



## WEEK 1: STARTING THE JOURNEY

Route for this week:

1. Getting Your Bearings: The Beginning
2. The Accounts of Creation (Genesis 1:1–2:25)
3. The Man and Woman Sin (Genesis 3:1-24)
4. The Flood Covers the Earth (Genesis 7:1-8:22)
5. The Lord’s Covenant Promise to Abram (Genesis 15:1-21)
6. A Son is Promised to Sarah (Genesis 17:1-18:15; 21:1-7)
7. Jacob Wrestles with God (Genesis 32:22-32)

## SUMMARY

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and he created humans in his own image to be in relationship with him as they live in the beautiful and complex universe he fashioned. Quickly, however, the humans violated the relationship with their Maker by sinning against him. As a result, death and decay permeate creation. But God continues to love and cherish his creation, and so he unveils a plan to make himself known among sinful humanity through covenant relationships. Through Noah, he promises that the earth will remain fruitful and he will not destroy us for our wickedness. Through Abram, he promises to fill the earth with people who are marked out as belonging to God and to bless all the families on earth through Abram’s family. God is true to his word, and Abram’s family begins to prosper and grow—physically and spiritually—as they engage with God and the things he is calling them to.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. “Before the beginning there is only God. The story of Creation is a story about God, what he does, and how he interacts with his creation.” Read Genesis 1:24–2:3 again as a story primarily about God. What do you learn about him?
2. Sin warps everything about the way creation relates to the Creator. Take a look at these pairs of passages from before and after sin entered the world. How has sin changed things between God and creation?

Genesis 2:15-17 → Genesis 3:1-6, 22-24

Genesis 2:25 → Genesis 3:7, 21

Genesis 2:18-20 → Genesis 3:8-13

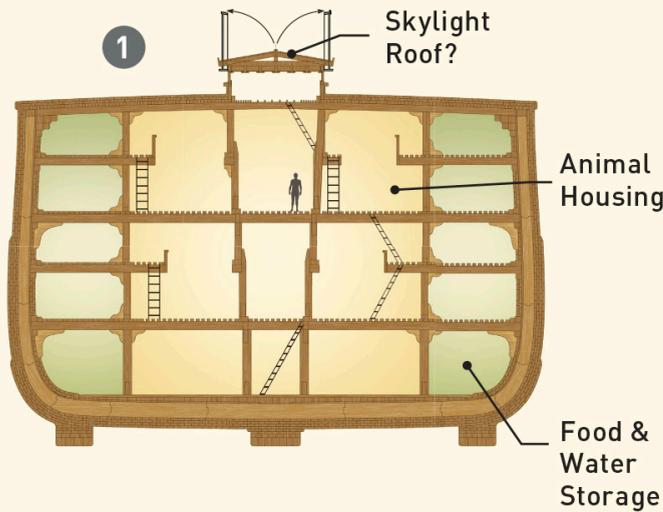
Genesis 2:21-24 → Genesis 3:14-19

3. Because of sin, we experience both God’s judgment and God’s grace. Where do you see God’s judgment and grace in Noah’s story?
4. God chose to make covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as the patriarchs of his people; God’s representatives on earth. Yet these men were deeply flawed: lying, cheating, and deceit are common threads in their stories. Why do you think God recorded their sins in Scripture? What does this tell you about God’s relationship with his people?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How has sin shaped your relationship with God, with others, and with Creation? How has God’s grace empowered you to respond and reshape those relationships?
2. What have you been waiting for from God? What do the stories of Abraham and Jacob tell you about God’s purposes?





**NOAH'S ARK**

1 Cross-section view of the ark featuring lower, middle, and upper decks referenced in Genesis 6:16.

2 A possible design of the ark using the proportions in Genesis 6:15, featuring ramps to help to get animals between decks and a large stern extension seen on the earliest large ships of the Mediterranean.

3 Diagram showing how Noah's ark would compare to other large ships.



Gen 6:14-16

