

# ...a note of introduction

**Genesis:** *alpha, birth, commencement, dawn, dawning, engendering, formation, generation, inception, opening, origin, outset, propagation, provenance, provenience, root, source, start, beginning, birth, commencement, conception, creation, discovery, innovation, introduction, launch, source, start, starting point.* (Thesaurus.com)

The above words are descriptive of the events of Genesis. These words also continue to chronicle the stages and growth of God's relationship with man from Genesis to John's Revelation. You see, Genesis is just the first chapter of an eternal love story between the Creator and his beloved creation. It's the opening scene in the drama of God setting His *God-breathed* creation on a path that will lead to him.

Genesis launches the master plan for man: a comprehensive plan that is positive, hopeful, and full of blessing. God's relationship with man originates when man is created in a physical form and placed in the garden. God creates man to begin their relationship with flesh and blood, walking and talking with him in the garden. But as Genesis progresses, it becomes clear that God's purpose for man is more elaborate and profound than being bound in a physical body. Genesis is the germinating seed for man's *designed* transformation through Christ so that the created physical body can be resurrected into a spiritual body, fit and adapted to live with God forever (I Corinthians 15:46-47). When God created the garden and put man in it, he set the stage for man to live with him eternally.

In this study we will refrain from allowing the events in Genesis 3, the account of the *fall of man* and ensuing consequences, define the scope of Genesis, for Genesis is much more than the historical account of man's devastating choice. Genesis is the dawning of hope and mercy and grace and love that God, the Almighty Creator, desires to bestow on man, who is created in *His Own Image*. Genesis is the beginning account of a glorious revelation about the *Creator, his desire to be chosen and loved by man, and his promise of eternal blessing for those who exalt him.*

Genesis provides a vivid illustration of how a relationship with God is birthed, nurtured and matured through a journey of trust, respect, obedience, and submission to his sovereignty. In this first volume Faith Pioneers, such as Noah and Abraham, will mentor bringing God glory, honor and praise on earth. In spite of the pitfalls of sin, the ruggedness of life on earth, the daily distractions, and the temptation to live for self instead of living in submission to God they will do God's will without total understanding.

As you begin this study we hope you will resolve to embark on an intimate journey of growing acquaintance and bonding with the God who created you with purpose for spiritual prosperity... "*for I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV). May the study of Genesis introduce you to more discoveries of the Creator who delights in the birth of new creations (II Corinthians 5:16-21; Galatians 6:15).

*Connie Barker and Karla Taylor*

# 1. The Blueprint

Lesson Text:  
Genesis 1:1-2



"History builds identity."

Roshan Santami, American Musician

In my house sits a very old table and buffet. It belonged to my husband's grandparents. This set was part of the first pieces of furniture they bought when they were married. My husband remembers sitting at the table when he was a young boy. As a child my mother-in-law ate supper at this table and pulled dishes out of the buffet. When I pull a chair up to the table I am sitting down at a tangible piece of our family history. When I pull my dishes out of the buffet I am part of a long line of Taylor women who have been hospitable. This table and buffet help build my identity - who I am and who I want to be. They tie me to the past and give me courage to face the future.

For a Christian, a beloved child of the one true God, Genesis serves the exact same purpose. When I read the creation account and think about what God created for me from the very beginning, I stand in awe. He created *this entire world* for me! He made plans from the beginning - plans to give me a place to live, plans to communicate with me, plans for me to prosper, plans for me to have work to do, plans for me to come home to live with Him eternally. When I carefully read and meditate on the words at the start of Genesis I know so much about who I am and who God wants me to be.

1. List the words used in Genesis 1:2 to describe the world and give a description (in your words) of the state of the world.
2. Whose presence was over the waters (Genesis 1:2; John 1:1-5)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. A. Why are blueprints essential before building a house?  
B. Why is it important to look at a map before starting out on a road trip?  
C. What purpose does a pattern server before sewing a quilt?
3. Read and meditate on Ephesians 1:4-10 and Colossians 1:15-20. Describe the blueprint/map/pattern the Creator had that would change the world from the state in which it existed in Genesis 1:2.
4. Genesis 1:1 says "In the beginning God...". The beginning of what?
5. Describe the relationship the Creator has with darkness (John 8:12; John 12:25-26; I John 1:5-7)?
6. Is it possible to "walk in the light" but still have dark corners in your life? How?
7. Review Genesis 1:1-2, the additional scriptures listed in the above questions and your answers. What does all of that have to do with you?

# 2. The Process of Creation

Lesson Text:  
Genesis 1:3—2:7



1. A. State the task performed by God in Genesis 1:3?  
  
B. According to the blueprint/map/pattern (Lesson 1), what was significant about this task? *Note: The sun was not created until Genesis 1:14.*

2. When you read the six days of creation what do you find most astounding?

3. Describe mankind's creation "in the image of God" in each of these dimensions (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

| <b>Relational</b> | <b>Spiritual</b> | <b>Physical</b> |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                   |                  |                 |

4. A. How does Job 32:8 and Ecclesiastes 12:7 shed light on mankind's creation?

B. When you get up tomorrow morning what decisions will you make to honor God's breath within you?

5. A. Describe the creation process for...  
....days 1-6.

....man.

B. Why were they different?

I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him. -Ecclesiastes 3:14

# 3. What to Do?

Lesson Text:  
Genesis 2:8—2:25



1. A. Outline the job description in Genesis 1:28 that God gave to man.

B. How is that job description evident in the following passages?

Genesis 9:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 11:1-9 \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 12:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 16:15-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 8:1, 4 \_\_\_\_\_

C. What are some ways you fulfill the job description God gave man?

2. A. After God created man He put him in a \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Ponder these questions and write a response. What is unique about a garden? Why are gardens created? What is the purpose of a garden?

C. What were the advantages of living in the garden...  
...for man?

....for God?

3. How has God planted a garden for us today?

4. A. What was GOD's purpose for man to view all of creation before declaring there was not a suitable helper to be found for him?

B. Why do you think woman was formed from man and not from the dust?

### *Think About It*

GOD's instructions to man have not changed since the beginning: He gave the same instructions to Noah after leaving the ark; He gave the same instructions to man as he moved eastward after the flood; these same instructions were echoed to Abraham and his descendants in the ages that followed. We are expected to heed these instructions just as GOD expected Adam, Noah, Abraham and all those who came after to obey. Jesus issued these instructions to us in Matthew 28:18-20: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

