

Why do a Genesis Study?

After completing the Disciple 1 Bible Study last year, I looked at some possible next steps. The Disciple 2 Bible Study was a deeper dive into Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Acts. That was appealing for several reasons:

- It combined Old and New Testament books that were gateways to their section of the Bible. The books had a natural affinity in that the stories of Genesis and Exodus and Luke and Acts are linked.
- After doing a long summary Bible Study a more detailed study was appealing.

When I looked closer at Disciple 2, it looked rushed, maybe that's a side effect of just finishing Disciple 1, but I wanted to have a slower, less hurried pace. So that's why I began to build this Genesis Study. I hope to follow Genesis with Exodus and hopefully, at some point, move on to Luke and Acts, but we'll go slowly, at our own pace.

Going deeper into Genesis gives us an excellent opportunity to use multiple sources. In my studies, two Old Testament books have stood out. "Epic in Eden" by Susan Richter and "Covenant and Conversation" by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. I discovered another book, "How to Read Genesis" by Temper Longman. This book offered some great insight into the context of Genesis. It could be combined with some archeological resources to give us a great start.

There is no real way to cover every question or issue in the book of Genesis during a 15-week study. My hope is that starting with a basic understanding of Genesis, we can explore three different perspectives; A theological historical perspective, a Jewish perspective, and a Christian perspective and leave with a much better understanding of what the author and God are saying to us.

I wanted to have some flexibility in this study, so I've built in an extra week every month with nothing planned. We can take a break, push ahead, or have a week to discuss what we've read. I also plan to record all the sessions, so missing a week here and there is not a huge issue.

Why do a Genesis Study? (cont.)

There are no required videos, but Temper and Susan have some excellent videos on YouTube, and I'll give you the links as we get started.

We'll use three books, and that's about \$60, depending on hardcover, paperback, or Kindle editions. If cost is an issue, let me know. I think church and/or libraries might have some of these, and I have some other tricks.

I had not planned on doing an intro or orientation session, but I can do a Zoom call if there is some demand. Please let me know if you want an intro call.

All the online sessions will be on "Zoom." I know that is an issue for some folks with Federal or Company laptops. Again, I'll have the sessions recorded, and you can view the meeting at your convenience through my Dropbox account.

The online discussions will be handled through a private Facebook group. I'll use Fb to post the recording links, do some Q&A, and have a few group discussions. That seemed to work well during Disciple 1, and it gives us some ability to get to know each other better.

Currently, I'm planning to do the weekly calls on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM CST. If that time is an issue, let me know.

Feel free to invite others. Guntersville First United Methodist is offering it to their members, but it's not limited to church members. We have others from Tennessee and Alabama that are interested and will hopefully join in.

I'm looking forward to starting on February 4, 2021

Steve

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