claims that "Christians are wrong cuz they believe that God created stuff, and science tells us that evolution is true instead." Is Eve right? Is Christianity false if evolution is true? Take some time today to think about this. There are many scientists who think one way or the other. If evolution was proved beyond doubt to be the process by which people became people, would Christianity be false? Would your trust in God be in vain?

Thursday

- Read Genesis 1:26-2:3

- Think through the following questions:

1. What is special about the way God makes people compared with everything else he has made so far?
2. As we were reminded of yesterday, God makes stuff with a purpose in mind. What purpose does God have for people?
3. Why does God rest on the seventh day?

- Growth for Today:

- When God makes people in his image, we have lots of different ideas behind what this means. It probably doesn't mean people were made to look just like God physically! A big theme in the Bible is that God made people to *mediate* his rule on earth - to rule under him in the way he would rule. So, rubber hits the road time. We all buy things like clothes or computers. What would it look like to buy these things in a way that shows how God rules the world? A way that cares for the world? A way that cares for other people?

Friday

- Read Genesis 2:4-17

- Think through the following questions:

1. How is this similar to Genesis 1? How is it different? Why do you think there's a difference in the stories?
2. How are all the trees in the garden described?
3. Why does God put man into the garden?

- Growth for Today:

- One of the easiest things for us as Christians to forget is that God is *good*. God is good and wants good for his people. He gives us good things. He gives us life, and breath. He is nearby to us. We can easily get caught up in all the stuff we don't have. But Genesis 2 makes it clear for us: God says yes to us having the good life - having real delight. Take time today (and every time you pray) to remember to thank God for the good he does for us. Why not write a list of the things that God has given you to thank him for them?

Saturday

- Read Genesis 2:18-25

- Think through the following questions:

1. Why is what God says in verse 18 so shocking compared to everything that has happened so far in Genesis?
2. What do you reckon "suitable helper" means when talking about woman?
3. How does Genesis 2 talk about marriage?

- Growth for Today:

- Marriage is a pretty big topic today! It can feel hard to really grapple with what the Bible talks about in marriage when we, our friends, and our family, know all too well the pain of marriages not working out well, or people who want to marry people of the same sex. But stripping back all our the stuff going on around us, the Bible paints such a beautiful picture of marriage as a good gift from God. There's plenty more the Bible has to say on marriage and relationships! How could you explain the Bible's view of marriage to someone who isn't a Christian?

Sunday

- Church - Passage covered: _____

- What was the sermon about?: _____

- What do I need to change? _____

Week 2

Monday

- Read Genesis 3-4

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 50 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. For you, what is the saddest moment in these two chapters of Genesis? What makes it sad?

- Growth for Today:

- When people talk about sin today, there are lots of different opinions. Some say that sins are actions that dishonour God or break a commandment. Others might say that sin is a “crime against myself” - like loving someone but not telling them. What Genesis 3-4 shows us is that before sin is an action, it is a heart attitude to God. A choice not to trust God. A choice to make someone, or something, more important than God. Actions are the “symptoms” of sin, like how sneezes or runny noses are symptoms from the cold. Have you thought about sin like this before? What this means is that we don’t just need to change what we do; we need new hearts without sin hardwired into them. Thanks be to God that in Jesus, he offers us new hearts (check out Romans 5:12-21 for more info!). Growth for today: realise just how offensive our sin is to God. If you haven’t asked him to forgive you before, why not do it today? And if you have, have you thanked him for forgiveness? Not just because you should. Have you thanked him, realising just how big a problem sin is?

Tuesday

- Read Genesis 3:1-7

- Think through the following questions:

1. How does the serpent tempt Adam and Eve to disobey God’s command about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
2. Look back at Genesis 2:9. Given this description of all the trees God had given to Adam and Eve, what has changed in Adam and Eve’s minds about the tree?
3. Why did Adam and Eve make coverings for themselves?

- Growth for Today:

- The Serpent has some pretty key strategies to convince Adam and Eve not to trust God and to sin. Here's the gist of what he's saying:

"Why would God make something so good and tell you not to do it? That would be mean! Isn't God such a jerk?"

"God doesn't really care if you do it. He won't judge you. He doesn't care if you go through with it. It's not even that big a deal!"

"Look how good it is. It'll be so good to be like God! You'll be much happier if you have it."

Do any of those sound a bit more familiar to us? When we're tempted to sin against God, we believe lies like these. Right now, think of one area you struggle to honour God with. Maybe it's lust, or gossip, or anger. What lies do you believe that help you to sin? Does the Bible have anything to say about these lies? Write yourself out a list of what the Bible has to say about these things - it'll come in handy!

Wednesday

- Read Genesis 3:8-19

- Think through the following questions:

1. What kind of relationship did Adam and Eve have with God before they sinned? What do you think it would have been like?
2. Why does God ask "where are you?" Does he not know where they are?
3. How does all the world suffer because of sin?

- Growth for Today:

- Something you've probably heard is "I would believe in God, but there's just too much suffering in the world. Why would God make a world where there's suffering?" It's a huge question! There are many different bits to think about with suffering. But what happens in Genesis 3 is that suffering comes into the world because of *us*. Because humans rejected God's rule and rebelled against him, we led all of creation into fallenness. Why is there pain in having kids? In relationships? In work? Why is there death in the world? Because we rejected God's right rule. And when God isn't number one, everything else goes wrong. If that was where the Bible story ended, it would be a pretty bad story. But it isn't! God promises to one day make a new Creation, where there will be no more sin or death or pain. And he will do this through Jesus. For today, think about how you would explain to a not-yet-Christian about why there is suffering in the world. You

might like to check Romans 8:18-25, John 11:1-4, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 as a starting place.

Thursday

- Read Genesis 3:20-24

- Think through the following questions:

1. How does God still provide for Adam and Eve?
2. Why does God banish Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden?
3. How does God protect the Garden of Eden?

- Growth for Today:

- What do you think the world would be like today if, after Adam and Eve sinned, God didn't kick them out of Eden and let them eat from the tree of life? Spend some time today thinking about this idea; talk about it with family or whoever you feel like. Would the world be a better place? Would it be worse? Is God just being mean to stop us from eating the fruit?

Friday

- Read Genesis 4:1-16

- Think through the following questions:

1. Is there any difference between Cain and Abel's attitudes towards offerings? How can you tell? (Check out Hebrews 11:4 if you're a little stumped)
2. What does Cain do to Abel?
3. How does God act graciously towards Cain in these verses?

- Growth for Today:

- A girl at school, Vi Lance, has heard news reports about a violent guy who killed two people over in Melbourne last week. "Australia should have the death penalty for people like that!" She expresses in anger. "How can we let anyone who hurts us that much get away with it? Doesn't God care about such evil?! If he won't take action, then we should." How would you respond to Vi? Should we take God's judgement into our own hands against evil people?

Saturday

- Read Genesis 4:17-26

- Think through the following questions:

1. How do Cain's descendants get even worse than Cain was?

2. A lot of the time in the Bible, names are given because they have special meaning. What does the name Seth mean?
3. In Genesis 3:15, God promised Adam and Eve that their “seed” (descendant or child) would crush the serpent. Christians understand this as meaning undoing all the curses that God placed on humanity, and ultimately removing sin and its effects from the world. Cain couldn’t - he gave into sin and rejected God. Abel couldn’t - he died. When Seth was born, all their hopes were on him. But then Seth had a child, and it looked like they were going to be in it for the long haul. Based on all this, why do you think people “began to call on the name of the LORD?”

- Growth for Today:

- Ever hear someone say “patience is a virtue” or something similar when you’ve been waiting for something? When it comes to Genesis 3:15 being fulfilled, there was a very long wait involved. In fact, we are still waiting today for it to be completely fulfilled by God bringing about a new creation! The way we really look forward to God’s fulfilment of this promise - the way we “speed his coming” (2 Peter 3:12) is by praying and living in light of that day. A simple way is to be praying that Jesus will come again soon and bring the final fulfilment of Genesis 3:15. A day with no more pain, sorrow, loneliness, tears, sin, death. A day when we will enjoy God forever and walk with him. Do you look forward to this? Do you pray for this?

Sunday

- Church - Passage covered: _____

- What was the sermon about?: _____

_____.

- What do I need to change? _____

_____.

Week 3

Monday

- Read Genesis 5:1-6:8

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 40 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. We all love a good genealogy, don't we? Why do you think there's a genealogy at this point in Genesis? What does it show us?

- Growth for Today:

- Can you imagine a world without death? Chances are we can't. Genesis 5 really brings it home for us; God meant it when he warned Adam and Eve that they would surely die if they ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17). We see the same things today - graveyards, obituaries in newspapers, and we go to funerals. This is not the way things were meant to be - we get that when we feel sad for someone who has died. Thankfully, God sent his son, Jesus, to defeat death forever. There will come a day when death is gone forever (1 Corinthians 15:54-57). Today, how do people try to ignore or escape death? How can you share the news about Jesus to encourage them that they don't need to avoid death?

Tuesday

- Read Genesis 5:1-5

- Think through the following questions:

1. Is there anything special about how God makes Adam and Eve?
2. Is there anything special about how Seth was born? Is this any different to how Cain and Abel were born?
3. One of the interesting things about Genesis 1-11 genealogies is how long people seem to live! Some people see this as a problem. Do you think the long lifespans are a problem? Why, or why not?

- Growth for Today:

- Back when the Bible was originally written, they didn't have chapter or verse numbers. Did you know that? Authors weren't stupid though - they knew that people needed help figuring out what they had been reading and where they were up to. When Moses wrote Genesis, he had a plan like this too. Check out Genesis

5:1. Then look at Genesis 2:4. Are there any similarities? Look at Genesis 6:9 as well. Today, take time to go through Genesis and see how many times Moses used these section headings - highlight them or underline them.

Wednesday

- Read Genesis 4:25-26; 5:6-8

- Think through the following questions:

1. Why does Eve name Seth the way she does?
2. Refresher from last week: why did people begin to call on the name of the LORD when Seth had Enosh?
3. Fast forward to Luke 3:23-38. Do you notice any similarities between the genealogy in Genesis 5 and Luke's genealogy to Jesus? Based on this, does Genesis 5 have a special place in the Bible?

- Growth for Today:

- We've looked at Seth a couple of times these last two weeks. His name means "granted" or "given." The reason this matters is that Adam and Eve acknowledge that God is the giver - the one who gives us all good things. They named Seth because they recognised that he was given by God. How about us? How do we show gratitude to God? Take five minutes today, a blank piece of paper and a pen, and write a list of everything God has done for you. He has forgiven you. He has defeated death. He created you. He is the reason you can breathe right now. And that's not to mention so many other things - living in Australia, having family and friends, having access to God's word in your own language! Thank you God.

Thursday

- Read Genesis 5:9-31

- Think through the following questions:

1. We move pretty quickly through the genealogy here. Can you see a pattern in the genealogy?
2. What is special about Enoch?
3. Read Hebrews 11:5-6. How is Enoch an example for followers of Jesus today?

- Growth for Today:

- A teacher, Ms. Beleaf, knows you're a Christian and asks you "Isn't faith just believing even if scientific evidence points in the other direction?" How would you respond to Ms. Beleaf?

Friday

- Read Genesis 6:1-7

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does God see in the hearts of people?
2. How does God limit the sinfulness of humanity?
3. There's some weird stuff going on in verses 1-4. What do you think is going on there? (for the record, Nephilim is a historical people group - see Numbers 13:33)

- Growth for Today:

- We underestimate how bad our hearts really are. Some people would say "people are basically good." Others would say "we're alright (morally neutral) - we have to choose what kind of person we want to be." But this isn't how God sees it. "... every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time." And this grieves God - he cares about our sin. Our problem is a very deep, heart problem. What does this mean about God judging us - do we deserve judgement? Do we deserve to be saved?

Saturday

- Read Genesis 5:28-32; 6:8

- Think through the following questions:

1. Why is Noah named the way he is by Lamech, his dad?
2. When did God curse the ground? (Look back at Genesis 3)
3. How do you think Noah found favour in the eyes of the LORD? (hint: he's a normal guy and in Genesis 6:5, we've seen that all people have evil thoughts in their hearts)

- Growth for Today:

- Like Noah, those who trust God receive God's favour! We are approved by God. Psalm 84 is written by someone who describes what it's like to receive God's favour. Read through it. Pray it aloud. Do you trust God? If you do, then you too are favoured by God. Read through this Psalm slowly, soaking in it. Read through it again.

Sunday

- Church - Passage covered: _____

- What was the sermon about?: _____

- What do I need to change? _____

Week 4

Monday

- Read Genesis 6:5-22

- Think through the following questions:

1. Why does God grieve over his creation?
2. What makes Noah different?
3. v18 has an interesting word in it - *covenant*. Where else in the Bible have you heard the word *covenant*?

- Growth for Today:

- What came first - the chicken or the egg? That timeless question can relate to an important matter when it comes to our faith. What comes first - God's grace, or our life of response, living righteous lives? In Genesis 6:8-9 (and Hebrews 11:7), we are given no chance of making a mistake: God's grace (or favour) comes first. Noah lived a life of righteousness, walking faithfully with God (similar to Enoch in Genesis 5). But we're only told that after we've been told that "Noah found favour in the eyes of the LORD." This is a very important thing for Christians to get. Do you believe that you are saved by God because of his favour/grace? Or do you think you need to get your life right first? The Bible only gives us one way of being right with God. Take some time to thank God for his grace.

Tuesday

- Read Genesis 7:1-24

- Think through the following questions:

1. How many pairs of every kind of animal did Noah take with him onto the Ark? (Hint: one pair isn't the full answer!)
2. We saw in Genesis 1 that God's word is powerful to create. How do we see the power of God's word in Genesis 7?
3. How many years passed between Noah starting to build the Ark and when the flood came? (Hint: You'll have to read some of the bigger context of Genesis 5-9 to get this)

- Growth for Today:

- Let's face it: Jesus has been away for quite a long time! There are people who suggest that if Christians were really right, and Jesus really was God, then Jesus would have come back by now. How helpful for us to read Genesis 7! Jesus refers back to this time as "the days of Noah" in Matthew 24:36-42, when He's talking about when he will come back. Read this passage, and think through: what does

Jesus say it will be like waiting for him to return? What is going to happen in the days leading up to his return? Based on this, do you think we can relate to Noah as we wait for Jesus to return?

Wednesday

- Read Genesis 8:1-14

- Think through the following questions:

1. In v1, what do you think it means when it says “God remembered Noah...”? Did God forget about Noah up in the Ark? Or does remember mean something different?
2. How did Noah test whether the ground was ready to walk on yet?
3. Another NT reference to Noah’s story! This time, check out 1 Peter 3:18-22. How does Peter say our salvation is similar to Noah’s family being saved by God? (This is a tricky passage, and we’ll spend more time on it when we read 1 Peter!)

- Growth for Today:

- A friendly girl who visits youth one week, Jen Talley, explains that she doesn’t believe that God will judge people. “He’s a friendly God - he’ll deal with us gently.” How would you respond to Jen? What has she got right? What has she got wrong? How does Genesis’ account of Noah remind us that God takes sin seriously?

Thursday

- Read Genesis 8:15-22

- Think through the following questions:

1. In v17, God says for the animals and families to “multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it.” Where else has this come up so far in Genesis? What does this tell you about what God has done with Noah’s family?
2. What is Noah’s first thing that he does when he has come out of the Ark? Why does he do this? (Hint: has anything changed in the heart of humanity?)
3. What does God promise to do?

- Growth for Today:

- There are lots of different kinds of sacrifices made to God! The important thing for us to know today is that Christians are called to be a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2), which means we live for God, not ourselves. God doesn’t want animals or birds to be sacrificed; he wants our lives to be living sacrifices. The tricky thing about living sacrifices is that they keep on trying to live - they keep on trying to crawl off the altar. So, time for some self-reflection: what would it look like for you

to be a living sacrifice in your life? What would it mean for who you do or don't socialise with? What you wear? What you choose to spend money on? How you speak to friends, parents, siblings? How you spend your time? How can we be living sacrifices today? Not because it will save us - Noah was already saved when he offered his sacrifice! In response to God's salvation, what could we ever hold back from him? He has done so much for us!

Friday

- Read Genesis 9:1-17

- Think through the following questions:

1. What changes about the eating habits of humanity in Genesis 9?
2. What commands does God give Noah's family? Have these appeared anywhere else in Genesis so far?
3. What was God's covenant with Noah's family and all the living creatures on earth? What proof/sign did God make of this covenant?

- Growth for Today:

- One more NT reference to think about Noah's story. Turn to 2 Peter 3:1-13 (nearly the whole chapter). What similarities are there between God's judgement in Noah's time, and the judgement that will come at the end when Jesus returns? What differences are there? What does Peter call for Christians to do as they wait for Jesus to return? Give thanks to God for our time seeing how God saved Noah's family through the flood.

Saturday

- Read Genesis 9:18-28

- Think through the following questions:

1. Back in 8:21, what did God say hadn't changed even though the flood came and wiped out nearly all of humanity?
2. Noah getting drunk isn't the worst thing that happens in this story (although nothing good seems to happen when people get drunk on alcohol in the Bible). Instead, Ham's actions are far more serious. It's not just him laughing at his dad being naked. He does something far more sinister, which is a reminder that humanity hasn't changed at all. Based on this, what's the difference between his actions and his brothers'?
3. How does the pattern we saw back in Genesis 5 come up again here in Genesis 9?

- Growth for Today:

- There are heaps of things we should be thankful for about the Bible. We have it in our own language (and heaps of different translations at that!). We have good evidence for it being historically accurate. It's God's living word, which can transform us to look more like Jesus and make us wise for salvation (2 Timothy 3:14-17). And one more thing to add - God's word is *real* about humans and about our sinfulness. Have you ever thought about it like that? God knows exactly what people are like. As followers of Jesus, we have good reasons to be sad when people sin - ourselves included. But it means we are also real about what the problem is that all people are facing. People *need* salvation from sin. If we don't admit that problem, we're only kidding ourselves. And for many of our friends and families and neighbours, they don't realise their need for salvation! Pray for a not yet Christian friend or family member to come to know their need for salvation from sin.

Sunday

- Church - Passage covered: _____

- What was the sermon about?: _____

_____.

- What do I need to change? _____

_____.

Week 5

Monday

- Read Genesis 10:1-20

- Think through the following questions:

1. Look back at Genesis 9:24-27. How does Noah bless and curse his sons?
2. How do we see God spreading out Japheth's family as they grow?
3. Look at the families that come from Ham's line - all the nations. Thinking about the Bible as a whole, do any of these cities or nations come up again later? How do they relate to God's chosen people? (Hint: look at some of the following list of passages: Exodus 1:8-14; Judges 3:5-6; 1 Samuel 4:1-11; 2 Kings 17:1-6; 2 Kings 24:1-2)

- Growth for Today:

- This genealogy of Japheth's and Ham's families (who became the nations all around the world) shows us something important in the Bible: God cares about people from *everywhere*. This genealogy appears another time (1 Chronicles 1:1-27) in the Bible just to emphasise that God cares about all the nations in the world. Read through Isaiah 19:18-25. How does God say he plans to bless the nations? God cares about the nations of the world coming to know him. Do we share God's concern? Take some time today to pray for another nation. A couple of helpful resources for praying for other nations include *Operation World* and *Open Doors* (both online). Check them out to help you pray for another country specifically.

Tuesday

- Read Genesis 10:21-32

- Think through the following questions:

1. Look again at Noah's blessing and curse back in Genesis 9:24-27. How did Noah respond to Shem? What should we expect from Shem's family line?
2. What position does Shem have in the family? Is he oldest, middle, or youngest? Does this matter?
3. What phrase is repeated for each of the three family lines - Japheth, Ham and Shem?

- Growth for Today:

- Keeping up with the growing nations of the world, it's worthwhile noting that we haven't yet seen which nations come from Shem's line (more on that later!). Today, pray for our country - Australia. You might like to go to the *Operation*

World page on Australia and see some important points to pray through. Pray that Australia will come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Pray for our Government. Pray for our schools and judges, police and doctors, garbage collectors and bus drivers, teachers and job-seekers. Pray that God will help Australia's most needy people. Pray for healing with Indigenous peoples, and that God's word can be taken into all parts of Australia.

Wednesday

- Read Genesis 11:1-4

- Think through the following questions:

1. The events of Genesis 11 happen sometime during Genesis 10. Can you see any clues or links between the two chapters?
2. What was built on the plain in Shinar? (Hint: look at Genesis 10:10 and Daniel 1:2)
3. What did people want to achieve (aside from building a big tower)?

- Growth for Today:

- A Year 12 boy at school, Archie Tehkt, is interviewed during assembly one day and asked what he wants to do with his life. He says, "I want to be a great builder - to make amazing skyscrapers and beautiful bridges and breath-taking opera houses. I want to be remembered as the greatest architect that ever lived." What would you say Archie is living for? How much does Archie take God into consideration as he makes his plans for life (or, put another way, who does Archie want to see given worship in his life)?

Thursday

- Read Genesis 11:5-9

- Think through the following questions:

1. The people were trying to build a tower that reaches to the heavens. Based on what God does in v5, how successful were they in reaching the heavens with their building?
2. How does God see the actions that people are taking to build a tower?
3. Look back at Genesis 1:28 and 9:1. What was God's exact command to people? How were people going at keeping this command? Whose purpose wins out - God's purpose, or humanity's?

- Growth for Today:

- “Nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.” This is a bit of a weird thing for God to say, isn’t it? Here’s something that sounds very similar, by H. G. Wells (author of “War of the Worlds”) - “Can we doubt that presently our race will more than realise our boldest imaginations, that it will achieve unity and peace, and that our children will live in a world made more splendid and lovely than any palace or garden that we know, going from strength to strength in an ever-widening circle of achievement? What man has done, the little triumphs of his present state ... form but the prelude to the things that man has yet to do.” But God isn’t opposed to people making cool buildings or artwork or music. There is something else going on here. Nothing we plan to do will be impossible for us. What humanity was trying to do at Babel was to build a temple for ourselves. To say “Humanity, and not God, is in heaven. Humanity, and not God, are worthy of all glory, honour and power.” This is the greatest act of sin to date in Genesis - it’s Eve and Adam taking the fruit and eating it on steroids! If God left humanity to our own purposes, we would all be doomed. We would continue to pursue *sin*. No *sin* we ever planned to do would be impossible. But God doesn’t leave us to our own devices; he intervened! How does this attitude we’ve seen in Genesis 11 reflect what Australia is like today?

Friday

- Read Genesis 11:10-26

- Think through the following questions:

1. Think back to Genesis 10:21-32. Are there any similarities between Shem’s family there and the genealogy in Genesis 11:10-26? What are the differences?
2. The last time we looked at a Genealogy in Genesis (Genesis 5), almost every lined ended with “and then he died.” Why do you think this genealogy doesn’t have the same endings?
3. Is there anything special about Terah’s family? (v26)?

- Growth for Today:

- God’s response to humanity’s rebellion in trying to build Babel wasn’t just to scatter us. God’s plan has always been to unite all peoples of the world *under him*. And so Genesis 11:10-26 isn’t just picking up where Genesis 10:32 left off; it’s actually a key part of how God is responding to Babel. He has hatched his plan to *truly* unite all humanity as we were meant to be united: *under him*. Read Acts 1:8 and 2:1-12. How does God reverse his division of humanity at Babel? Following through this genealogy Noah—>Shem—>Peleg—>Terah—>Abram—> Jesus (with

quite a few names in between!). Today, pray for our church. Pray that God will help to unite us because of Jesus, not because of skin colour or sporting interests or passion for barista made coffee. Pray that all people will feel welcomed to be a part of our church. Pray that we will be welcoming and loving to one another.

Saturday

- Read Genesis 11:27-32

- Think through the following questions:

1. Did you notice the “chapter marker” in v27? When Genesis was originally written, they didn’t use numbers or chapter headings like we have in our Bibles. Moses used phrases like “This is the account of ...” or “These are the generations of...” to be his chapter headings. Where else have we seen this so far in Genesis?
2. Who was Abram (Abraham - his name will change later in Genesis) married to? What was the problem for them?
3. Where did Terah go to take his family? How far did they get?

- Growth for Today:

- There’s more going on behind the scenes in these six verses than we can see in Genesis. Flick ahead in your Bibles to Acts 7:2-8. Stephen, one of the earliest followers of Jesus, is giving a speech to the Jewish leaders as he defends belief in Jesus. He starts with an abridged history lesson (saying in six verses what Moses spent 38 chapters in Genesis to say!). When did Abram first meet God? Based on this, who is really behind Terah and the family moving to Haran? God is in control over the big things all over the world, and over the little things, like where our families live. Take time to thank God for where you live, and pray that God will use you to care for your neighbours and to share his love through Jesus with them.

Sunday

- Church - Passage covered: _____

- What was the sermon about?: _____

_____.

- What do I need to change? _____

_____.

Week 6

Monday

- Read Genesis 11:27-32

- Think through the following questions:

1. In v27 we read that this is the account of Terah's family line (or these are the generations of Terah). Where else have we seen this in Genesis so far? What does it mean?
2. Where did Terah and his family live? Where did they move to? (check out Joshua 24:2-4 for more info).
3. What was the problem that Abram and Sarai had?

- Growth for Today:

- What's going on behind the scenes? Abram's family seem to make a random decision to move to Canaan, but en route decide to stay in Haran. But just moments later, in 12:1, God calls Abram once more to move into Canaan. We get a better picture in Acts 7:2-5, during a speech made by Stephen (one of the earliest followers of Jesus). How might there be more going on than we can see in our lives under God? Pray today, and ask God to help you trust that he is in control, even in the normal things in life.

Tuesday

- Read Genesis 12:1-3

- Think through the following questions:

1. What did the LORD call Abram to do?
2. What does God promise to do for Abram?
3. What does God promise to do for all the world through Abram?

- Growth for Today:

- Just back in Genesis 10-11, we saw how God caused the nations to spread out through Noah's sons. And here, we see that God has a heart for all the nations on earth - he plans to use Abram to be a blessing to the nations. God has a heart for the nations to be blessed in his chosen people. Just read Revelation 9:7 - God's plan is that one day there will be people from every language group around the world praising him! Choose a country today around the world - check it out on operationworld.org, and pray for that country to be blessed in God's people. Pray that this country will be blessed through coming to know Jesus.

Wednesday

- Read Genesis 12:4-9

- Think through the following questions:

1. How long did Abram wait to obey God's command in v1?
2. What promise does God make to Abram in these verses?
3. How does Abram respond to God's promises?

- Growth for Today:

- One of the key parts of the Christian life is *faith*. How would you define faith? The author of Hebrews defines it as "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1). In other words, faith is trust in action. And regularly throughout the Bible, Abram is held up as the example of faith. Check out Hebrews 11:8-10. What did it mean for Abram to have faith in God? And how about for us? How are we like Abram today? Where is our hope? Spend time thinking about this today, and asking God to help you grow in your faith.

Thursday

- Read Genesis 12:10-20

- Think through the following questions:

1. Why do Abram and Sarai go to Egypt?
2. What is Abram worried about when they go to Egypt? How does he respond because he is worried?
3. What did God command Abram to do (see 12:1-9)? Is Abram trusting God actively? How does God respond to Abram?

- Growth for Today:

- A teacher at school, Ms Taychen, says that she isn't a very good Christian. "My faith isn't strong enough to believe in that God when times get hard; it's just not easy for me. I wish I had your faith." What would you say in response? Looking at Abram, did God's work for him depend on Abram's faith?

Friday

- Read Genesis 13:1-13

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where did Abram and his family move to next?
2. What problem faces Abram's family now?
3. What decision does Lot make? What's the problem with him leaving Abram?

- Growth for Today:

- Let's continue thinking through faith. As we saw in Hebrews, the author of Hebrews defines faith as "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1). Based on this definition, who showed more faith in this passage - Lot, or Abram? And how about for you today? If faith is being certain of what we don't see - if it's about trusting the promise of God - how is it hard to have faith? What helps us to grow in our faith is to be reminded of the promises that God has made to us - to remember them and to trust God's character as a good God who delivers on his promises. So for you today: what can you do to know and trust God's promises more?

Saturday

- Read Genesis 13:14-18

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does God promise to give to Abram?
2. How does Abram know he can trust God right now? Does he have any children?
3. How does Abram respond to God's promises?

- Growth for Today:

- What evidence do we have today that the promises that God makes to us will come true? There are some pretty important parts of the Bible that point out evidence that God will keep his promises for Christians. Read Ephesians 1:3-14, and think: what evidence has God given to Christians that we will be with Him forever? Thank God that he gives us promises *and* gives evidence to help us trust.

Sunday

- Church - Passage covered: _____

- What was the sermon about?: _____

_____.

- What do I need to change? _____

_____.

