

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commitment reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, Jan 23rd – Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

The journey has begun. If this will be your first time reading through the Bible, congratulations and know, God is smiling on your decision and will bless it. Today we will begin at the beginning. As we spoke about yesterday, this text is like a hymn of praise telling us how God brought all of creation into being. Today, read the whole text out-loud. Let the imagery form pictures in your head. Then come back to the questions for today. (Read text). Now, let's look at this story and consider what we know from science. In verse 1, what is the first thing we know about God? God must have existed before creation to create it. That makes God outside of creation. Does this verse tell you "how" he created it? So, it is not out of the realm of possibility that God used a big bang to make it happen. Now as we continue to read, how do things look in verse 2? There is water, void, lack of form and God whose spirit is hovering over the water. And then God does what in verse 3? God begins to bring order to this creation. He does so just by speaking it into creation. As you read on, you see a pattern and logic to creation. It is beautiful and majestic and awe-inspiring. God's crowning achievement is found in verse 26. Who is man like (vs. 26)? How did God create man (vs. 27)? Note male and female are created in the image of God. Not physical per se but spiritual image, capable of thought and choice. What role will male and female play (vss. 28-29)? What did God say about all this that was created (vs. 31)? When it was all done, what did God do (vs. 2:2)? He rested and enjoyed. Now pause again and let these last thoughts wash over you. God said it was not just good by VERY good. Does God sound disappointed? God rested on the 7th day. Even God took time to rest and enjoy. Do you? If we read this creation text, not as a scientific fact or a historical textbook recording, but as the majestic telling of what science is discovering, we then we can see science as a tool that reveals God's creation too. So, what will you thank God for today?

Tuesday, Jan 24th – Genesis 2:4 – 2:25

Today we move to the second creation story. Many Bibles add in section headers to describe the text that will follow. These are not part of the Bible per se but add-ins to help us understand. But if we did not have the section header telling us what we were going to read about, we would see a second creation. The reason we have 2 creations stories is because each story focuses on something different. Read the whole text before we study it. (Read text) In this creation story, what is the first thing that God created (vs. 4)? So, this matches 1:1. What is the next thing God created (vs. 7)? What does that tell us about the focus on this chapter? When did the man have life (vs. 7)? Next we have God planting the Garden of Eden and are given the location of the garden. Then man (Adam) is placed into the garden to tend to it (yep we were created to work from the beginning). After this we see the creation of animals, Adam (man) can name them. But a problem still exists. What is the problem (vs. 18)? How does God solve the problem (vss. 21-22)? At this point things are perfect. How do we know this (vss. 24-25)? Now we do have one rule that instituted in this creation. It is not the same as in the first creation. What is this rule (vss. 16-17)? Why does this rule exist? Is God setting them up? If God has created all of this out of love for us and wants us to love Him back, then there must be a choice involved. For love is a choice. So, if man loved God, he could have

everything but that one tree. Sounds fair, right? While this story shows creation just about opposite of the first creation story, its purpose is to teach us about ourselves and our relationship to the one who created us. What does this story tell you about you? How were you created? How are you complete? What does the perfect human union look like according to God? Do we get to change the stories? If you answer yes, how is that related to not eating from the tree? How does it negate the story of God's creation? Spend time throughout the day pondering God's actions in this story towards humanity and how we should respond to God.

Wednesday, Jan 25th – Genesis 3:1-7

Now we will read how the perfection of God was damaged by the sinful will of humanity, and it's not a pretty picture. So, who is the next addition to the story (vs. 1)? And what does the text tell about the serpent? Crafty means "*clever at achieving one's aims by indirect or deceitful methods.*" The serpent is not going to just come out and blurt out a lie. He is cunning and twists true words just enough to confuse Eve. What two things does he say that are not true (vss. 1 & 4)? How does the woman respond (vss. 2 & 6)? Who joined her in verse 6? What happens after they respond to the temptation (vs. 7)? Think about when you disobey God. How are you like Eve and Adam? How do you allow the evil one tempt you into disobedience? What lies to see as truth? How does knowing this help us to be more attentive to the fact we are being lied to? And how does knowing Scripture reveal to us our weaknesses, temptations and God's holiness? Being aware of how this works is the first step in eliminating sin from your life. It also points to why we need Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Spend some time today allowing the Spirit to convict you of times you are buying into the lie.

Thursday, Jan 26th – Genesis 3:8-19

So about how long did the man and woman get away with sin (vss. 8-11)? Notice how God knows exactly what happened. No fooling God. What happens next (vss. 12-13)? The man blames God and woman. The woman blames the serpent. The serpent is probably laughing, but that's not in the text. Well we all know sin has its consequences. What are the consequences for each guilty party (vss. 14-19)? Verse 19 is where Paul gets the wages of sin is death. From dust you came and to dust you will return. The promise that if you eat (sin) you will die. But it is not an immediate death as we will see tomorrow. Now consider some of the sins in your life? Be honest for God is going to be honest. Your impending death is because of your sin. We were created for much more, but now the only way to have what we were promised is if someone takes these curses from us. You see, "In the Beginning" God is pointing to why we need a savior. Who do you blame when you sin? God, your partner, the dog? One way to grow is to stop playing the blame game. Own your stuff and repent. You will be surprised what a game changer that is in your life here and now as well as when you turn to Jesus.

Friday, Jan 27th – Genesis 3:20-24

We close this week with final actions of God. Why do you think God doesn't want them to eat from the tree of life? Some people object or ignore this passage, but it speaks to who we are and explains much of what is coming. They are driven from the garden because of the tree of life. God told them they would die. But the tree of life still exists. Immortality, life with God forever is still an option. But under the circumstances, probably not a good idea to leave humanity alone on their word not to eat. So, they are driven from the garden and placed to work in the "real world" separated from eternal life with God. This seems like a sad

ending and it is. This is what sin does to us. It separates us from God. It also is what points to our need for Jesus. We can't be restored without him. Spend some time today thinking of what life might have been if this Adam and Eve had not sinned. Think about how your own sin separates you from God. What life might you have had? What life can you have now because you have Jesus? How can this encourage you to strive to not sin against God today? Pray repenting and receiving grace from God.

Saturday, Jan 21st – *To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read* **Genesis 4**