

## LESSON 1 Gen 1-3

CBC-OT volume 2, pages 5-24

### Day 1

1. Why do you want to study the Book of Genesis? What do you hope to learn?
2. What difference might it make to recognize several traditions that contributed to writing Genesis? (See Collegeville Bible Commentary introduction .)
3. How is the power of God's Word shown in this creation account (1 :3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26)? (See Jdt 16:14; Ps 33:6; Sir 42 :15; John 1:1-3.)

### Day 2

4. a) What parallels are there in the first three days of creation and the last three days (1:3-31)?  
b) Why does the author stress these parallels?
5. As you read through the account of six days of creation (1 :3-31), what words or phrases show that creation is an ongoing gift from God?
6. What are some human qualities that especially express God's image (1 :27)? (See Ps 8:6; Wis 2:23.)

### Day 3

7. What principles should govern our use of the world and its resources (1:26-30)? (See Wis 9: 1-4 .) .Give examples.
8. a) When have your experiences affirmed the goodness of creation (1:31)? (See Ps 104; 148; Wis 13:5; Rom 1:20.)  
b) When is it difficult to see the goodness of God's creation?
9. a) How is the Jewish principle of keeping holy the Sabbath attached to the creation account (2:1-3)? (See Exod 20:8.)  
b) How do you keep the Sabbath holy? (See Heb 4 :9-10.)

## 10 Lesson 1-Genesis 1-3

### Day 4

10. a) How can you explain the existence of two different accounts of creation (2:4-25)?

b) What main lesson do both accounts teach?

11. How would a knowledge of the Hebrew language be helpful in studying the second version of creation, especially the creation of humanity (2:4-7)? (Refer to the Colledgeville Bible Commentary.)

12. In this second story of creation, what distinguishes humanity from the animals (2:7, 16-20)?

### Day 5

13. a) One of the author's purposes in 2:21-24 was to show against the cultural conviction of the time that women and men share equality. How is this demonstrated?

b) What are some of the misunderstandings about the equality of men and women today (in family, parish, workplace, etc.)?

14. What was it that caused the man and woman to feel shame (2:25-3:7)?

15. Describe a time when you experienced temptation. Is there anything you share in common with the man and woman in the Garden (3:1-7)? (See Heb 2:18; 4:15; Jas 1:12-15.)

### Day 6

16. The man and woman attempted to hide themselves from God (3:8). When are you tempted to do the same? (See Ps 69:6; 139:1-12.)

17. What do the three punishments from God tell you about life at the time Genesis was written (3:14-19)?

18. In the early Church Mary was called the "new Eve." How would you explain this title (3:20)?

**LESSON 2** Gen 4-8  
CBC-OT volume 2, pages 24-36

Day 1

1. What new insight did you gain from reflecting on the two creation accounts last week?
2. a) Cain and Abel each offered to God something associated with their lives' work (4:3-4). What can you offer to God as an expression of your life and work? (See Ps 107:20-22; Mark 12:33; Rom 12:1.)  
b) Why didn't the author explain the reason for God's displeasure with Cain's offering (4:4-5)?
3. Examine Cain's motive for killing his brother (4:5-8). How do you deal with resentment and envy?

Day 2

4. What is the answer to Cain's question , "Am I my brother's keeper " (4:9- 10)? (See Mark 12:28-31; John 15:12.) How does this apply to your own relationships?
5. a) Have you ever felt like a restless wanderer or an outcast (4:12-15)?  
b) How were you restored to a conviction of God's loving presence ?
6. What purposes are served by the genealogies in 4:17-26 and 5:1-32?

Day 3

7. a) Contrast the attitude of Lamech (4:23-24) with that of Jesus. (See Matt 18:21-22; Col 3:12-13.)  
b) How does the spirit of Lamech affect modern life?
8. Were the ages of the patriarchs given in chapter five their actual life spans?
9. Enoch became an important figure in Jewish tradition. What is distinctive about him (5:21-24)? (See Sir 44: 16; 49:14; Heb 11:5.)

## 14 Lesson 2-Genesis 4--8

### Day 4

10. If the story of the flood (6:1-8:22) is similar to other flood accounts in the region, what makes it different?
11. a) What caused the evil in God's good creation (6:5-11)? (See Ps 14:2-3; Mark 7:20-23; Rom 5:12.)  
b) What are some signs of people's essential goodness in spite of sin? (See 1:31; Acts 17:28; 2 Pet 1:4.)
12. Noah, like Enoch, "walked with God" (6:10). What qualities would you look for in one who walks with God? (See Rom 14:17-19; Gal 5:22-26.)

### Day 5

13. Forty is a traditional biblical number (7:12). What are some other uses of forty in the Bible? (See Exod 16:35; 2 Sam 5:4; Luke 4:1-2; Acts 1:3.)
14. Why would the authors of Genesis emphasize the animals taken on the ark (6:19-7:9, 23)?
15. a) Why did Noah build an altar to the Lord and offer holocausts (8:20)? (See 4:3-4; Exod 24:5-8.)  
b) At what points in your life or the life of your family have you offered praise and thanks in some special way?

### Day 6

16. How does the promise in 8:22 give hope to all generations? (See Ps 89:35-38; Jer 33:20-25; Acts 14:16-17.)
17. How can the story of Noah later be seen as a foreshadowing of Christian baptism? (See Sir 44:17; Titus 3:4-5; 1 Pet 3:18-21.)
18. Is it important to search for the place where the ark came to rest (8:4)?

**LESSON 3** Gen 9-14  
CBC-OT volume 2, pages 35-49

1. What did you learn last week about the results of human sinfulness?
2. Of all the blessings of the earth that humankind is given to enjoy, why was the consumption of "flesh with its lifeblood still in it" considered a desecration (9:3-4)? (See Lev 17:11; Acts 15:28-29.)
3. a) What are some of the threats to human life today for which we will have to give an accounting (9:5)?  
b) What are some daily opportunities to affirm and build up human life?

Day 2

4. The priestly writer introduces the covenant as the story with Noah ends (9:9-17). What can you learn about covenants from this account and others? (See Exod 19:3-6; Jer 31:31-33; Mark 14:23-24 .)
5. How does St. Paul use the covenant with Noah when addressing the Gentiles (Acts 14:16-17)? (See Gen 8:21-22; 9:9-17.)
6. Why is the story of Noah's nakedness and the reaction of his sons included in Genesis (9:18-29)?

Day 3

7. What is the theological significance of the genealogy in 10:1-32? (See 1:28; 9:1.)
8. a) What was the sin of the tower builders (11: 1-4)?  
b) How can we prevent our projects from leading us into the same sin?
9. How might Pentecost (Acts 2) be described as the reverse or the healing of Babel (11:5-9)? (See Eph 4:1-6.)

## 18 Lesson 3-Genesis 9-14

### Day 4

10. The author introduces Abram (Abraham) through his family tree (11: 10-26). What can you learn about God's work in your life by looking at your own family history?

11. a) What does God's promise (12:2-3) and Abram's response (12:4) tell you about Abram's role in Judaism ?

b) Why does St. Paul use the story of Abraham to encourage Christians? (See Rom 4:18-22; Gal 3:6-9.)

12. a) In what ways is Abram 's behavior in Egypt morally wrong (12:10-20)?

b) Why would the Book of Genesis include such a story about a respected patriarch ?

### Day 5

13. a) Why does God protect Abram and Sarai in spite of their sin in Egypt (12:16-20)? (See Ps 105:12-15, 42-43.)

b) How do you feel God will treat you when you sin?

14. What qualities mark Abram in his dealings with Lot (13:5-9)?

15. How does God's promise to Abram involve us (13: 14-17)? (See Acts 3:25; Rom 4:16-18.)

### Day 6

16. What does Abram's rescue mission add to our knowledge of him (14:10-16)?

17. The bread, wine, and blessing offered to Abram are signs of gratitude and hospitality (14: 17-20). How do you express these sentiments to others?

18. How does the Epistle to the Hebrews show Melchizedek as prefiguring Christ (Heb 7)? (See Ps 110:4.)

**LESSON 4** Gen 15-20  
CBC-OT volume 2, pages 49-64

Day 1

1. What personal quality have you found in Abram that is inspiring to you? Why?
2. a) What basis did Abram have for hoping that God's promise to him would be fulfilled (15:1-6)? (See Rom 4:18-22.)  
b) When have you had to believe blindly in God's providence?
3. Explain the meaning of the various parts of the covenant ritual (15:9-11. 17-2 1):
  - a) the split animals . (See Jer 34:18.)
  - b) the smoking brazier and flaming torch. (See Exod 13:21; Deut 4 :23-24.)
  - c) the promised land's boundaries. (See 1 Kgs 5:1.)

Day 2

4. a) Was Sarai's attitude in seeking a child through Hagar one of faith or lack of faith (16:1-4)?  
b) How do you react when God's promises seem slow in coming to pass?
5. Which of the three main characters in this story teaches you the most about human nature (16:1-15)? Why?
6. Why was Hagar's son named "Ishmael" (16:11)?

Day 3

7. How is God's covenant with Abraham (17:1-14) different from the covenant with Noah (9:11-17)? (See 15:7, 13-21.)
8. a) Why does the Book of Genesis assign such importance to the names of individuals (17:5, 15, 17-19.)  
b) If you could choose a particular quality, attitude, or way of acting as your name, what would you choose?
9. The covenant with Abraham required the outward sign of circumcision (17:10-14).and it was an "everlasting pact" which includes us (17:7). What other outward signs do we use today?

## 22 Lesson 4-Genesis I 5-20

### Day 4

10. When have you responded to God with the combination of rever-

ence and disbelief that Abraham showed {17: 17-18)?

11. What can we learn from the hospitality of Abraham and Sarah (18:1-8)? (See Heb 13:1-2.)

12. Do you believe in praying for gifts from God that seem impossible

(18:14)? Explain.

### Day 5

13. What does the bargaining over Sodom show about God's mercy {18:22-32)? {See Matt 10:29-31; Luke 15:4-7.)

14. What seems to be the reason for Sodom's destruction (19:5,9, 13)? (See 13:11-13; 18:20-21.)

15. What can you conclude about the role of women in ancient societies from the stories of Eve (3:12, 16); Sarah and Hagar (12:11-19; 16:1-14); Lora's daughters (19:8, 30-36)?

### Day 6

16. If Abraham was deceitful, why does God let Abimelech's welfare depend on him (20:7, 17-18)?

17. Abraham apparently lied because of fear (20:9-11). What rationalizations do we sometimes offer for our own sinful behavior?

18. What have you learned about Jewish remembrance of Abraham from the two versions of his deception?(See 12:11-20; 20:1-18.)



## **LESSON 5** Gen 21:1-25:18

CBC-OT volume 2, pages 64-77

### Day 1

1. What is your impression of Abraham after last week's discussion and lecture?
2. God's faithfulness is obvious in the story of Isaac's birth (21: 1-2). What stories from your own life illustrate God's continuing faithfulness? (See Heb 11:11.)
3. a) What motivated Sarah to demand that Hagar and Ishmael be driven out (21:9-10)?  
b) How is the situation of Hagar and Ishmael similar to that of outcasts in our own society (21: 14-19)?

### Day 2

4. How did Abraham and Abimelech each benefit from their pact (21:22-34)?
5. How has Christian tradition:
  - a) seen Isaac as prefiguring Christ (22:6-8)? (See John 1:29; 19:17; Rom 5:6-11.)
  - b) used Abraham's example to express God's love (22: 1-14)? (See John 3:16; Rom 8:32; Heb 11:17-18; Jas 2:21-23; 1 John 4:9-10 .)
6. What person, possession, or habit would be the most difficult for you to part with?

### Day 3

7. What is the significance of Abraham buying a burial plot for Sarah in Canaan, rather than accepting the tomb as a gift (23:3-16)? (See Exod 3:8.)
8. Why is Abraham so adamant that Isaac not be taken back to Haran (24:5-8)? (See 12:1-4.)
9. How might a Christian "return to Haran" (24:6)? (See Gal 4:8-11; 2 Pet 2:20-22.)

## 26 Lesson 5-Genesis 21:1-25:18

### Day 4

8. What are the qualities you see in Rebekah (24:15-66)?
11. a) What divine trait does the servant see in the Lord's dealings with Abraham (24:27)?  
b) How would you characterize the Lord's dealings with you?
12. What is revealed about Laban 's character in his eagerness to receive Abraham 's servant (24:30)?

### Day 5

13. How does one discern whether a decision comes from the Lord (24 :50)? (See Acts 10:44-47; 13:2; Phil 4:8-9.)
14. When you have experienced the departure of someone close to you, what kind of blessing have you requested for that person (24:60)?
15. Do you know of people who have left their homeland in response to God's direction in their lives? What did they experience in theirnew surroundings?

### Day 6

15. What special provisions are made for Isaac to insure his role in God's covenant {25:5-6, 11)?
16. How does Ishmael's genealogy relate to God's previous promise regarding him (24: 12-18)? (See 21: 13.)

**LESSON 6** Gen 25:19-29:30  
CBC-OT volume 2, pages 77-89

Day 1

1. What insight do you want to remember from last week's discussion or lecture?
2. What significance does barrenness have in the story of salvation (11:30; 25:21)? (See Judg 13:2; 1 Sam 1:6; Luke 1:7.)
3. a) What does Jacob's name imply about him {25:26)?  
b) What evidence is there to support this assessment (25:29-34)?

Day 2

4. Both 26:1-11 and 26:29-33 are presented as "like father, like son" stories. In what ways have you seen children imitate their parents? Is this good or bad?
5. What motivated Rebekah to help Jacob deceive Isaac (27:1-29)?
6. a) How does Rebekah reap sadness for the trick she has helped play on Isaac and Esau (27:13, 45)?  
b) Give another example of sin bringing its own punishment.

Day 3

7. a) What should Esau do about the injustice against him (27:35-36, 41)?  
b) What if he can't get just recompense?  
c) How are we called to respond to injustices against ourselves? {See Matt 5:38-45.)
8. Rebekah and Jacob, a dishonorable pair, are instruments in God's plan. How can difficult or dishonorable people be instruments of God in our lives? Can you give an example?

## 30 Lesson 6-Genesis 25:19-29:30

### Day 4

9. There is great emphasis placed on finding a suitable spouse (28:1-2; 8-9). What criteria would be important in Christian marriage today?
10. Why does God give Jacob the blessing and promise after the evil Jacob has done (28:13-15)? (See Deut 7:7-8; 1 Sam 16:7; Isa 55:9.)
11. How is the promise of 28:15 a promise to every believer? (See Matt 28:20; John 14:18.)

### Day 5

12. How is Jacob's promise a cheap response to the Lord's promise (28:20-22)?
13. a) What is a Christian required to give to God? (See Luke 6:38; 1 Cor 4:7; Phil 3:7-9.)  
b) What does the tithe represent {28:22)?
14. What more do you learn about Jacob from his initial meeting with Rachel (29:7-10)?

### Day 6

15. a) How does Laban take advantage of Jacob {29:15-30)?  
b) In what ways are people exploited today?
16. a) How was it possible for Jacob to mistake Leah for Rachel (29:22-25)?  
b) What kinds of passion can blind people to reality?
17. How was Leah abused by her father (29:23-25)?

## **LESSON 7** Gen 29:31-34:31

CBC-OT volume 2, pages 88-101

### Day 1

1. Which character in last week's lesson showed you the most about God's fidelity? Why?
2. What are some of the reasons Leah and Rachel vie in bearing children (29:31-30:24)?
3. The struggle between Leah and Rachel is a reminder of the struggles and divisions that many families experience. How can Christians better support one another in family life?

### Day 2

4. In the Jacob stories God is shown communicating through dreams (28:12; 31:11-13, 42). How does God most often communicate with you?
5. Why did Rachel take the household gods (3 1:19)?
6. a) What is the most moving part of the pact made between Laban and Jacob (3 1:43-54)?  
b) When have a meal and a blessing of some kind been a sign of reconciliation in your life?

### Day 3

7. How did Jacob try to appease the anger of his brother (32:14-22)?
8. What have you found to be the most effective way to heal quarrels? (See Rom 12:9-21.)
9. How is Jacob's interior struggle expressed in the scene at the Jab- bok ford (32:23-33)?

## 34 Lesson 7-Genesis 29:31-34:31

### Day 4

10. How does the meaning of the name "Israel" characterize not only Jacob's relationship with God but the people of Israel as well?
11. How does the reunion of Jacob and Esau (33:4-9) compare to
  - a) the homecoming of the Prodigal Son? (See Luke 15:11-24.)
  - b) the reunion of the penitent sinner and God? (See Luke 15:4-7.)

### Day 5

12. a) Is there any person to whom you could say: "To come into your presence is for me like coming into the presence of God" (33: 10)?  
b) What does it mean to see Christ in everyone? (See Matt 25:40: Acts 9:3-5.)
13. Why would mistrust continue between Jacob and Esau after such a warm greeting (33: 12-17)?
14. What can be done to heal the ruptures caused by fear and suspicion?

### Day 6

15. a) What was the attitude toward women and marriage found in Shechem's treatment of Dinah (34: 1-4)?  
b) How do you respond to such attitudes when you encounter them today?
16. What argument convinced the men of Shechem to submit to circumcision (34:23)?
17. a) How did Jacob's sons revenge the rape of their sister Dinah (34 :13-29)?  
b) Why did Jacob object to their actions (34 :30)? (See 49:5-6.)

**LESSON 8** Gen 35-39  
CBC-OT volume 2, pages 101-112

Day 1

1. What have you learned about the culture of the ancient Near East that helps you better understand the Book of Genesis?
2. What was symbolized in the handing over of foreign gods and earrings (35:2-4)? (See 31:19; Josh 24:23.)
3. a) Why did Jacob pour oil over the stone at Bethel (35:15)? (See 28; 18.)  
b) How is oil used in the Church today?

Day 2

- 4. God's promise, originally made to Abraham, is often repeated (35:11-12). Why is this promise so central in Judaism?
- 5. a) Why did Jacob change the name of his son from Ben-oni to Benjamin (35:18)?  
b) What symbolic name might you now give yourself?
- 6. When have you been called to move on and "pitch your tent" in a new place (35:21)?

Day 3

7. In what ways is the story of Joseph influenced by Israel's wisdom tradition?
8. a) Why did Joseph's brothers hate him (37:1-11, 18-19)?  
b) How might their father's response to Joseph's disappearance have affected their feelings (37:33-35)?
9. How can you account for two different versions of how Joseph came to be sold in Egypt (37:21-36)?

## 38 Lesson 8-Genesis 35-39

### Day 4

10. How does Reuben 's plan show both courage and cowardice (37:19-22)? (See 42 :21-22 .)
11. When Joseph was sold into slavery (37:28, 36), do you think his earlier dreams were a com fort to him or a source of bitterness (37:6-11)?
12. Point out similarities in the treatment of Joseph in Genesis 37 and the treatment of Jesus in the Passion accounts.

### Day 5

13. Why did Tamar think she was in the right in seducing Judah (38: 12-26)? (See Deut 25:5-10.)
14. How would you judge the actions of Judah (38:16-26)?
15. Name two significant descendants of Tamar and her sons {38:27-30}. {See Ruth 4: 12; Matt I :3.)

### Day 6

16. a) How did Joseph win the confidence of Potiphar (39:1-6)?  
b) How have others been blessed through God's favors to you?
17. a) What are Joseph 's reasons for reject ing the advances of Potiphar's wife (39:7-11)?  
b) What strengthens you against temptation ? (See Heb 2:18; 4: 15-16.)
18. What recourse is there when one is falsely accused (39:17-20)? {See Isa 53:7-8; Matt 27:13-14.)



**LESSON 9** Gen 40-45  
CBC-OT volume 2, pages 112-123

Day 1

1. What is one lesson you learned in last week's discussion or lecture?
2. a) Why does Joseph state that dream interpretations "come from God" (40:8)? (See 37:5-11.)  
b) When have your dreams helped you to more clearly understand yourself or God's action in your life?
3. Why did the cupbearer forget about Joseph (40:23)?

Day 2

4. . What characteristics does Joseph possess that cause others to respect him (chapter 41)?  
Describe a recent time when you were reminded of God's work through you (41: 16).
6. What position and responsibilities did Pharaoh give Joseph (41:37-46)? (See Ps 105:16-22; Wis 10:13- 14.)

Day 3

7. What is the meaning of the Egyptian name "Zaphenath-paneah" (41:45)?
8. What can you discover about the future significance of the tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim (4 1:51-52)? (See 48:1-6, 17-20; Deut 3:13-14; 1 Chr 7:12-29.)
9. How do the names of Joseph's sons indicate his attitude toward his own life's journey (4 1:51-52)?

## 42 Lesson 9-Genesis 40-45

### Day 4

10. Why did Joseph treat his brothers harshly rather than reveal his identity {42:8-9. 15)?

11. What is the irony in the brothers' description of themselves to

Joseph as "honest men" (42:11)? (See Mark 14:27-31.)

12. Have you ever shared Jacob's complaint : "Why must such things always happen to me!" (42:36) What is your answer? (See Job 1:13-22; Isa 43:1-5; Phil 4:10-13.)

### Day 5

13. What are some circumstances that might force you, like Jacob, to set aside pride and fear to gain what you need (43: 1-2, 11-14)?

-14 . Comment on the meaning and significance of the two meals found in 37:25 and 43:31-34. (See Luke 24:28-32, John 13:18.)

15. What does Judah demonstrate to Joseph in his plea for Benjamin's freedom (44:18-34)? (See John 15:13.)

### Day 6

16. a) What good does Joseph see in the sin of his brothers (45:4-8)?

b) How has God worked through a trial in your life? (See Rom 8:28.)

17. The themes of remnant and deliverance are introduced in Joseph's understanding of events (45:7). What are some ways these terms are used elsewhere in the Bible? (See 2 Kgs 19:31; Ps 33:18-19; 79:9-10; Sir 4:9; Isa 10:20-22; 31:7-9; Jer 15:20-21; Gal 3:13-14.)

What does Joseph mean by his admonition in 45:24? (See 45:5.)

**LESSON 10** Gen 46-50  
CBC-OT volume 2, pages 123-133

Day 1

1. What impressed you most about Joseph's treatment of his brothers in the last lesson?
2. What coming biblical events are alluded to in 46:4?
3. Why does Joseph insist that his family reveal their shepherd past (46:31-47:5)?

Day 2

4. a) What is the significance of Jacob calling himself a "wayfarer" (47:9)? (See Ps 39:13; 119:19.)  
b) Vatican Council II calls the Church a people in exile. on pilgrimage to God's kingdom (Constitution on the Church, no. 9). What events have marked the Church's pilgrimage during your lifetime?
5. Recall some of the "hard times" Jacob has been through (47:9). What do you think was his source of strength?
6. How would Joseph's land policy be judged by today's standards (47:13-26)?

Day 3

7. Why was Jacob so intent on being buried in Canaan (47:29-31)? (See 50:12-13, 24-25.)
8. How does Jacob's blessing of his grandsons parallel Isaac's blessing of Esau and Jacob (48:8-20)? (See 27:18-40.)
9. Carefully read the words of Jacob's blessing (48:15-16) and meditate on the images of God that he uses. Which image speaks most to you? Why?

## 46 Lesson 10-Genesis 46-50

### Day 4

10. Why do scholars believe the blessing found in Genesis 49 is a collection of later sayings?
11. How does the prediction about Judah allude to the coming Messiah (49:8-12)? (See Ps 60:9; 78:68-72; Matt 1:1; Rev 5:5.)
12. What would be the best blessing a parent could give a child?

### Day 5

13. a) Which ancestors are buried in the cave Abraham bought from Ephron at Hebron (49:28-32)? (See chapter 23.)  
b) Which of these ancestors will you better appreciate as a result of this study?
14. What might be indicated by the presence of Egyptian officials and dignitaries at Jacob's funeral (50:7-9, 11)?
15. How does our idea of God affect the way we treat people (50:19-21)?  
(See Rom 12:17.)

### Day 6

16. How is Joseph's dying request fulfilled (50:25)? (See Exod 13:19; Heb 11:22.)
17. What unique perspectives did the Israelites bring to the story of their beginnings in the Book of Genesis?
18. If you were to tell the story of your own beginnings in faith, what would you choose to highlight?