

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commitment to 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 30th – Genesis 4:1-12; Romans 6:1-12

This week we will look at the end of the creation stories and what happened outside the Garden of Eden. There are several items we need to consider, if this text is to have any meaning for us. First, what did each brother bring as an offering to God (vss. 3-4a)? How did God respond (vss. 4b-5)? What is the difference between the two offerings? Why do you think Abel's was accepted and Cain's rejected? As you read verses 6-7, what does God point out to Cain about his offering (vs. 6)? This is grace, God offering the opportunity to fix it. But in the end Cain has a choice. What will be the results of the choice? In verses 8-12 we see the choice that Cain made. What was the result of this decision? On Sunday, the point was made that while God said we would surely die, notice God did not "kill" anyone. The first death comes at the hands of humanity. God does not kill. Human sin is what leads to our deaths. What does this text reveal to you about God? What does this text reveal to you about humans? How does this explain much of what happens in the world? Read what Paul says about believers and sin. How does this tie into what God told Cain? Do you see the consistency in the word? Spend time in prayer asking God to show you where you sin and then repent and receive God's forgiveness and grace. Also, pray asking God's Holy Spirit to work in the church and in the world bringing about real changes in our lives.

Tuesday, Jan 31st – Genesis 4:13-16

Yesterday we ended with Cain getting sent away to be a wanderer in the land. What are Cain's chief complaints about this punishment (vss. 13-14)? What statement of irony is made in this complaint? If you go back to verse 12 again, do you see any place where God banishes Cain from God's presence? Yet Cain says that is what will happen. What does God do to protect Cain (v s. 15)? What does this tell you about God? Now read verse 16. Once God's mark is on Cain, what happens? God shows mercy, but the punishment stands. The Land of Nod means land of wandering. Cain becomes what God has decreed. But not only does Cain leave the land, what else does he leave (vs. 16)? Ponder for a moment, is this Cain's decision or God's? Sometimes, especially when we sin, we separate ourselves from God—we leave the Lord's presence. Does that mean that God has left us? What do we learn about ourselves from this story? What have we learned about God? Take some time and ponder whether you are living and walking in the presence of God or you have decided to leave the Lord's presence

Wednesday, Feb 1st – Genesis 4:17-26

Today we get we finish the Cain & Abel and Adam & Eve stories. We begin by finishing Cain's story. As you read verses 17-18, it appears that life for Cain continues as does anyone else's. However, we do see a string of firsts (vss. 20-22). Can you name them? Most people catch what Lamech's sons did, but not what Lamech did. Up until now, each man married a woman. How many women did Lamech marry? So, Cain's family introduces polygamy. But it gets worse. What does Lamech boast of doing (vss. 23-24)? As John Wesley points out, *"It is apparent that sin has continued to grow exceedingly sinful, that man has reached a new low in brutality and beastliness."* Now we will finish Adam & Eve's story. Read verses 25-26. Imagine if you will, being in Eve's shoes. Her eldest son kills her youngest son and then God sends the eldest son away. What a terrible, tragedy this is! Yet what happens? And what good has come from this? Notice the stark difference between Cain's descendants and Seth's descendants. One line deepens rebellion, murder and mayhem while the other line begins to "worship the Lord by name." What does this reveal to you about God? What does this reveal to you about humanity? When in your life are you more like Cain's descendants? When are you more like Seth's descendants? Why is it possible for you to be of both? How does being aware of how you are a descendant from Adam help you understand why sin exists? See *Haines, L. (1967). The Book of Genesis. In Genesis-Deuteronomy (Vol. 1:1, p. 42). Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.*

Thursday, Feb 2nd – Genesis 5:1-24

Today we read our first genealogy. Most folks skip over these parts of the Old Testament, understandably so. But we do want to take note of some things as we read today. There are some nuggets of truth about God and humans that we need to grasp in this list. Verses 1 and 2 are a summary statement. What do they recap? Now read verses 3-4. What is missing? Why do you think the text jumps to Seth and leaves out Cain and Abel? Now read verses 5-20 straight through, paying attention to repeated phrases. The phrase we will look at ends each persons' description: "____lived ____ years and then he died." God lived up to his word. Because we decide we "want to be just like God," we will die. So, we live a certain number of years and then we die. Death is the consequence of our sin. But even in this early text we see hope. Now read verses 21-24. There is a break in the pattern. What causes the break? Notice this is the first time someone is walking close with the Lord since Adam and Eve in the garden before sin. What is the result of this walking close with God (vs. 24)? It doesn't say that Enoch died, but rather he just disappeared—he was no more, because God took him. Death does not ever have the last word. God does. We see how it can be for those who walk close to God. How does this point to the way our relationship with God should be? How does Jesus help fulfill this for all who believe? What does this reveal to you about God? What does it reveal about you? How close are you walking with God? Does your life reflect the lives of Seth through Jared or are you like Enoch?

Friday, Feb 3rd – Genesis 5:25-32

Today we complete the first genealogy of the Bible as we transition into the next story. Read verses 25-27. How long did Methuselah live? Now look back through the genealogy from yesterday. Who has lived the longest? Who is Methuselah's father? How was Methuselah's relationship with God? How do you know it wasn't as close as his father's? Who is Methuselah son? Is this the same Lamech as in 4:18 or another? Note that there are also two Enochs (4:17). While there is some debate, most scholars view them as two separate Lamechs and Enochs, but with the same names. In the case of Enoch in chapter 5, we learned he walked close with the Lord. In the case of Lamech, the difference between the two Lamechs is clear. One deepens the level of sin and the other names his son Noah. What does Noah mean (vs. 29)? How is this different from the Lamech of chapter 4? The last thing we need to notice is the change in language as we read vs. 32. What is different about Noah's genealogy compared to the others? This transition means we will begin the transition into the next story line. After reading the genealogies, what did you learn about God? What did you learn about humanity? Do you see the line between walking with God and walking outside the presence of the Lord? How does this tension present itself in your life with God?

Saturday, Feb 4th – *To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Genesis 6:5-6.*