



I N T H E B E G I N N I N G

W E E K 6 D E V O T I O N A L : H O P E

# DAY 1

## T H E G A R D E N

*"Even so, not what I want, but what You want."*

MARK 14:36b

R E A D M A R K 1 4 : 3 2 - 5 0

### Q U E S T I O N S

1) Remember that the location of this passage is sometimes called the "Garden of Gethsemane." What is Jesus doing at the beginning of this passage? What event occurs toward the end of the passage? What is Jesus about to do in the next few hours? Why is it necessary?

2) Draw a connection between Mark 14 and Genesis 3. Do you see a connection between what started in the Garden of Eden and what is now occurring in the Garden of Gethsemane? How does the latter fulfill the former?

3) Read John 20:11-18

a) Who does Mary Magdalene mistake Jesus to be?  
(Verse 15)

b) Do you see a connection between John 20 and Genesis 3? Are you surprised that Jesus is a gardener? (Garden of Eden, Garden of Gethsemane, Gardener at the tomb)

c) God, who created the world and created man in the Garden of Eden, now lays the foundation for a new creation, a new way through Christ, the gardener.

## DAY 2

# SCRIPTURE SUMMARY

*All Scripture is God-breathed...*

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

## NEW LIFE IN A NEW WORLD

As Chapter 4 begins, Adam and Eve are outside the garden, but with God's grace, new life emerges even outside the garden. "Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.... Later she gave birth to his brother Abel" (Genesis 4:1,2). The writer emphasizes the significance of this first birth outside the garden by using repetition. "She became pregnant and gave birth to" seems redundant. The writer could have simply said "she gave birth to" but the "doubling" is another example of emphasis. This time, it is an emphasis of hope. Even outside the Garden, Adam and Eve are able to fulfill God's command to be fruitful and multiply.

We are given another promise of hope in the clues that suggest Eve has learned from her mistake in the garden. Eve no longer sees herself as autonomous and independent but recognizes that it was because of "the help of the Lord" (Genesis 4:1) that she was able to bring forth a man. The context of Eve's statement suggests that Eve recognizes that the birth was a result of divine-human cooperation. Even today, with detailed knowledge about the prenatal process and 4D ultrasounds that allow us to "see" a baby develop in the womb, many women marvel at the miracle taking place in their bodies and recognize that God is the one who breathes life into the developing fetus.

It may seem odd to us that Eve proclaims, "I have produced a MAN!" (Genesis 4:1). She makes it seem like Cain was born fully grown! Whenever you notice something "odd" in Scripture it is a clue to dig deeper to look for "buried treasure." In this case, the buried treasure might be found in Genesis 2:23. The Hebrew word for man is "is." In Genesis 2:23 Adam states that woman (issah) is produced from man (is). Just as God partnered with Adam (is) to create a woman (issah), now God partners with Eve (issah) to create a man (is) (Genesis 4:1). Even outside the garden God is still partnering with the humans to create life and just as Adam delighted in God's creation of Eve from his body, Eve delights in God's creation of Cain from her body.

The beginning of Genesis 4 makes it clear that Eve's relationship with God has been fractured, but not broken. Eve is the first human who uses the name "LORD" for God. The word she uses is Yahweh (or Jehovah), the special name for God used by God's chosen people. It is extraordinary that in this culture a woman is the first person to utter this word in the Scriptures and is one of the many examples of how God gives a special place to the least expected.

## M O R E   T H A N   W E   C O U L D   H O P E   F O R

In Genesis, God's story begins in a garden, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the center (Genesis 2:9). God is portrayed as a Master Gardener who gets His hands dirty planting trees and forming man out of the dirt. But God is only getting started in Eden. The story will end in Revelation with a New Creation. In the New Creation, trees will not just bear fruit "in due season" as they did in Eden, but the tree of life will bear a crop of fruit every month (Revelation 22:2). And the leaves of the tree will bring healing (Revelation 22:2) for all the relationships that have been broken by sin. The new creation will not be inhabited by only 2 humans, but will be a city, filled with the people of God (Revelation 21:2). And the cherubim with flaming swords will no longer guard the way to the tree of life. "To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God." (Rev 2:7)

The Bible tells the story of what happens between Eden and this New Creation. It is a story of God's relentless love and passionate pursuit to spread His presence throughout the world. As Mark Sayers has written, "The most central truth to the creation account is that this world is a place for God's presence." (Reappearing Church P. 87.)

## Q U E S T I O N S

1) Where do you find hope in this week's reading?  
(Genesis 3:20-4:2)

2. How would you finish this sentence-- "With the help of the Lord, I have \_\_\_\_\_!"

3. Do you agree with Mark Sayer's statement that the creation account teaches us that this world is a place for God's presence? Where do you experience God's presence?

## DAY 3

# T H E W A Y

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life.  
No one can come to the Father except through me.*

JOHN 14:6b

R E A D J O H N 1 4 : 1 - 1 0

## Q U E S T I O N S

1) In Genesis 3, we read that Adam and Eve were banished from Eden. However, in John 14, Jesus speaks of a reunion with him. Who or what will create this reunion? (Verse 6)

2) What does Jesus mean when he says "I am the way, the truth, and the life?" How does Jesus fulfill each of these descriptors through his death and resurrection? (i.e. Jesus is the way because...)

3) Jesus speaks to being part of the Trinity in the second half of this passage. What does he mean when he says, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father"? (Verse 9)

4) How does believing in Jesus as being "the way" or "the truth" or "the life" change the way you look at your life, ministry, family, job, hobbies, friends, worldview?

5) What does this passage say about God's desire for us?

DAY 4

" T H E N E W I S H E R E "

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come"*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17a

R E A D 2 C O R I N T H I A N S 5 : 1 6 - 2 1

Q U E S T I O N S

1) What does it mean that there is a "new creation?" What does it mean that "the new is here?" What is "new?" (Verse 17)

2) When you hear that you are "new" and "reconciled," what effect does this have on you? How does (or should) this cause you to live your life differently?

DAY 5

A N E W H E A V E N  
A N D A N E W E A R T H

*"See! I am making all things new.  
Write, for these words are true and faithful."*

REVELATION 21:5b

R E A D R E V E L A T I O N 2 1 : 1 - 7

Q U E S T I O N S

- 1) As believers in Christ, what eternal hope do we have to look forward to?
- 2) What is your reaction to this passage? What verses most resonate with you?
- 3) Read verse 3. How is this a fitting ending to the story that starts in Genesis?
- 4) How will our new home be better than our current home? How will it be different from Eden?
- 5) How does knowing about a future home affect the way you live in your current home?



F O R G R O U P S

## Q U E S T I O N S

1) What connections between Genesis and the New Testament have impressed you during this study?

2) What impressed you about God as you read the Scripture passages?

3) The purpose of studying Scripture is to become more Christ-like. Are there any ways in which you feel like you have experienced transformation during the course of this study?

# A P P E N D I X

## T H E M E S   I N   G E N E S I S   1 - 3 A N D   R E V E L A T I O N   2 0 - 2 2

The creation of heaven and earth	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	The creation of the new heaven and earth	Revelation 21:1-5
The Eden Sanctuary, the river that flowed out of Eden, and the Tree of Life	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	The Sanctuary of the New Jerusalem, the river that flowed from the New Jerusalem, and the Tree of Life	Revelation 21:9-22:2
The bridegroom (Adam), the bride (Eve) and the wedding of Adam and Eve	Genesis 2:18-25	The Bride = the Church, and her Bridegroom = Christ; the wedding of the Lamb	Revelation 21:9-22:2
Satan and the woman, Eve	Genesis 3:1-13	Satan and "the Woman," the "new Eve"	Revelation 12:1-17
The curse	Genesis 3:14-19	The curse is abolished	Revelation 22:3
Death enters creation	Genesis 3:19	Death is destroyed	Revelation 20:14-15
The Redeemer is promised	Genesis 3:15	The victorious Redeemer reigns	Revelation 20:1-6; 21:22-27; 22:3-5

Adapted from [Agape Bible Study](#)

### Resources

*If you are interested in digging deeper, we recommend checking out these resources:*

Nancy Guthrie, *Even Better than Eden*, Crossway Publications, 2018

Marty Solomon and Brent Billings, *BEMA Podcast*

Tim Mackie and Jon Collins, *The Bible Project Podcast and Videos*

Kathleen O'Connor, *Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary*, Genesis 1-25A, 2018