

First Session Schedule
Creation & The Fall – the need for a Savior
Abraham and the Gift of Faith

7:00 p.m. Introductions by the participants and introduction to the Bible Study.

I. What we will accomplish -a Journey through the Bible

How to read the Bible

Periods, important characters and historical books

Help us to receive the Homily on Sunday, come better prepared

II. Format: how this will go each week

Fill in the timeline and then look at a particular person of this Bible period.

III. Personal Commitment - 30 days to develop a habit

a. My own reading of Sacred Scripture - started out wanting to pray through Scripture for an hour a day way too much then I didn't get back to it after the third, again because it takes too much time.

Jimmy Connors - older brother unlimited practice of tennis = burnout
faithfulness in daily practice of 1 hour = success

hand out the two sheets

b. 2 strategies for personal commitment

Reading the Bible Historically and the Key Events with Bible verses listed - the timeline will help in the daily reading by helping us to understand the context of what we are reading.

IV. Purpose

To grow in relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit –
the Holy Bible is a letter to me personally

* when you receive a letter - you don't

give it to someone and ask them to give you the highlights
or ask them to outline it for you.

No - you read it, and re-read it.

7:10 p.m. Opening Prayer – “Come Holy Spirit” and a simple prayer asking the Holy Spirit for the gift of understanding and love for the Word of God.
Read the Story of Creation, Genesis 1: 27-31

Part 1

7:15 p.m. Each participant fills in their own Bible Timeline.
Use either a 30 minute segment of J. Cavins, Great Adventure or present Part 1 as on pages 6 and 7.

7:25p.m. Bible Stories: *Blessed Trinity, Creation, Fall, Cain & Abel, Noah*
See pages 4-7. It might be helpful to give page 5 as a handout.

Part 2

- 7:45p.m. Brief overview of the call of Abraham.
Read aloud Genesis 12:1-9 God calls Abraham to leave to go to a land He will show him. God makes 3 promises to Abraham: land, a great name and through his descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.
- 7:50p.m. Video clip (3 minutes): *Standing at the Crossroads* (3 minutes).
Faith Lesson 1, Set 1 (counter on the video: begin at 10:59 until 13:53)
See page 7 for teaching.
- 8:00 p.m. Video: *Abraham* (TNT Series from Ignatius Press) 10 min.
(On video counter: 17:04 until 27:00)
See page 7 for teaching.
- 8:10 p.m. Participants fill in the handout on *Faith*.
- 8:15 p.m. Give each person a prayer commitment – a copy of the two pages in the booklet entitled Outline of Bible Periods. Encourage them to read (several times) one passage each night.
Asking for a 5 or 10 minute daily prayer time for Scripture.
The outline of the Bible Periods, pages 2-3 in the *Great Adventure handbook* lists the major events for each period. Ask participants to read one or two entries per night beginning with Creation.
- 8:20 p.m. Close in a prayer of thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for the gift of His Word - the Holy Bible and The Our Father.

Bible Stories:

a) Blessed Trinity –

- 1 God, 3 Persons
- Communion of Persons of total, self-giving love
- Call each of us to share in His love

b) Creation (Gn. 1:27) –

- God created everything out of love and out of nothing
- Creation of the World (Days 1-5)
- Creation of Man (Day 6) – image & likeness
- Garden of Eden: Complete communion of love
 - God & Man
 - Man & Woman
 - Man & Himself

c) Fall (Gen 3) –

- Tree of knowledge of good and evil – their love for God put to the test.
- Seduced by the devil – wanted to be like God but without God
- Consequences:
 - loss of state of grace
 - separation –
 - Man/God; Man/Woman; Man/Creation; Man/Himself*
- Protoevangelium – God promises a Savior (Gen. 3:15) – this promise is made through a blessed line.

d) Cain & Abel (Gen 4) –

- Test of love for God – Abel's offering from the heart, Cain's offering not from the heart.
- Jealousy, Pride
- Seth – blessing through the Sethite line

e) Noah (Gen 6:5) –

- Wickedness on the Earth
- Flood
- Covenant with Noah (Gen 9) – What is a Covenant?
- Earth Repopulated – Ham, Shem, Japheth

f) Tower of Babel (Gen 11) –

- People again became corrupt
- Out of envy want to be like God – build a tower
- God confused their language – all spoke evil as though they were one.

The Promise of a Savior

The Blessed Trinity

1 God, three Divine Persons. God is Spirit, no body.
God is a Family of perfect, total, self-giving love.

Creation

We were created to share in God's Life.

The Fall of Adam and Eve

We lost a share in God's Life within us through the disobedience of Adam and Eve.

God's first Promise of the Redeemer - the Protoevangelium

Genesis 3:15

**“I will put enmity between you and the woman
and between your offspring and hers
He will strike (crush) your head
while you strike at his heel”**

*“I will put enmity between you and the woman
enmity = complete and total opposition, hostility*

you = the devil

Mary = the woman

and between your offspring and hers

your offspring

her offspring

Satan and all who follow him

Christ and all who follow Him

He will strike (crush) your head

(Christ will strike the head of Satan – a mortal blow to the head)

Christ crushed the power of the **devil** in His Resurrection from the dead

“the Son of God appeared that He might destroy the works of the devil”

(1John 3:8)

while you strike at his heel”

(while Satan strikes at Christ's heel - The devil struck at Christ in the Crucifixion
not a deadly blow because Christ is raised from the dead)

Bible Timeline Chart - Week 1

First Historical Period at the top in Blue

(Dividing the Bible into 10 historical periods in the Old Testament and 2 periods in the New Testament)

History of the Early World

People in Black

1. Adam and Eve (Adam above number 1 and Eve below)
 2. Cain (under number 2)
 3. Abel mark Abel out with red – Cain killed Abel due to jealousy and rage over their sacrifices offered to God
 4. Seth
 5. Noah As man began to become really wicked and corrupted, Noah and his- 3 sons and their wives were the only people who remained faithful to God. It was at this time that God flooded the earth. It is through Noah that God will preserve the seed line of the Savior, Jesus.
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4. Shem
 5. Ham
 6. Japheth
 7. Abraham
- > sons of Noah

Books in Blue

1. Genesis

Salvation History (at the bottom) in Black

Write under One Holy Couple - Adam and Eve

Write under Family - Noah

Write under Tribe - Abraham

When you get to Noah on the timeline

**Tell the story of Noah and have the students read:

Genesis 8: 15-21

Genesis 9: 8- 17

The Covenant between God and Noah
The rainbow is the sign of the Covenant:
God will not flood the earth again

******Explain the Covenant = a sacred family bond between God and man. A Covenant involves an exchange of persons: I give myself to you and you give yourself to me. A Covenant cannot be broken and a sacrifice is offered which includes the shedding of blood to show what will happen to the person who breaks the Covenant**

The Covenant will continue to grow in size, one holy couple, to a family, to a tribe with Abraham

When you get to Abraham on the timeline:

**Have the students read:

Genesis 12: 1-9

A good way to give a brief story of Noah and the Flood and other major events in the Bible is to look at Fr. Lovasik's New Picture Bible. It is written on an adult level and gives an excellent synopsis of each story. Do not be fooled by the picture on the front.

The next page is the background the students need to understand why we need a Savior – God promises the Savior in Genesis 3:15. We need a Savior because we know all mankind will be born without sanctifying grace within their soul – a participation in God's Life, due to the Original Sin of Adam and Eve.

Part II

Proclamation

After the sin of Adam and Eve, we lost communion with God. God promised us a Savior and so He now begins to form His people, to prepare them for the Savior. Tonight, we will now look specifically at Abraham. God calls Abraham to leave his country and his father's house and go to the land that He will show him. Abraham heard God's voice and through faith, believed in the one true God.

Explanation

Video clip (3 minutes): *Standing at the Crossroads* - explain what they will see: Vanderlaan, "That the World May Know" available from Zondervan Church Source -1-800-727-3480 www.ZondervanChurchSource.com
Standing at the Crossroads (3 minutes).

Faith Lesson 1, Set 1 (counter on the video: begin at 10:59 until 13:53)

This is the land that stands between the major powers of Egypt and the other empires of Assyria, Babylonia and Persia. If you control this land, you will control the world. This is the Promised Land chosen by God in order that the Israelites would be the example to the rest of the world of their love for God and their different lifestyle.

Video: *Abraham* (TNT Series from Ignatius Press) 10 min.

(On video counter: 17:04 until 27:00)

Begin with Abraham with his brother in the room with all the gods. Abraham destroys all them. End after he receives the blessing from his father.

Abraham lived at a time when people did not believe in the one true God. They believed in many gods and the powers of nature (idols). But the one true God began to reveal Himself to Abraham and gave him the gift of faith to believe in Him. Abraham believed in God and followed God's call. He is called the Father of Faith. He obeyed what God asked of him even though he did not know where God was leading him or how far away it was. They could not load everything up in a truck – they had to walk 1200 miles from present day Iraq to Syria to the country of Israel. (Show on a map)

Abraham heard the voice of God, and not knowing where he was to go, he went. Through his descendants the Savior, Jesus, will come.

Application to Our Lives

Fill in the handout on *faith*. See page 10-11. Student copy is page 9.

Encourage daily prayer commitment. Surround the reading of Scripture with prayer so that your time of reading God's Word leads you closer to Him.

Celebration

Closing Prayer: Genesis 12: 1-9

The faith of Abraham and my own faith

What is faith?

Does faith involve your response to God? How?

What did God ask of Abraham in faith and how did he respond to God?

What is something that God is calling you to do in faith?

How are you willing to obey Him?

In your response to what God is calling you, what will you do if you become afraid or worry about what is going to happen?

How will your life change today as a result of hearing this teaching about Abraham?

Are you praying everyday? _____

When and where do you pray? _____

How is your relationship with Jesus Christ growing deeper – are you getting to know Him better? _____

The faith of Abraham and my own faith

What is faith?

Believing in God. 4 parts: Listen, Consider, Assent, Obey

Does faith involve your response to God? How?

Faith involves my personal response

What did God ask of Abraham in faith and how did he respond to God?

To leave his country and go to the land that God would show him.

What is something that God is calling you to do in faith?

How are you willing to obey Him?

In your response to what God is calling you, what will you do if you become afraid or worry about what is going to happen?

Pray for God's strength and courage – ask others to pray for me.

How will your life change today as a result of hearing this teaching about Abraham?

Are you praying everyday? _____

When and where do you pray? _____

How is your relationship with Jesus Christ growing deeper – are you getting to know Him better? _____

The faith of Abraham and my own faith

What is faith?

Does faith involve your response to God? How?

What did God ask of Abraham in faith and how did he respond to God?

What is something that God is calling you to do in faith?

How are you willing to obey Him?

In your response to what God is calling you, what will you do if you become afraid or worry about what is going to happen?

How will your life change today as a result of hearing this teaching about Abraham?

How much time do you set aside for prayer each day? _____

When and where do you pray? _____

How is your relationship with Jesus Christ growing deeper?

Teacher Background for the Bible Timeline Chart

This is a transcription of the first 30 minutes on the Great Adventure Videos from Jeff Cavins.

We will begin filling in the Bible Timeline to get the Big Picture of what God is doing throughout the Bible – His creation, the first sin and the fall of man and woman and how God prepares us for the Savior to come. We will break down the Bible into a manageable form, 14 historical books of the Old Testament, which keep the Story moving and 10 periods before Jesus. The timeline will include the people in the seed line from Adam to Jesus.

With a blue pen or marker, fill in the historical period at the top:

History of the Early World

In the book of Genesis, we see the kernel of the entire Bible.

Creation – God created everything out of nothing – out of love. Not because He was lonely, He is a Communion of Divine Persons – With infinite, complete self-giving love between the Persons.

Adam and Eve – the creation of man is the crown of creation. God created man in His own image and likeness. Being created in the image of God means we were created as a person who can think and love and we have a soul, our spiritual aspect. God does not have a body, He is a Spirit. Adam and Eve were created to have a relationship with God.

Fill in the number 1 with Adam above and Eve below with a black pen.

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve are tempted by the Serpent (he is a dragon who was ready to kill them) and they disobeyed God and fell from grace. They lost the grace of God which is His own Divine Life. The rest of the Bible tells how God will bring us back into relationship with Him.

Genesis 3:15 is called the First Gospel or *Protoevangelium*. God promised enmity = they will be at total odds with each other, enmity between the seed of the woman and the serpent. The woman is Mary, her seed is Jesus and the serpent is Satan. Jesus will crush the head of the serpent. God did not desert us but promised a Savior to fix the problem and His promise is Genesis 3:15.

****We will study the story of the seed line from Adam all the way to Jesus. God promised a Savior to bring us back into relationship with Him and the Bible focuses on the seed line leading up to the coming of Jesus.

Fill in the children of Adam and Eve: 2. Cain and 3. Abel.

These are the 1st 2 brothers. They made a sacrifice to God. Cain's sacrifice was not pleasing and he was filled with rage and jealousy toward Abel. God told him his countenance would lift if he would do what is right but instead he killed Abel. **Put an x over Abel.**

Adam and Eve had another son: Fill in number 4 as Seth. The Bible will now focus on Seth and his offspring. This seed line will be the line that crushes the enemy – Satan. The blessing of God normally passes to the first born. This was the transferal of the life of God. In the Old Testament this was imperfect. In the New Testament, the blessing is fulfilled and perfected in Christ through the Sacraments. Sometimes in the O.T. the blessing goes to the 2nd or 3rd born for discipline reasons. Eventually, the Nation of Israel will become the 1st born of God. God prepares them so that they can proclaim the Good News of what God has done to all the nations.

In Genesis 5:1 and Genesis 10, the Bible focuses on genealogies, also called a Toledoth. This information has 2 functions:

- a) this is a bridge between segments, like a Chapter Heading, like a major turning point and is very important.
- b) functions like a zoom lens on a camera from a wide angle picture of everything down to focusing on the seed line leading to Christ. So here we focus on the Sethite line. God does not just cast off the other people but He is showing what He is doing and preparing us for the Savior.

Fill in Number 5 with Noah in black. In green, fill the Letter A with the Flood.

Include with these sheets is the story of Noah and the Flood. Please tell the story to the students. Have them read from the Bible: **Genesis 9:8-17 about the Flood and the rainbow as the Covenant between God and Noah.**

Fill in Number 7,8,9 with Shem, Ham and Japheth. Man began to become really wicked and corrupted except for Noah and his 3 sons. God planned to flood the earth. Noah was righteous and therefore it is through him that God will preserve the seed line.

Chapter 9:1-17 = Covenant with Noah. This is the most binding instrument in the Bible and is taken very seriously. It is a promise that cannot be broken. The sons of Noah began to repopulate the world. Japheth went to the North. Shem went to the Middle East and Ham went to Egypt and Africa.

Genesis 11:10 is a Toledoth of Shem = now just focus on the line of Shem.

Fill in Letter B as the Tower of Babel.

Again the people become very corrupt and proud. They said that they would ascend to the Heaven themselves without God. They built a tower or zigurrut. God confused their language because as long as they could speak the same language, no evil was impossible to them. These events did happen. We know that they were actual events. There was an original couple who fell from the grace of God and being in relationship with Him. We still feel the effects of this original sin and is passed on from generation to generation.

Note the Copper Age and Bronze Age on the timeline. This refers to the materials used in warfare and the ability of man to use these materials.

We see in the first 11 chapters of Genesis, the whole plot to the play: God loves man and is in loving, close relationship with him. Man/woman fell by sinning through disobedience and broke the relationship with God. They had to leave the presence of God because sin cannot be in the presence of God. Who is complete love. They are opposites. But God had a Plan to bring us back into His family.

What happens to the seed live or nations that are focused on like Cain and Ham. God love them and deals with them like family. He desires that all the nations come back into His family.

At the bottom, listed as Salvation History, fill in under ONE HOLY COUPLE, Adam and Eve: under FAMILY, Noah.

This traces the Covenants between God and these people which slowly increases in number and will eventually be the Catholic Church.

In the 2nd Period, the Patriarchal Period, there are 4 major Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

Fill in Abraham as Number 9, Isaac as 10, Letter C is Sodom and Gomorrah: Letter D is Covenant with Abraham.

An important note: Genesis 11 and the story of Melchizedek (who is Shem). Shem or Melchizedek, who is the priest of God Most High passes the blessing to Abraham by offering up bread and wine to God in Salem (Jerusalem). This is the place where Abraham will be asked to sacrifice Isaac and eventually the Temple will be built. An important note: Genesis 11 and the story of Melchizedek (who is Shem). Shem or Melchizedek, who is the priest of God Most High passes the blessing to Abraham by offering up bread and wine to God in Salem (Jerusalem). This is the place where Abraham will be asked to sacrifice Isaac and eventually the Temple will be built. We refer to Melchizedek during the Consecration Mass - and also during ordinations of priests = "He is a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Psalm 110. There is a carving in the altar below Mary on the left side at St. Augustine's **which is Melchizedek offering the bread and wine.**

In Genesis 12, God makes a Promise to Abraham of 1) land, 2) a great name and 3) through his descendent, all the nations of the earth shall find blessing. In Genesis 15, 17, and 22, each of these will become a Covenant. Which will be fulfilled in Moses, David and Jesus respectively. Because of his obedience and faith in the test of faith with the sacrifice of Isaac, Abraham becomes our "Father in Faith" and it is through his seed live or descendants that God will send the Savior Jesus and bring us all back into the family.