

Study Series: Seamless

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 Lesson Title: “The Beginning” (pp. 7-19)

Session 1

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The main point of this lesson is: God begins to weave the seamless revelation of His plan from the opening of the Bible.

Focus on this goal: To help adults affirm the importance of the beginning in their walk with Christ

Key Bible Passages: Genesis 1–11

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Invite adults to indicate if they’ve ever read books or watched movies that were part of a series. Ask: Is it possible to read the books or watch the movies out of order and still enjoy them? What’s the value of reading or watching them in order?

Note reading or watching serial stories in order gives us a better grasp of the overall story arc and a deeper understanding of the characters, and it helps us see how all the stories fit together. State: That’s true of Scripture as well. We can know and love individual Bible stories, but understanding how they fit together into one seamless narrative can bring the Bible’s truths into much sharper focus.

Step 2. Getting Started

Invite a volunteer to read the first two sentences of Day One (p. 7).

Relate the author’s experience of not understanding what Christians were talking about and how she gained a better grasp of the Bible (p. 7).

Invite volunteers to share what has helped them understand the Bible better.

Relate the author’s desire for readers to see Scripture’s overarching story and its characters and themes to come to life. Relay the author’s challenge by reading the Day One paragraph (p. 8) beginning with, “Before we start . . .”

Discuss Day One, activity 2 (p. 8).

Step 3. Creation & Fall

Read the main point of this lesson statement (p. 17).

Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1. Request adults consult Genesis 1:31 and state what God declared about everything He made.

Instruct one-third of the group to silently read Genesis 1:27-29, another third to read Genesis 2:8-9,15-17, and the remaining third to read Genesis 2:18-22. Call on volunteers from each group to state from the verses they read what God gave Adam and Eve.

Read Genesis 3:1 and ask what the serpent sought to make Eve think about all God had given them.

Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 3:2-7. Ask: Why would God allow the serpent to tempt Eve this way? Why did Adam and Eve fall for it?

Read the Day Two paragraph (p. 10) beginning with, “God created a situation . . .”

Discuss Day Two, activity 2 (p. 10).

Step 4. Results of the Fall

Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 3:8-9. Determine possible reasons God asked that question.

Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 3:10-13. Consider how we may respond like Adam and Eve when God confronts us about our sin.

State we might be disheartened that barely three chapters in to God’s amazing story humanity has already fractured their relationship with God and one another. But God already had a plan to restore that relationship.

Request a volunteer read Genesis 3:14-15. Consider how those verses point to Jesus. Analyze the significance of Satan striking Jesus’s heel while Jesus strikes Satan’s head.

Note there were, and still are, terrible repercussions of that original sin. The book of Genesis continues to relate the decline of the human condition.

Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 6:5-8. Invite volunteers to share how they feel upon hearing these verses. Ask:What must we keep in mind about God when we read such difficult words in Scripture?

Step 5. The Flood

Invite volunteers to share what they recall from the Bible about Noah and the ark. Note that Noah, his family, and all those animals were all together in the ark for about a year.

Discuss Day Four, activity 1 (pp. 13-14). Consider reasons offering a sacrifice to God was the first thing Noah did.

Encourage adults to underline the Day Four statement (p. 14, first paragraph), “This brings us to one of the central themes of Scripture: the use of sacrifice as a symbol of our need for atonement.”

Analyze the profound truths signified by the rainbow.

Discuss Day Four, activity 2 (p. 15).

Step 6. Job & Babel

Put your finger at Genesis 10, then flip to and hold all of the book of Job in the other hand. Explain that the events of the book of Job fit right after Genesis 9.

Invite volunteers to share what they know about the book of Job.

Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 15). Note it’s amazing that even before God chose the Hebrews or gave the law, He already had faithful people like Job who chose to be in a right relationship with Him. Unfortunately, Job tended to be the exception.

Discuss the first question of Day Five, activity 2 (p. 16).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Ask: If you were watching the events we’ve explored today play out in a movie, what would you think about humanity? About God? Would you have found this to be a hopeful story? Explain. Why is understanding the beginning of God’s story in the Bible important to your own life’s story?

Close in prayer.

