

Genesis: The Book That Started It All
Jesus in Genesis
Group Guide | December 21

Open your group time with a few Advent questions (10 minutes)

Thus far we have discussed how Advent is a season of waiting, longing, and slowing down, how it can feel, however, busy, chaotic, like it's lacking any sort of peace. Last week, we acknowledged life can feel despairing. This week, we acknowledge that often times in life we feel unloved and unloveable and that often time we are indifferent to the hurts and pains of others.

On Sunday, however, we lit the candle of **love** which highlights the self-giving, redeeming action of God.

- Do you ever feel unloved or unloveable? How?
- Do you know that God loves you? What verse can help you remember that truth this Christmas season?
- How can you be a conduit of God's love this week?

As a group, seek the Lord in these things. Pray for God's love to fill your heart and pray for God's Spirit to birth loving fruit within you (Gal. 5:22).

Read Scripture (15 minutes)

For your time in God's Word either today or this week, we want to do a bit of digging to find Jesus in the book of Genesis. For example, we can see Christ in the following ways:

- Creation and the New Creation (Jesus as the better Adam, Romans 5:14; 1 Corinthians 15:45).
- The seed promise to Eve (Genesis 3:15 – the offspring who crushes the serpent).
- Noah's ark (one door for salvation, pointing to Christ as the only way).

Part of the rationale for reading Jesus into Genesis is based on the following two passages. Read Luke 24:27, 44 and John 5:39 and then answer the following questions:

Note: In these passages, "Moses" refers to the Torah or Pentateuch or first five books of the Bible. "Prophets" refers to the prophetic literature of the Old Testament (e.g. Samuel, Isaiah). "Writings" refer to everything else (e.g. Psalms and Proverbs).

- What is happening contextually around these verses?
- What do they say about Jesus' relationship to the Scriptures?
- How do you think these passages should shape how we read the Bible?

Reflect on the sermon (30 minutes)

- What stood out, resonated, or challenged you from Dan's sermon?
- Pick out an example of where Christ can be seen in Genesis from the list Dan gave us. Which resonated with you most? Which one was most obvious to you? Which one surprised you the most?
- As we approach Christmas, how has seeing foreshadowings of Jesus in Genesis deepened your wonder at the Incarnation—God stepping into history from the very beginning?
- What facets of Jesus's character or work on the cross do these particular stories highlight for you?
- How does seeing Jesus in Genesis encourage you in your current battles with sin, suffering, or doubt?
- As you enter this Christmas season, which particular way of Genesis pointing to Jesus resonates with you most deeply? Explain.

Finish with prayer (10 minutes)

As your time together ends, close in prayer by praying some of the ways Jesus shows up in Genesis out loud. Have each person in your group identify one of the meaningful ways Jesus shows up in Genesis for them to pray into. Then, go around in a group, using that specific way Jesus shows up in Genesis as a prompt for prayer. Use that story or example from Genesis to give praise to Christ for his work, his character, etc.

Take about 1–2 minutes each. After everyone who wants to pray has shared, close out your group time with a final prayer as the leader.