

Israel's covenant history

Genesis

What is this book about?

- The book has two parts.
- Genesis 1 – 11 tells us something about the world in which we live.
 - It tells us that God made everything, including the first humans.
 - It tells us how God protected Noah and the animals in the ark.
- Genesis 12 – 50 tells us the story of the Israelites. The Israelites are God's chosen people.
 - It tells us about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Jacob's 12 sons.
 - It tells us how Joseph was taken to Egypt. And how his whole family came to live there.

Important to know

- The first three words of Genesis are, *In the beginning*. That's what the word Genesis means.
- The book is about the beginning of everything. And it shows us that everything began with God.
- It's about the beginning of the universe.
- It's about the beginning of the Lord's people.
- It tells us that God made us in his own image.

Important people in this book

- The first people, Adam and Eve, and their descendants.
- Noah and his family.
- Abram who became Abraham, and Sarai who became Sarah.
- Lot, Abraham's nephew.
- Isaac and Rebekah and their twins, Jacob and Esau.
- Jacob, his wives and their 12 sons and 1 daughter.
- Joseph, Potiphar and his wife, the baker, the wine taster and Pharaoh.



Genesis



The Beginning

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2**The earth didn't have any shape. And it was empty. There was darkness over the surface of the waves. At that time, the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. **4**God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. **5**God called the light "day". He called the darkness "night". There was evening, and there was morning. It was day one.

6God said, "Let there be a huge space between the waters. Let it separate water from water." **7**And that's exactly what happened. God made the huge space between the waters. He separated the water under the space from the water above it. **8**God called the huge space "sky". There was evening, and there was morning. It was day two.

9God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place. Let dry ground appear." And that's exactly what happened. **10**God called the dry ground "land". He called all the water that was gathered together "seas". And God saw that it was good.

11Then God said, "Let the land produce plants. Let them produce their own seeds. And let there be trees on the land that grow fruit with seeds in it. Let each kind of plant or tree have its own kind of seeds." And that's exactly what happened. **12**So the land produced plants. Each kind of plant had its own kind of seeds. And the land produced trees that grew fruit with seeds in it. Each kind of tree had its own kind of seeds. God saw that it was good. **13**There was evening, and there was morning. It was day three.

14God said, "Let there be lights in the huge space of the sky. Let them separate the day from the night. Let the lights set the times for the holy celebrations and the days and the years. **15**Let them be lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth." And that's exactly what happened. **16**God made two great lights. He made the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night. He also made the stars. **17**God put the lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth. **18**He put them there to rule over the day and the night. He put them there to separate light from darkness. God saw that it was good. **19**There was evening, and there was morning. It was day four.

Genesis 1:1

To create something means to make something new. It means to make something that didn't exist before. That is exactly what God did when he created the heavens and the earth. Genesis teaches us that God created everything in the universe.

The Bible doesn't tell us how God created everything. We learn that part in science class! The Bible teaches us the most important thing about the universe. That God made it.



Genesis 1



Get your group together and play **Joinme's** rapid fire game. Read Genesis 1 and make a list of everything that God made. Each person takes a turn to choose something on the list. For example, the sky. That person names everything they can think of that is found in the sky. They have one minute to do this. Choose someone to be the timekeeper and another to count the number of things mentioned. Write down the number next to the person's name. Work your way through the list of things that were written down.

Pray together and thank the Lord for the wonderful world he made.

²⁰ God said, "Let the seas be filled with living things. Let birds fly above the earth across the huge space of the sky." ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures. He created every kind of living thing that fills the seas and moves about in them. He created every kind of bird that flies. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them. He said, "Have little ones so that there will be many of you. Fill the water in the seas. Let there be more and more birds on the earth." ²³ There was evening, and there was morning. It was day five.

²⁴ God said, "Let the land produce every kind of living creature. Let there be livestock, and creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals." And that's exactly what happened. ²⁵ God made every kind of wild animal. He made every kind of livestock. He made every kind of creature that moves along the ground. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make human beings so that they are like us. Let them rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the livestock and all the wild animals. And let them rule over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created human beings in his own likeness.

He created them to be like himself.

He created them as male and female.

²⁸ God blessed them. He said to them, "Have children so that there will be many of you. Fill the earth and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Rule over every living creature that moves along the ground."

²⁹ Then God said, "I am giving you every plant on the face of the whole earth that produces its own seeds. I am giving you every tree that has fruit with seeds in it. All of them will be given to you for food. ³⁰ I am giving every green plant as food for all the land animals and for all the birds in the sky. I am also giving the plants to all the creatures that move along the ground. I am giving them to every living thing that breathes." And that's exactly what happened.

³¹ God saw everything he had made. And it was very good. There was evening, and there was morning. It was day six.

2 So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.

² By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing. So on that day he rested from all his work. ³ God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. He blessed it because on that day he rested from all the work he had done.

Adam and Eve

⁴ Here is the story of the heavens and the earth when they were created. The LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ At that time, bushes had not yet appeared on the earth. Plants had not started to grow. The LORD God had not sent rain on the earth. And there was no-one to farm the land. ⁶ But streams came from the earth. They watered the entire surface of the ground. ⁷ Then the LORD God formed a man. He made him out of the dust of the ground. God breathed the breath of life into him. And the man became a living person.

⁸ The LORD God had planted a garden in the east in Eden. He put in the garden the man he had formed. ⁹ The LORD God made every kind of tree grow out of the ground. The trees were pleasing to look at. Their fruit was good to eat. There were two trees in the middle of the garden. One of them had fruit that let people live for ever. The other had fruit that let people tell the difference between good and evil.

¹⁰ A river watered the garden. It flowed out of Eden. From there the river separated into four other rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first river is the Pishon. It winds through the whole land of Havilah. Gold is found there. ¹² The gold of that land is good. Onyx and

