Connecting Faith to Life on Planet Earth

The Story of God’s Perfect Creation, Its Corruption through Evil, and God’s Work of Restoration

(A study of Genesis to Revelation)

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Using This Study Guide

*Connecting Faith to Life on Planet Earth* is an 11-lesson study that covers God’s perfect creation, its corruption through evil, and God’s work of restoration revealed to us from Genesis to Revelation. The lessons are threaded together by an easy-to-remember series of words called “The 7 Cs of History,” developed by a creation apologetics ministry called “Answers in Genesis.”

The theme of creation and restoration are consistent from Genesis to Revelation and can be seen in these 7 C’s of Bible history:

- **Creation**—This covers the original perfect work in 6 days, the celestial objects, land and sea, plants, animals, and man.
- **Corruption**—The original perfect creation was corrupted due to sin, which has affected the whole creation as described in Romans 8:20-22.
- **Catastrophe**—The Flood affected the planet surface entirely for more than 1 year. Afterwards, man’s diet (and the animals’ diet) was changed by God to include eating meat.
- **Confusion**—This forged the spread of the populations after Babel. The existing population was divided into language groups that spread out and repopulated the earth, taking the accounts of Creation, the Curse, and the Flood with them. This affects archeology.
- **Christ**—God promised begin to restore all things through His Anointed One.
- **Cross**—The beginning of God’s restoration came to believers because of the Cross.
- **Consummation**—God restores His creation to perfection again.

A proper understanding of Genesis 1-11 (the first 4 C’s) is important because nearly every Biblical doctrine is based on that section of the Bible. Those lessons also include scientific and historical facts that support the biblical text to give you confidence that what is revealed in God’s Word is seen in God’s World around you as well. The other 3 C’s demonstrate God’s work of restoring His creation and humanity back to what God intended, the completion of which is still in our future.

**The Basic Study**

Each lesson includes core questions covering the passage narrative. These core questions will take you through the process of inductive Bible study—observation, interpretation, and application. The Inductive process is the best way to study the Bible. The process is more easily understood in the context of answering these questions:

- What does the passage say? *(Observation: what’s actually there)*
- What does it mean? *(Interpretation: the author’s intended meaning)*
- How does this apply to me today? *(Application: making it personal)* Questions identified as “*Connecting Faith to Life*” lead you to introspection and application of a specific truth to your life. Knowing how the Bible ties everything together will help you connect your faith to life as you see it around you.

**Study Enhancements**

*Study Aids:* To aid in proper interpretation and application of the study, 6 additional study aids are located where appropriate in the lesson:
CONNECTING FAITH TO LIFE ON PLANET EARTH

- Historical Insights
- Scriptural Insights
- Scientific Insights
- From the Hebrew/Greek (definitions of Hebrew and Greek words)
- Focus on the Meaning
- Think About It (thoughtful reflection)

**Discernment Practice (optional):** At the end of the lessons are short articles from the news containing both facts and assumptions. You will learn to discern anything you read or hear to separate the actual facts being presented from biased interpretations or assumptions being stated as fact.

**Creation Answers (optional):** These are scientific or historical fact-based explanations that support the biblical text to give you confidence that what is revealed in God’s Word is seen in God’s World as well. These are written by Melanie Newton unless otherwise noted.

**For more information (optional):** At the end of the lessons are suggestions for further research of subjects to gain information that would significantly enhance the basic study for you. Easy access to online resources is helpful, but two websites are especially recommended at the end of the lessons as quality sources for credible creation science information (www.answersingenesis.org and www.icr.org). Both are trustworthy sources of information and especially in their professional way of handling controversial subjects. Three other websites are especially beneficial for gaining historical, archeological, and theological information—www.christiananswers.net (archeology information), www.probe.org (historical information and apologetics plus other topics of interest) and www.bible.org (a great source of biblical information).

**OLD TESTAMENT SUMMARY**

About 1700 years after God created everything, He sent judgment on a rebellious people through a worldwide Flood. He later separated the nations with different languages and scattered them from Babel. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were founding fathers of the Hebrew people. Sold into slavery, Joseph became a powerful foreign leader. The Israelites developed into a great nation for ~400 years in Egypt, until their deliverance from bondage. Then Moses took the people across the Red Sea and taught them God’s Law at Mt. Sinai. Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land after a 40-year trek in the wilderness because of their unbelief.

During the transition toward monarchy, there were deliverer-rulers called "Judges," the last of whom was Samuel. The first three Hebrew kings—Saul, David, and Solomon—each ruled 40 years. Under Rehoboam, the Hebrew nation divided into northern and southern kingdoms, respectively called Israel and Judah. Prophets warned against worshipping the foreign god Baal. After the reign of 19 wicked kings in the north, Assyria conquered and scattered the northern kingdom. In the south, 20 kings ruled for ~350 years, until Babylon took the people into captivity for 70 years. Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah led the Jews back into Jerusalem over a 100-year period. More than 400 "silent years" spanned the gap between Malachi and Matthew.

The 39 books in the Old Testament are divided into 4 main categories:

- “The LAW” (5 books)—the beginning of the nation of Israel as God’s chosen people; God giving His Laws to the people that made them distinct from the rest of the nations.
- “HISTORY” (12 books)—narratives that reveal what happened from the time the people entered the Promised Land right after Moses died until 400 years before Christ was born.
• "POETRY and WISDOM" (5 books)—take place at the same time as the history books but are set apart because they are written as poems and have a lot of wise teaching in them.

• "PROPHETS" (17 books)—concurrent with the books of history and, except for Lamentations, reflect the name of the prophet through whom God spoke to Israel.

NEW TESTAMENT SUMMARY
The New Testament opens with the births of John (the baptizer) and Jesus. About 30 years after his birth, John challenged the Jews to indicate their repentance (turning from sin and toward God) by submitting to water baptism. Water baptism was a familiar Old Testament practice used when a Gentile converted to Judaism (to be washed clean of idolatry).

Jesus, God's incarnate Son, publicly showed the world what God is like and taught His perfect ways for 3 – 3½ years. After preparing 12 disciples to continue Christ's earthly work, He died voluntarily on a cross for mankind's sin, rose from the dead, and returned to heaven. The account of His earthly life is recorded in 4 books known as the Gospels (the biblical books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, each named after the compiler of the account).

After Jesus' return to heaven, the followers of Christ were then empowered by the Holy Spirit and spread God's salvation message among the Jews, a number of whom believed in Christ. The apostle Paul and others carried the good news to the Gentiles during 3 missionary journeys (much of this recorded in the book of Acts). Paul wrote 13 New Testament letters to churches and individuals (Romans through Philemon). The section in our Bible from Hebrews to Jude contains 8 additional letters penned by five men, including two apostles (Peter and John) and two of Jesus' half-brothers (James and Jude). The author of Hebrews is unknown. The apostle John also recorded Revelation, which summarizes God's final plan for the world. The Bible ends as it began—with a new, sinless creation.

DISCUSSION GROUP GUIDELINES
1. **Attend consistently** whether your lesson is done or not. You'll learn from the other women, and they want to get to know you.

2. **Set aside time** to work through the study questions. The goal of Bible study is to **get to know Jesus**. He will change your life.

3. **Share your insights** from your personal study time. As you spend time in the Bible, Jesus will teach you truth through His Spirit inside you.

4. **Respect each other's insights**. Listen thoughtfully. Encourage each other as you interact. Refrain from dominating the discussion if you have a tendency to be talkative. 😊

5. **Celebrate our unity** in Christ. Avoid bringing up controversial subjects such as politics, divisive issues, and denominational differences.

6. **Maintain confidentiality**. Remember that anything shared during the group time is not to leave the group (unless permission is granted by the one sharing).

7. **Pray for one another** as sisters in Christ.

8. **Get to know the women** in your group. Please do not use your small group members for solicitation purposes for home businesses.

*Enjoy your Joyful Walk Bible Study!*
LESSON ONE

1. CREATION: “In the Beginning, God”

KNOWING WHERE TO START

When you look around and see so much evil, conflict, and trouble in the world, do you wonder how this place we call home got so bad? Do you long to know what God’s original creation might have been like? Are you hopeful that there is something better in the future?

This study will answer those questions. Connecting Faith with Life on Planet Earth starts with Genesis 1-11. Nearly every Biblical doctrine is based on Genesis 1-11. You begin with the story of God’s perfect creation followed by its corruption through evil. From there, you will see how the rest of the Bible carries out the theme of God’s work of restoring His creation back to perfection. The theme of CREATION and RESTORATION are consistent from the first book, Genesis, to the last book, Revelation.

God’s work of creation and restoration is for your life as well. When you trust in Him, you are made into a new creation and brought into a relationship that restores what God wanted for all humans when He made us. Doing this study will grow your appreciation for who God is and all that God has promised for your future. Knowing how the Bible ties everything together will help you connect your faith to life as you see it around you. And, God’s promise of restoration will give you hope for today and for the future.

We begin with God’s perfect CREATION …

DAY ONE STUDY

Creation is a hot topic. In fact, the validity of everything recorded in Genesis 1-11 is a hot topic, though not a new topic. The concept of some type of naturalistic explanation for the origin of the earth, universe and its inhabitants has been around since the ancient Greeks. But it did not affect mainstream life until a couple of scientists promoted their ideas through books in the 1800’s—Charles Lyell (who proposed that the earth was much older than what the Bible said it was) and Charles Darwin (who is known for pushing biological evolution as an alternative to creation).

Then in 1925, the newly formed ACLU decided to target a law in Tennessee that demanded creation be taught in school. They found a man willing to be the scapegoat—John Scopes—although he had only been a substitute teacher for 2 weeks in a biology class and had not really taught evolution. The message perpetuated by the ACLU throughout the trial was that science was the new source of authority and truth. The Bible was no longer relevant. It was simply the fallible work of humans. Christians must let scientists interpret anything that deals with origins.

What’s ironic is that every single piece of evidence produced in that trial has since been shown to be false. In the mid 1990’s, TIME magazine ran an article about its own senior editor, Charles Alexander, which said:

“In the years before he got into journalism, senior editor Charles Alexander taught science at two high schools in Tennessee. He told his students about early man and the origins of life and touched on the dinosaurs, ‘And just about everything I taught them,” he says, ‘was wrong.’” (TIME magazine, March 14, 1994, p. 4)

Knowing Where to Start

What is my point? You have to know where to start. Decide what will be your source of truth.
“All biblical doctrines have their foundation ultimately—directly or indirectly—in the book of Genesis. The doctrine of marriage; why we wear clothes; the reason Jesus came to die on a cross; why there’s death in the world; why man has dominion over the earth—all of these are dependent on a literal Genesis. The only reason we understand the meaning of sin is because we read about the literal rebellion of the first man when he disobeyed God. Actually, if Genesis were taken out of the Bible, you’d have to throw the rest away. It’s all dependent on the historical accounts in this first book.” (Answers in Genesis Weekly News, October 10, 2003)

Genesis, the first book in the Bible is an account of the origins and history of all life and the universe. It tells of the creation of different kinds of animals and plants as well as the creation of Adam and Eve, the first people. Genesis explains the entrance of sin and death into God’s Creation, and a judgment by water when a worldwide flood destroyed the original world. We are told of the event of the "Tower of Babel" that is important in understanding cultures and nations existing today. And, in Genesis, we are given glimpses of God’s plan for restoration of His creation.

It is impossible to study Creation, the Curse, the Flood or the Tower of Babel without studying the relevant scientific and historical information as well. Knowing what happened in the past can give us a basis for explaining the present. If we start with what has been revealed about the events of the past, we have the ability to come to some right conclusions about geology, culture, geography, biology, etc. If we have the revealed Word of One who knows everything and was there, then a basis exists for having right interpretations about the facts of the present. If we ignore that, then we can never know for sure whether our interpretations are right! Science is constantly changing. But, the Word of God remains unchanged.

Taking captive every thought

There are 3 scriptures that are foundations for our trust in the Bible to be true:

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

“... when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

“Jesus said, ‘Sanctify them through your truth: your Word is truth.’” (John 17:17)

This is where we start. Now knowing where to start, we can do what is said in 2 Corinthians:

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Think with me about the messages you receive through the media about this issue:

• Science is the source of authority and truth.
• Evolution is scientific fact. Untouchable. Not going away.
• The Bible is only a human work.
• Christians, stay out of anything that deals with origins. Stick to religion.
So, how do we respond? Is compromise the only comfortable solution? Sadly, many religious leaders have done just that and are even holding science as the authority over biblical interpretation. This is most often because of 2 things: 1) the fear of being ridiculed (as happened in the Scopes trial) and 2) not knowing that true science has facts that support Scripture.

Half of us are probably not affected by this. The rest of us are split personalities. Just say, “believe Genesis,” and our thoughts are going crazy on one side of our brains! Our minds fill with “yeah, buts.” And we think of every TV show, every book and magazine that teaches with confidence that this earth is billions of years old and man evolved from animals. We say to ourselves, “What do I do with those thoughts?”

In this study, we hope to help you take those thoughts captive so you can be whole again. We ask you to come to this study with an open mind. You will not get all your questions answered. Maybe not even half. However, you can ask the One who knows all to reveal to you some ways for you to believe that His record of beginnings is literally true.

*Please be assured of this ...*

You can still be a Christian and believe that the earth is 4.5 billion years old and that you got here through evolution. Salvation is based upon faith in Jesus Christ alone. We ask that you give the biblical text a chance to give answers to your questions about origins. We'll do our best to provide information for you to help you learn to think about this issue based on factual information.

*Our approach for this study ...*

The plain reading of the biblical text leads us to consider the earth and universe to have been created in 6 days in a perfect state, altered by the curse and death after creation, then completely reshaped by a global Flood—all less than 10,000 years ago. It is also reasonable to consider that God has a plan to completely renew His creation in the future. He will do what He has promised.

True science belongs to God. No believer needs to be afraid of it. True science will also provide information that agrees with what is revealed by God in the Bible. Here is a statement that we hope you will see to be very true as you do this study:

> What we read in God’s Word agrees with what we see in God’s World.

We hope this helps you connect your faith to life on planet Earth.

1. **Connecting Faith to Life:** Reflect and respond to what you just read. What do you hope to learn through this study? What questions do you hope to have answered?
DAY TWO STUDY

Let's get started … and the best place to start is Genesis 1:1.

Read Genesis 1:1.

*Scriptural Insight:* "The first verse of the Bible is the most important and basic of all. 'In the Beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.' When one really believes this verse, he will have little difficulty believing all the rest of God's Word." (Henry Morris, *The Beginning of the World*, p. 10)

2. What does Genesis 1:1 tell you about God and the reality (or truth) of the world around us?

There are literally hundreds of verses about God as Creator. We will only study a few in this lesson.

3. Read Psalm 90:2. What does this verse tell you about God and our world?

4. Read Psalm 100. What does this psalm tell you … ?
   - About God—
   - About yourself—

   *Think About It:* When I come to the realization that God is God, and I am not. This is the beginning of true worship. I no longer limit God to my own understanding of Him and His works. Is this true for you as well?

5. The book of Job is full of discourses where Job and his friends try to figure out "why" Job is suffering and ultimately question God's actions. Read God's response to them all in Job 38:1-14. What does He say to Job and to us?
6. What do the following verses say about God as Creator?
   
   • Romans 1:18-21—
   
   • Acts 14:15-17—
   
   • Acts 17:22-31—
   
   • Revelation 4:8-11—

Summary:

**DAY THREE STUDY**

7. Read Genesis 1:1. The Hebrew word used for God in this verse is *Elohim*. *El* signifies the strong God. And what less than almighty strength could bring all things out of nothing? *Elohim* is plural. However, the verb “created” is singular, giving hint of the work of the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Read the following verses to see the part of each in Creation.

- Genesis 1:2—
- Genesis 1:26—
- John 1:1-5, 14-18—
- Colossians 1:15-20—
- Hebrews 1:1-2—

8. How does Jesus validate the authenticity of Genesis 1 in the following verses?

- Mark 10:2-9—
- Mark 13:19—
Scriptural Insight: "The Biblical account of creation is ridiculed by atheists, patronized by liberals, and often allegorized even by conservatives. The fact is, however, that it is God’s own account of creation, corroborated by Jesus Christ (Mark 10:6-8), who was there! We are well advised to take it seriously and literally, for God is able to say what He means, and will someday hold us accountable for believing what He says!” (Dr. Henry M. Morris)


10. Connecting Faith to Life: After reading all these passages concerning God as Creator (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), what conclusions do you reach about God?

DAY FOUR STUDY

Creation Answers—Knowing Where to Start

Cynthia Heald in her book, A Woman’s Journey to the Heart of God, writes,

“Years ago, I discovered the freedom and power of making pre-decisions in order to take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ.”

There are several pre-decisions or principles that are the foundation for taking captive every thought we read, hear, and see to make it obedient to Christ regarding creation science.
Principle #1: In the beginning, God.

God existed forever. God created everything. This world is real, not an illusion. It had to come from somewhere. We have only 2 choices:

- Nothing suddenly became something without a cause or
- God, who always existed, created something out of nothing.

There is no other choice. It is easier to believe that God always existed and then created something, than it is to accept that nothing created something. That’s where we’ll start.

Principle #2: God told us what and how He created

When it comes to this physical universe, God told us in audible and written form that He created what is and how He did it.

- Genesis 1—God described how He took six days to create everything in the universe and the earth.
- Exodus 20:11—God spoke audibly before 2 million people. “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day."
- Exodus 31:17-18—God repeated what He had previously said—first, audibly to Moses. Then, God wrote it Himself by His own finger on 2 tablets and handed that to Moses
- Exodus 34:28—God dictated the same information to Moses who wrote it down.

God used at least 5 different ways to communicate this fact about Himself to us. Yet many say Genesis 1 is a myth.

Let’s take captive our thoughts here. God created humans with intelligence and the capacity for a trusting relationship with Him. Why would our almighty yet personal creator God start out His entire revelation with a story that isn’t true if? Why would a God who cannot lie do that? To think so is illogical. So, let’s not tell God that He was wrong, that He didn’t mean what He said every time He said it.

God addresses that very presumption in Job 38 by asking Job, “Were you there when I laid the foundations for the earth?” (Job 38:4) What’s the answer? Of course not. So, who was there? God. Wouldn’t He know what He did? The Bible is true and the beginning source of truth. Man’s ideas are not.

Principle #3: True science is repeatable, testable, and falsifiable.

As defined by the Supreme Court, there is a difference between operational science and historical science.

- **Operational science** is repeatable, testable, and falsifiable. It describes natural laws and how they work in our world such as used in electronics, medicine, cars, etc. It describes what you can observe and repeatedly test in the present.
- **Historical science** is not repeatable, testable, and falsifiable. It describes observations made in the present in order to make “educated guesses” about the past. It is heavily influenced by one’s personal belief system.

The two have become fused together into one term called “science.” That’s what really gets a stranglehold on us. A lot of us don’t know the difference. But …
**Principle #4: Science belongs to God**

He is the one who designed the DNA of every creature, how minerals and crystals form as well as what makes a bird fly and the sun produce light and heat. I can go to Him and ask for enlightenment on any issue. And, this is what I can trust: there are scientific answers out there that support what He said He did to create, curse and flood this earth. Specific answers may not come today, but they may be there tomorrow if I am looking. So …

**Principle #5: Examine the evidence, ask questions**

We should evaluate everything we read and hear in light of the Scriptures. It’s remarkable what we find when we are willing to examine the evidence and look at facts. We can ask all the questions we want because God has left us enough clues to know that His Word, even in Genesis, is true.

No one can prove creation or evolution. But, we can start with this: we look at the historical record given in the Bible and build a model. If the Bible is true, what would we expect to find? What do we find? We can examine facts in light of that model. Both evolutionists and creationists can look at the exact same facts but apply them to different models based on their personal belief systems.

So, what are the facts in a news report? What are the assumptions? Separate the two. What did they really find? When what is presented as facts doesn’t agree with the model, there may be a problem with the model or the facts (how they were derived).

We believe that God’s Word is true. So, if the facts to support it aren’t available yet, we are confident that they may one day be available. Scientists are constantly studying this planet finding out new things. So, let’s practice examining what is presented as scientific fact and how it fits with the biblical creation model.

**Discernment Practice**

So much information that is proclaimed in the media (news, magazines, movies, internet, and books) is biased against the biblical truth presented in the Bible. Often, there is a morsel of fact mixed with a ton of assumptions that are presented as facts, even if they are pure speculation. Every believer needs to be able to discern the truth from speculation.

We will give you a “Discernment Practice” activity at the end of each lesson related to Genesis 1-11 to help you learn discernment in anything you read or hear. You can follow the steps below to separate the actual facts being presented from biased interpretations or assumptions being stated as fact.


2. Then, mark the interpretations or assumptions. Question the assumptions used to derive the facts and/or interpretations.

3. Consider the same facts with the assumption of Biblical history.

Look at the following example:

Ordering crawdads on ice has a new meaning now that geologists have found the oldest fossil crawfish ever—in Antarctica. The discovery of the 280 million-year-old crustacean suggests that the climate around the South Pole was relatively balmy at the time—at least in the streams and lakes where crawdads live …

The scientists found just a fragment of the ancient crawfish in the Transantarctic Mountains in the central part of the continent. The fossil was a part of a claw that had been gnawed on by a predator, perhaps in search for a primitive etouffee. The researchers also found large burrows, dated to about 240 million years ago, that had been dug by crawfish in another part of Antarctica. The burrows indicate that crawfish had evolved their social activity much earlier than scientists had thought.

The fact that crawfish could live in the lakes of Antarctica at the time supports other evidence that Antarctica was experiencing a warming trend at the time, the scientists wrote.

Now, let’s evaluate the above article to determine facts from assumptions. Facts are marked in grey highlighting; interpretations and assumptions are underlined.

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• Facts: A portion of a claw identified to be from a crawfish in Antarctica.

• Assumptions: The age of this fossil piece, the social structure of the animals that it represents, and the presence of burrows.

• Conclusion: The crawfish did exist. It was likely buried during the Flood. Structures identified as burrows may or may not be real. They could be escape attempts from creatures being buried by sediments in the Flood. The warmer South Pole fits with the expected pre-Flood climate.