

fresh START

a study in Genesis

Name:

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

January 2021



wentzville
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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LETTER FROM KEITH

Alright! It's 2021...can you feel the difference? No? But it's a new year and 2020 is now in the past, surely that makes a difference?! Not really. Going from one year to the next is no different than going from one day to the next. Change only happens when we take the initiative and embrace a new or fresh way of doing things.

We want to kick off 2021 with a "Fresh Start" and Genesis, the first book of the Bible, is all about fresh starts! From the creation story to the calling of Abraham, there are lessons to be learned about what God desires for us each and every day. As we take the next 5 weeks to study Genesis 1-12, our hope is that you will embrace not only a new way of doing things, but most importantly, you will embrace the one who can really make a difference for all of us in 2021- Jesus!

Whatever 2021 holds for us...the good, the bad, and the ugly...we know that through the grace, love, and mercy of Christ everyday is a new beginning - a chance to start over. So perhaps we can all agree. Let's put 2020 behind us and let's embrace a new way of living for Jesus in 2021. That change starts with us, not with the world or circumstances around us. I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to a Fresh Start!

Blessings,

Keith Comp

Senior Minister

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

The purpose of this guide is to ignite a passion for the Bible in your daily life. God's Word is living, active, and useful for our lives...but so few Christians actually engage in it daily. We want to provide you with a resource that you can use on your own and with your Life Group to ignite and sustain this passion. We want to make God's Word our way.

SERMON NOTES:

Bring this workbook to church each Sunday. As you listen to the sermon, make a note when you hear something that surprises you, intrigues you, bothers you, challenges you, or encourages you.

CONNECT QUESTIONS:

These questions will help you and your group members become more comfortable with talking and sharing with each other. Not only will you learn more about one-another, the questions will help to steer the discussion in the direction of the topic.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION:

These questions are the "meat" of the discussion and will point back to the sermon each week. Feel free to read and answer these questions before your group meets. They will also help you dig deeper into the Scriptures during your group discussions.

CHANGE QUESTIONS:

At the end of Jesus' most famous sermon, he says that if you do not put his words into practice then you are a fool [Matthew 7:24-27]. Life transformation is the ultimate goal of a follower of Christ. Feel free to answer these questions out-loud when your leader reads them or you can quietly reflect and write a response in your workbook.

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER:

Please focus this time on *your own personal* praises and requests instead of listing all of the bad things that happened to someone you know. We challenge you to get "deep" with one-another relationally, which means becoming a little bit vulnerable as you are honest with one-another.

PRAY FOR THE MISSIONS OF THE WEEK:

WCC supports many wonderful missionaries and organizations all over the world. We are committed to support them with our finances as well as our prayers and encouragement. Ask God to work in their lives and through their ministries to ignite a passion for Jesus in others.

DAILY DEVOTION:

Be consistent, honest, and intentional with this time and you will not regret it. The whole point of this workbook is to make the sermons and Scriptures stick with you in your daily walk with Christ. Digging in to God's Word and applying it to your daily life is perhaps the best way to solidify His truth into your heart and your life.

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Week 1 - Creation [Genesis 1-2]

WEEK 1 - CREATION [Genesis 1-2]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. Where do you go and what do you do when you need a fresh start or a reset?
2. When you think of the days of creation, which day/event would you most want to see?
3. Where is the most beautiful place you have ever been? Describe it to the group.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read Genesis 1. Who is the main character and hero of this story? Why would Moses want the Bible to begin this way?
2. Read Genesis 1:26-28. In what ways were humans set apart from the rest of God's creation? What comes to mind when you hear the word image or likeness? What does it mean to be made in God's image or likeness?
3. How does Genesis 1:26-28 and Genesis 2:7 reflect the unique relationship between God and man? How should knowing that we are made in God's image affect your relationship with God and with other people?

4. **Why do you think people were created? Now read Isaiah 43:7 and answer that question again!**
5. **Why do you think the world was created? Now read Revelation 4:11 and answer that question again!**
6. **The Bible is not about you. Seriously. Why do you think that is so difficult for people to understand? Why do you think it is so important for people to accept?**
7. **Why do you think worshiping God is so closely related to a Fresh Start? How can worship help us reset our focus and our priorities?**

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. How does the creation story inspire you to start things fresh this year? What needs to change?
2. In what ways can you worship God this week in addition to singing?
3. When can you get away to regularly enjoy God's creation? Be sure this becomes a time of worship and praise to your maker!

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Team Expansion: Tim & Amy Maxson

The Maxsons work at Fellowship Dubai church in the Middle East and are making disciples of migrant workers. The Maxson family has five children. teamexpansion.org We have a small team from WCC going to visit the Maxons on Wednesday, January 9 and will return Saturday, January 19.

High Hill Christian Camp

High Hill Christian Camp and Retreat Center's goal is to offer a fun, Christian atmosphere in a modern camp setting surrounded by God's wilderness — all designed so that children will leave with a closer relationship with Jesus. highhillcamp.org

Show-Me Christian Youth Home

This faith-based organization seeks to improve the lives of children struggling because of circumstances in their current home environment. showmehelpingkids.com

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“For the director of music. A psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands ”
[Psalm 19:1, NIV]

- ▶ When you think of a place on earth that declares the glory of God, where is it? What about that place makes you want to worship God?

- ▶ If the earth, skies, and creation that we see now show the work of God’s hands, what do you think heaven will be like? How would you describe it to someone?

DAY 2:

“For the director of music. According to gittith. A psalm of David. LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. ”
[Psalm 8:1, NIV]

- ▶ Why do you think a beautiful sunset or a majestic landscape leads people to praise the name of the Lord?

- ▶ When and where have you had a time of worship in God’s creation? When and where can you do that today? This week? Soon?

DAY 3:

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. ”
[Revelation 4:11, NIV]

- ▶ Why do you think God is so worthy of our praise? How is this tied to the creation of all things?

- ▶ Do you know that God did not create the world for our benefit, but for His glory? How does that impact your view of creation? Of God?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. ”
[Psalm 33:6, NIV]

- ▶ What is your favorite part about looking at the stars? What comes to your mind as you take in the wonder and expanse of God’s creation?

- ▶ Why do you think God used His word and breath for creating the heavens and the stars? What does this remind you of?

DAY 5:

“Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them. ”
[Isaiah 43:7, NLT]

- ▶ Did you know that God created you for His glory? How does that make you feel?

- ▶ God claims you as His if you claim Him as your God. Does your life bring glory to God? What can you do this week to bring Him glory through your words and actions?

DAY 6:

“^aIn his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. ^bThe sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. ^cCome, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. ”
[Psalm 95:4-6, NIV]

- ▶ What about creation brings you awe, wonder, and amazement? Close your eyes and meditate on those things. Thank God for his creation.

- ▶ Now be sure to turn that awe and wonder into worship for the creator, and not the creation. Spend some time right now to literally bow down and worship your maker!

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Week 2 - Fall [Genesis 3]

WEEK 2 - FALL [Genesis 3]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. When have you given instructions to someone and they got misunderstood?
2. When you were a kid, what were some things that were off limits to you? Did you ever break the rules?
3. When have you broken the rules and then tried to justify it based on a technicality?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read Genesis 3:1-7. What did you notice about this story that you have not seen before?
2. What did the serpent say about God's command in verses 4 and 5? What did he imply about God's character? What did he imply about God's motives?

3. **Read Genesis 3:8-13. How did Adam and Eve try to fix their sin problem on their own? What excuses did they make? In what ways do people try to cover up their sin today?**

4. **Read Genesis 3:21-24. What did God make for Adam and Eve? What is so significant about this?**

5. **Read Genesis 3:14-20. If God made a blood-sacrifice for the sins of Adam and Eve, why did he still curse them? Why did he curse the serpent? Women? Men? What stands out to you about each of these curses?**

6. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23. How does this show the connection between Adam and Jesus? How does it show a connection between us and a fresh start?**

CHANGE QUESTIONS

[These questions are for personal application. They can be answered out-loud if someone wants to share, but do not force it. Ask each question and give time for personal reflection.]

1. **When have you tried to blame others for your failures? Why do you do this?**
2. **Are you still trying to cover up or fix your sin problem on your own? What do you need to do instead?**
3. **What steps do you need to take this week to have a fresh start with your relationship with God?**

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Jireh India Missions

This ministry in India shares the good news of Jesus with those who have never heard His name. They provide homes and education for orphans at House of Peace, teach widows to sew so they can provide for their children, provide bread for much of their community through Five Loaves Bakery, and work with a leper colony. They strive to fulfill Psalm 82:3 — *Defend the poor and orphans; do justice to the afflicted and needy.*

HOPE Ministries Food Pantry

HOPE provides families in St. Charles county assistance with food and physical needs. You can donate non-perishable food items to this ministry by visiting the food cart in the WCC café. Take home a bag and bring it back with the items requested for the month.

Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch

Located in Kahoka and Clarence, MO, Shiloh is a safe haven for abused and neglected children, and includes six homes for children, two relief homes, and an onsite school. shilohranch.org

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man.”
[1 Corinthians 15:21, NLT]

- ▶ Why do you think Adam gets the blame here for causing death in the world? What role did he play?

- ▶ Paul wants us to know that resurrection to a new life is possible through Jesus. What do you think that new life will be like?

DAY 2:

“Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.”
[1 Corinthians 15:22, NLT]

- ▶ What kind of death do you think Paul is referring to in verse 22? What kind of life is given through Jesus?

- ▶ What do you think our new life will look like? How can you be sure that you belong to Christ? How can you be sure others belong to Christ?

DAY 3:

“But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.”
[1 Corinthians 15:23, NLT]

- ▶ What irony and imagery do you think Paul is using by referring to a harvest [first-fruits in the NIV]? How does this remind you of Adam and Eve in the garden?

- ▶ How does Jesus’ resurrection affect the way you think about your resurrection? What are you most looking forward to?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“But there is a great difference between Adam’s sin and God’s gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.”
[Romans 5:15, NLT]

- ▶ How did Adam’s sin bring about death to many? What impact does this still have on the world today?

- ▶ What is the biggest contrast you can think of to explain the difference between our sin and God’s gracious gift of Jesus?

DAY 5:

“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”
[Genesis 3:21, NIV]

- ▶ How long do you think it took for God to kill, skin, and treat the garments he made for Adam and Eve? What do you think was going through their minds as they watched?

- ▶ What does this blood sacrifice foreshadow in the Old Testament and New Testament? How does it make you feel that your sins were paid for by the blood of someone innocent?

DAY 6:

“And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”
[Genesis 3:22, NIV]

- ▶ What do you think it means that Adam and Eve now have knowledge of good and evil? Why is that a bad thing?

- ▶ Why would God also banish them from living forever? Death is a punishment and a curse of the fall, but how can it also be a blessing from God?

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a study in Genesis

Week 3 - Flood [Genesis 6]

WEEK 3 - FLOOD [Genesis 6]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What is the most difficult thing you have ever assembled?
2. Do you tend to follow every detail of the instruction manual, or do you just wing it? Why?
3. What are some animals you wish Noah had left off of the ark?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read Genesis 6:5-7. What emotions did God feel? Why did he feel them? Does this surprise you?
2. Do you think people are generally better or worse now than in the days of Noah? What makes you say this?
3. Read Genesis 6:8-10. What do you think it means to find favor in the eyes of God? How did Noah's life contrast those around him?

4. Read Genesis 6:11-17. What do these verses teach us about the seriousness of sin? Why was such a drastic fresh start needed?
5. Read Genesis 6:18-21 and 9:1. What is a covenant, and why would God promise it to Noah in chapter 6, but not fulfil it until chapter 9?
6. Read 6:22 and 7:5. What are some excuses people may give for not fully obeying God? What do you think it takes to be as obedient as Noah?
7. Read Genesis 6:9 again. Explain each of the descriptions of Noah and what they may mean for a fresh start:

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. What consequences have you suffered because of sin and disobedience?
2. Which of the three descriptions of Noah do you need to work on this week?
3. Are you ready for God's day of judgment? Like Noah, how do you need to prepare?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

LOVEtheLOU

LOVEtheLOU is a community development initiative that connects resources to the needs of St. Louis. During the constant process of growth and development, they strive to see St. Louis restored through transforming actions. LTL is proud of the progress in St. Louis and are excited about what will continue to happen as they grow and develop. lovethelou.org

CMF International: Eric & Cait Pitts - Kenya

Eric & Cait serve with the Kenya Church Catalyst Team among the Turkana in northern Kenya. Eric's focus is on developing church leaders and pastors as well as working with a group of local disciple makers to begin a Disciple Making Movement that spreads throughout Kenya and beyond. Cait's focus is on community Health Evangelism, maining with girls and women throughout Turkana. You can find more information at cmfi.org/ecpitts.

Team Expansion: Allen & Cherry Messimer – Taiwan

The Messimers have served as missionaries in Taiwan since 2004. Their mission is to evangelize, disciple, and provide training so every believer can use his or her gifts in a simple church ministry. This also means every church can start new, indigenous churches. Over 90% of Taiwanese people still worship idols. teamexpansion.org

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“²⁶Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.”
[Luke 17:26-27, NIV]

- ▶ When have you carried on in ignorance to some sort of danger that was around you? How did you react when you found out how close you were to danger?

- ▶ Why does Jesus give this warning? What does he want us to learn from the story of Noah and the sinful people?

DAY 2:

“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.”
[Hebrews 11:7, NIV]

- ▶ If you were to commend someone special in your life because of their faith, what would you write about them? What makes their faith so special?

- ▶ Besides his own life, what did Noah gain through his faith? What impact could your faith have on others today? This week?

DAY 3:

“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.”
[Ephesians 2:3, NIV]

- ▶ What was your life like before you were a follower of Jesus? Do you still fall into those patterns every once in a while?

- ▶ What kind of wrath do you think we deserve because of our sin? How do we overcome this sin and avoid that wrath today? What “ark” do you need?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ”
[2 Peter 3:9, NIV]

- ▶ When are some times that you easily lose your patience? When are times that you keep your patience while others may lose theirs?

- ▶ Why would God want us to know how patient he is with us? How has he been patient with you? What does that make you want to do?

DAY 5:

“¹⁹Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. ²⁰Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. ”
[Acts 3:19-20, NLT]

- ▶ According to verse 19, what is the definition of repentance? How does this compare with what many people may think repentance means?

- ▶ What is promised to those who truly repent? How would you describe what this feels like to someone who has never done it?

DAY 6:

“Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. ”
[Revelation 3:3, NIV]

- ▶ What have you been taught or heard about the coming judgment day? Do you think of that day often? Why or why not?

- ▶ Why would Jesus want us to know that he will return unexpectedly? How do you need to prepare?

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Week 4 - Babel [Genesis 11]

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CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What languages have you studied? When have you been able to use them?
2. When have you been in another country where they spoke another language? How did the language barrier affect your trip?
3. When have you seen technology create more problems instead of fixing problems?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read Genesis 11:1-4. What goals did the people have when they settled in the land of Shinar? What was wrong with these goals? [See Genesis 1:28 and 9:1]
2. Read verse 4 again, slowly, and notice the selfish tone. There is nothing morally wrong with building a tower, so why was God so much against what they were doing?
3. Can you think of any examples that may be similar to this today? When do people try to justify their disobedience by saying they are not doing anything morally wrong? [See James 4:17]

4. Read Genesis 11:5-9. Why would the language curse still be in effect today? What does it say about mankind that it might be better for us to have difficulty understanding one another?
5. Read verse 6 again. Why do you think God dispersed everyone before they could accomplish their “plan”? Why would he punish humanity for a “plan” before they even did anything wrong? Hint: This was very recent after the flood.
6. Read verse 8 again. How does this verse affect the way you reconcile the Bible, human history, and civilization?
7. How do you feel about the belief that this scattering event was the beginning of the different racial groups in the world?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. When have you made plans to do something you thought was going to help but ended up hurting?
2. In what ways are you passively disobeying God by not doing what he has clearly commanded in Scripture?
3. How can you minister to those who have been unfairly mistreated because of their skin color, language, appearance, etc. this week?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Central Christian College of the Bible

The goal of Central Christian College of the Bible is to raise up servant leaders for the church and to do so as affordably as possible. CCCB believes so completely in what their students will do for Christ that they want to not only equip them with a quality education, but an affordable one so their future ministry will not be burdened by financial stress. That is why CCCB offers a Full-Tuition Scholarship and will continue to do so as long as there are means. cccb.edu

Christian Prison Ministry of Mid-America

Missouri is home to 29 prisons and 2 county jails in 5 states. CPM's goal is to evangelize, encourage, and equip the believers in all of these prisons. To date, over 400 inmates have been baptized! cpmm-a.org

Outreach International - Mexico | Josh & Susan Sanchez

This mission, called Me & My House Ministries, is a church plant in Colima City. Their goal is to begin a church planting movement within the region.

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. “When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. ”
[Acts 2:5-6, NIV]

- ▶ How does the confusion of language lead to this moment at Pentecost with the dispersing of the Holy Spirit? Why is this connection important?

- ▶ What role does the Holy Spirit play in the unity and progression of the Church of Jesus? How can you tap into that power today? This week?

DAY 2:

“There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. When have you convinced someone that you had a great idea, only to find out it failed? What was wrong with your idea, and how did you feel afterward?”
[Proverbs 14:12, NLT]

- ▶ When have you convinced someone that you had a great idea, only to find out it failed? What was wrong with your idea, and how did you feel afterward?

- ▶ The people who built the tower at Babel thought their way was the best. How can you keep from making this mistake today? This week?

DAY 3:

“The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”
[James 3:6, NIV]

- ▶ When have you seen a fire get out of control? Why do you think James used this analogy with our tongues?

- ▶ How does your tongue and the words that come out of your mouth impact the people in your life? How can you use it for good today?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.”

[Proverbs 19:21, NIV]

- ▶ When have you made plans for your life, only to see them be changed by an unforeseen circumstance? How did you respond?

- ▶ What are some selfish plans you have made before? How can you be sure to align your plans with God’s purpose?

DAY 5:

“If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.”

[James 4:17, NIV]

- ▶ When have you failed to do something you knew you should have? Did anything good or bad happen because of your lack of action?

- ▶ The people of Babel knew God’s commandment, but they chose to be selfish. When have you done this? What commandments of God do you need to be reminded of today?

DAY 6:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

[Acts 1:8, NIV]

- ▶ The people of Babel wanted to stay put and you see what happened. Why do you think God commands people to GO so many times in the Bible?

- ▶ What is promised to you when you go out to be a witness for Jesus? Where are you called to go?

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Week 5 - Abraham [Genesis 12]

WEEK 5 - ABRAHAM [Genesis 12]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. Where is “home” for you? What about that place or town makes you feel at home?
2. What do [or did] you hope to be doing at age 75?
3. When have you followed someone’s instructions or advice even though you were uncertain what the outcome would look like?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read Genesis 12:1. Why do you think God explained that Abram had to leave everything? Why not just tell him what to do?
2. Read Genesis 12:2-3. How would you respond to a promise like this directly from God? What do you think was going through Abraham’s mind?
3. Note how many times God says “I” in this blessing. It may seem like a personal blessing of Abraham, but what is God’s ultimate goal?

4. Read Genesis 12:4-9. Why do you think God used Abraham and Sarah as a fresh start to establish his covenant with his chosen people?
5. What qualities do you think allowed Abraham to follow God's calling? What qualities did Abraham have that you would need in order to demonstrate the same obedience?
6. Read verses 7-8 again. What did Abraham do, twice? Why do you think this is recorded, and what significance does this have for us?
7. FURTHER STUDY: Read Romans 4:18-25. What descriptions of Abraham do you see? How does Paul want us to remember Abraham, and why?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. What blessings have you been given in order that you may be a blessing to others?
2. Where do you feel God is calling you to go? Whom is He calling you to reach?
3. What “altar” do you need to build in order to worship, sacrifice, and remember God this week?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Haitian Island Ministries

Steve & Terry Smith, WCC members

This organization operates medical programs providing free vitamins, medicine, and medical care and feeding programs which provide a daily meal for thousands of Haitian children each month. They also build schools and churches in some of the most remote areas of Haiti. Their medical program has served hundreds of thousands of Haitians. haitianislandministries.org

St. Louis Christian College

SLCC seeks to educate Christians and to graduate leaders who are equipped for service to God. They seek learners who are committed to Christ and highly motivated to serve God and the church; students who are capable of completing the academic rigors of a college education; adults who are willing to acquire both knowledge and skills through service and off-campus learning experiences; and men and women who are drawn from a diversity of geographic, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. stlchristian.edu

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3]

DAY 1:

“It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.”
[Romans 4:13, NIV]

- ▶ When have you tried to follow the rules in order to make someone happy? Did it work?

- ▶ Why do you think faith and righteousness are so closely related in the Scriptures? What is promised to us because of our righteousness and faith?

DAY 2:

“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”
[Romans 4:18, NIV]

- ▶ Who are some people you have placed your hope in? What are some things you have placed your hope in? How did it turn out?

- ▶ When have you been hopeless? In despair? Thinking that God had forgotten about you? How does Abraham’s story inspire you?

DAY 3:

“Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead.”
[Romans 4:19, NIV]

- ▶ Would you rather be surprised by an unexpected gift or would you like to know exactly what is coming but you do not know when it will arrive?

- ▶ Why do you think God waited so long to bless Abraham and Sarah? What does he want us to know/learn from their example?

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 4-6]

DAY 4:

“Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God.” [Romans 4:20, NIV]

- ▶ When have you been so convinced of something that it did not matter what anyone said or did, you would not change your mind or lose hope?

- ▶ Notice that Abraham did not just keep his faith... it actually grew and was strengthened! What do you think he did while he was waiting to grow his faith? What can you do?

DAY 5:

“²¹being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²²This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” [Romans 4:21-22, NIV]

- ▶ There is a BIG difference between God’s power and God’s promises. How can it be dangerous to mix up the two? [For example: God has the power to cure cancer... but did he ever promise that he would cure yours?]


- ▶ What was given to Abraham because he had full faith in God’s power and promise? What promises has God made for us today?

DAY 6:

“²³The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, ²⁴but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.” [Romans 4:23-24, NIV]

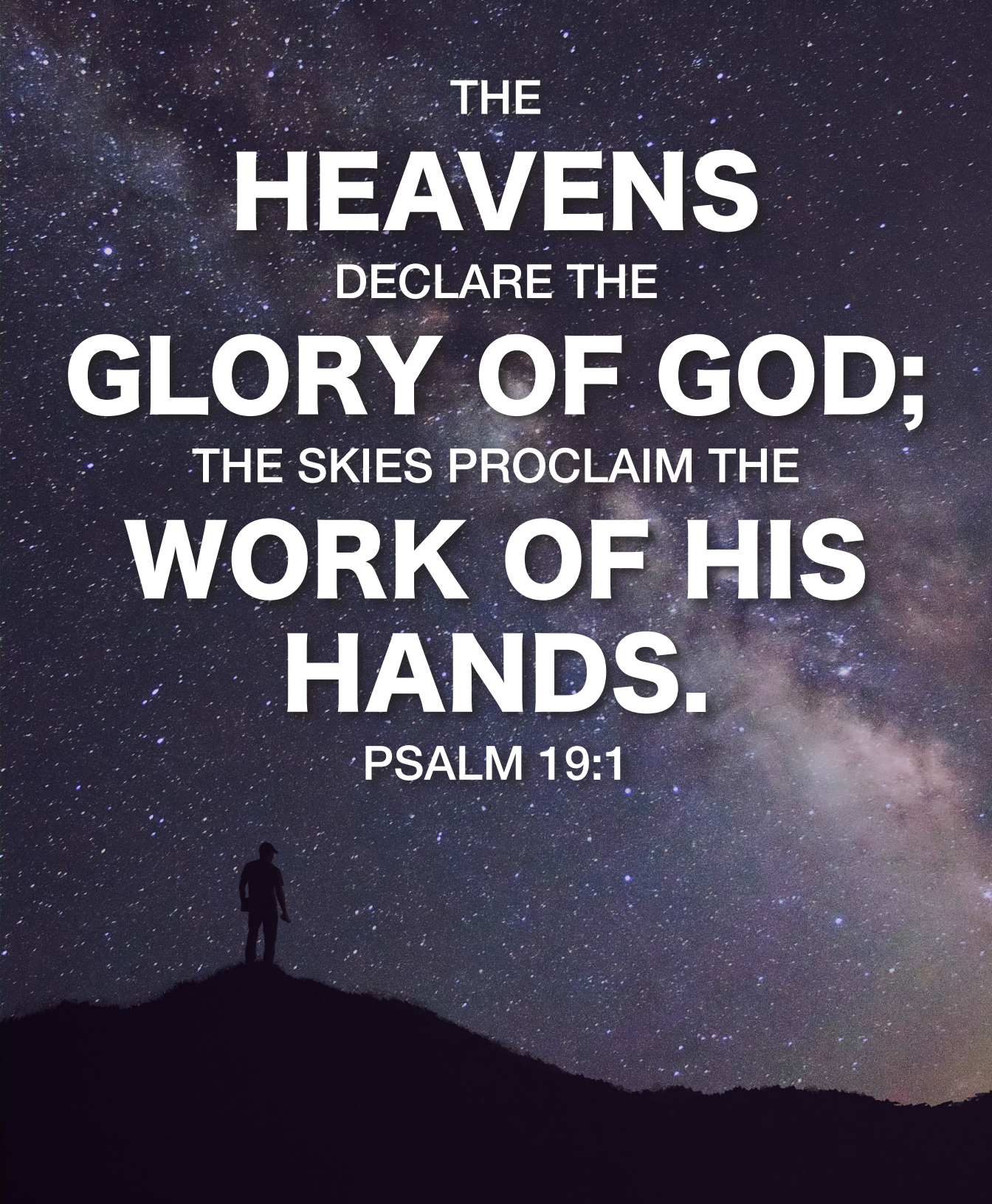
- ▶ Paul says that you can also have righteousness credited to your account because of your faith! How do you think this happens?

- ▶ What do you need to do in order to have this credit of righteousness added to your account? What kind of deposits do you need to make today?



Repent, then,
and turn to God,
so that your sins
may be wiped out,
that times of refreshing
may come from the Lord.

Acts 3:19

A person is silhouetted against a dark, starry night sky. The person is standing on a dark, silhouetted hill or mountain peak. The sky is filled with numerous stars and the Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the right side of the image. The text is overlaid on the sky in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

THE
HEAVENS
DECLARE THE
GLORY OF GOD;
THE SKIES PROCLAIM THE
**WORK OF HIS
HANDS.**

PSALM 19:1