



masterwork

FALL 2022

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

In your opinion, what does it take for a person to get to heaven and have eternal life?
The Bible answers this question in one word—**FAITH**.

F is for **FORGIVENESS**

- Everyone has sinned and needs God's forgiveness: *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).
- God's forgiveness is in Jesus only: *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace"* (Ephesians 1:7).

A is for **AVAILABLE**

- God's forgiveness is available for all: *"God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).
- God's forgiveness is available but not automatic: *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 7:21).

I is for **IMPOSSIBLE**

- It is impossible to get to heaven on our own: *"You are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

T is for **TURN**

- Turn means repent. Turn away from sin and self and turn to Jesus alone as your Savior and Lord: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* (John 14:6); *"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation"* (Romans 10:9-10).

H is for **HEAVEN**

- Here . . . Eternal life begins now with Jesus: *"I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance"* (John 10:10).
- Hereafter . . . Heaven is a place where we will live with God forever: *"If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also"* (John 14:3).
- How . . . How can a person have God's forgiveness, eternal life, and heaven? By trusting Jesus as your Savior and Lord. You can do this right now by praying and asking Jesus to forgive you of your sins and inviting Jesus into your heart.

Accepting Christ is just the beginning of a wonderful adventure with God! Follow Christ's command in baptism. Join a church where you can worship God and grow in your faith. Get involved in Sunday School and Bible study. Begin a daily personal worship time in which you study the Bible and pray.

Table of Contents

How to Use	4
------------------	---

S E A M L E S S

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF	Introduction	6
SEPTEMBER 4	Session 1: The Beginning	7
SEPTEMBER 11	Session 2: The Patriarchs	20
SEPTEMBER 18	Session 3: The Exodus	34
SEPTEMBER 25	Session 4: The Promised Land	47
OCTOBER 2	Session 5: The Kingdoms & the Prophets	60
OCTOBER 9	Session 6: The Messiah	73
OCTOBER 16	Session 7: The Letters	87

F O L L O W M E

	Introduction	100
OCTOBER 23	Session 8: Unconverted Believers	101
OCTOBER 30	Session 9: The Great Invitation	115
NOVEMBER 6	Session 10: Superficial Religion and Supernatural Regeneration	129
NOVEMBER 13	Session 11: Don't Make Jesus Your Personal Lord and Savior	143
NOVEMBER 20	Session 12: Children of God	157
NOVEMBER 27	Session 13: Born to Reproduce	171
	Coming Next Quarter	185

MasterWork: Essential Messages from God's Servants

Fall, 2022

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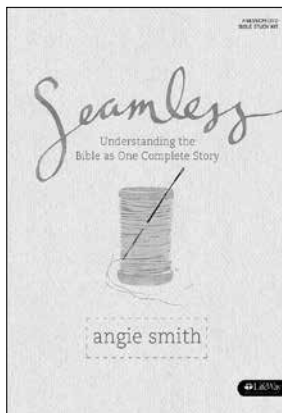
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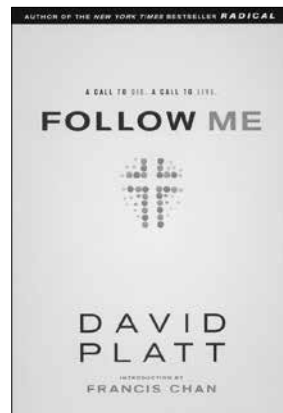
Books of Study

Further in-depth Bible studies by the authors presented this quarter in MasterWork® are available in their full-length books. To purchase your own copies to read and study, visit lifeway.com. Or you can order a copy by calling 1.800.458.2772.



Seamless
Angie Smith

Lifeway Press
ISBN: 978-1430032304



Follow Me
David Platt

Tyndale House
ISBN: 978-1414373287

How to Use

Here are a few suggestions to help you get the most out of this resource:

Group Members

1. Read Day One through Day Five prior to attending the group time. Complete the personal learning activities in bold type. Record your notes and questions.
2. Review your notes and questions a few moments prior to the group time as a means of preparing to be an active part of the group.
3. In the margins of this book, record insights gained during the group time.

Group Leader

1. Complete step 1 above.
2. Identify the one main idea and goal for the lesson. The main point of the lesson and the goal are printed on the leader guide pages at the end of each lesson. (See p. 17.) Focus on the session goal as you lead the session.

The main point of this lesson is: God begins to weave the seamless revelation of His plan from the opening of the Bible.

Focus on this goal: To help adults affirm the importance of the beginning in their walk with Christ

Key Bible Passages: Genesis 1–11

Leader Guide

- Read and study the key Bible passages listed at the top of the teaching plan.
- Develop a group time plan. Two options are offered in this book.

- One option is to follow the leader guide at the end of each lesson.
- A second option is to use the discussion questions in the margins of the lessons. Some group leaders use a combination of both group time plans.

<p>Written by forty authors over 1,600 years, sixty-six books tell one seamless story about how God redeems us, and has a future for us. Let's explore the beautiful story of Scripture. How does this story fit with Christians who were successfully fitting in with Christians who were</p>	<p>DISCUSS</p> <p>When might a visit to a library be overwhelming? When might it be exciting?</p>
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Discussion Questions

- Customize the electronic versions of the suggested teaching plans, available on the Internet at masterwork.lifeway.com to fit your group.
- Review and refine your teaching notes as you move toward the group time.
- Arrive early, praying for the group time.

SECTION 1

LEADER GUIDE

The main point of this lesson is: God begins to weave the seamless revolution of His plan from the opening of the Bible.

Focus on this goal: To help adults affirm the importance of the beginning of their walk with Christ.

Key Bible Passages: Genesis 1-11

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Intelle adults to indicate if they've ever read books or watched movies that were part of a series. **Ask** to be possible to read the books or watch the movies out of order and still enjoy them? What's the value of reading or watching them in order?

Note reading or watching serial stories in order gives us a better grasp of the overall story and a deeper understanding of the characters and plot. **Help** us see how all the stories fit together. **State:** That's how Scripture is as well. We can know and love individual Bible stories but understanding how they fit together into one seamless narrative can bring the Bible's truth into much clearer focus.

STEP 2 - Getting Started

Intelle a volunteer to read the first two sentences of Day One (p. 7).

Relate the author's experience of not understanding what Christians were talking about and how she gained a clearer grasp of the Bible (p. 7).

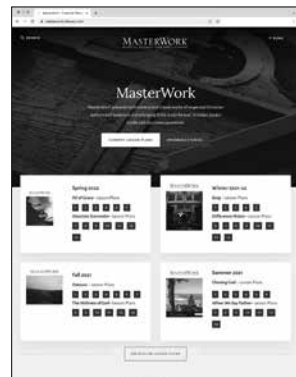
Intelle a volunteer to share what has helped them understand the Bible better.

Relate to author's desire for readers to see Scripture's overarching story and its characters and themes to come to life. **Relate** to author's challenge by reading the Day One paragraph (p. 10) beginning with, "Below we start..."

Discuss: Day One, activity 2 (p. 8).

17

Leader Guide



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Study Series: Seamless
Author: Angie Smith

Lesson Title: "The Beginning" (pp. 6-13)
Session 1
September 4, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: God begins to weave the seamless revolution of His plan from the opening of the Bible.

Focus on this goal: To help adults affirm the importance of the beginning of their walk with Christ.

Key Bible Passages: Genesis 1-11

Before the Session

1. Prayers 780 (Step 2)
2. Karaoke 780 (Step 2)

During the Session

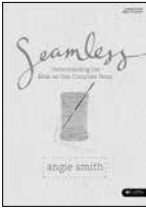
Step 1: Title

Intelle adults to indicate if they've ever read books or watched movies that were part of a series. **Ask** to be possible to read the books or watch the movies out of order and still enjoy them? What's the value of reading or watching them in order?

Note reading or watching serial stories in order gives us a better grasp of the overall story and a deeper understanding of the characters and plot. **Help** us see how all the stories fit together. **State:** That's how Scripture is as well. We can know and love individual Bible

8

Customizable Teaching Plan



SEAMLESS



ABOUT THE WRITERS

Angie Smith is the wife of Todd (of the Christian music group Selah), and mom to five girls. Angie's passion is to make the Bible feel accessible and relevant, to share her ups and downs to encourage others in their faith, and hopefully, to provide a few laughs along the way. She is a best-selling author of two children's books and several adult books, including *I Will Carry You* and *What Women Fear*.

Amy Summers wrote the activities, discussion questions, and teaching plans for this study. Amy, a frequent contributor to Lifeway resources, is a graduate of Baylor University with a degree in social work, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with a master's degree in religious education. She and her husband have three adult children and three grandchildren.

As I sit tapping out these words, I have just received the PDF version of this study in its entirety. And I won't bother sugarcoating my response—I sobbed. Because fifteen years ago, I would have told you Jesus was a myth, a legend, a fairy tale for those who needed a distraction from life. I would have sounded intellectual, too. I had degrees, published studies, and years of fancying myself as some sort of expert on life—all at the ripe age of 23. I still see that girl in my mind's eye as I hold this work in my hands, and the irony isn't lost on me.

And here's the best part: He knew it all along. He watched me search, cling, and grasp at anything that felt like truth, all the while knowing one day I would bow before Him. And the fact that His mercy reaches all the way into the heart of a rebellious, stubborn, undeserving mess of a woman, well, I can't quite explain what that does to my heart.

I have had more Bibles than I can count since I began my journey with Him. Many are weathered, marked, and littered with notes and prayers. It took me years and years of reading to begin to understand the story of Scripture, but when I began to, the world came into sharp focus for the first time. Maybe you can relate? You love the stories, but you aren't sure how they fit together.

I'm praying for you right this minute. You. God knows your name, your circumstances, and exactly what He has in mind for the next several weeks. And I have the great pleasure and distinct honor of joining you in that journey. I can only pray you are as blessed by reading it as I have been by writing it. The Word is alive. It's active. It pierces us, bringing us near to Him and to the cross that freed us.

WITH LOVE, ANGIE

THE BEGINNING

Day 1

Getting Started

The entire Bible is a vast library, written by forty authors over 1,600 years. But the amazing thing is those sixty-six books tell one seamless story about the God who made us, loves us, redeems us, and has a future for us. Let's get started digging into the beautiful story of Scripture.

One thing I learned about successfully fitting in with Christians was the power of nodding. It made people think I understood things I didn't, and it covered the insecurity and frustration of feeling like the Bible was never going to make sense to me. When they said things like, "I'm so inspired by Paul's courage," I would bob my head and make a mental note to investigate later.

Have you ever been there? It's all over your head and you're counting the minutes until you can leave the situation that reminds you you aren't smart enough to "get it." I eventually got so frustrated I walked into my local Christian bookstore, asked where the children's section was, and sat cross-legged on the floor thumbing through the bright photos and short summary stories for a few hours. Don't laugh, because it actually helped me. I bought a few children's storybook Bibles and after my classes each day I sat on our apartment balcony and read without letting the voice of condemnation speak louder than the voice of devotion.

But the overarching story escaped me. Details just floated in space without anything anchoring them to the bigger picture. It wasn't until I spent time investing in understanding the basic story that the characters and themes of Scripture really came to life for me. My greatest desire is for this study to do the same for you.

DISCUSS

When might a visit to a library be overwhelming? When might it be exciting?

1. What is your greatest desire for this study?

Don't misunderstand—I am by no means a Bible scholar, and I've barely scratched the surface when it comes to understanding the Word, but I've made progress. I know enough about the general story of the Bible to be able to make an educated guess about the where and why of a particular story, and that's an amazing feeling.

A lot of the time, you know a verse or a story, but you don't know where it lands in the bigger picture, so you miss the significance. But trust me—in a few weeks, you'll be shocked at how you can look at the same sentences and make sense of them.

Before we start, I want you to commit to really see this through over the next several weeks. Tell yourself you are going to work hard, praying the Holy Spirit will speak to you in new ways as you go. No matter how little (or how much) you know, I pray this study will breathe life into your love for God's Word and will empower you to claim its promises as your own. Remember something very important: the Bible wasn't written for experts to understand while baffling the rest of us. The Bible was written for us, and we are claiming that right now.

2. Read the following verses in your Bible. Next to each reference record reasons the Bible was written for us.

Romans 15:4

1 Corinthians 10:11

2 Timothy 3:16-17

So, erase any part of your self-talk that says you aren't smart enough or educated enough or even spiritual enough. Deal? Many people I meet hang their heads in conversation because they don't think they measure up to other, "smarter" Christians. LISTEN. That's the devil calling, and we aren't answering.

DISCUSS

Why might some find the concept of exploring the whole Bible overwhelming? How can it be exciting?

With that, we begin. Lord, reveal Yourself in every step of this journey, imparting Your wisdom and grace as we go.

Day 2

Creation & Fall

“In the beginning . . .” (Gen. 1:1). Three simple words launch us into the pages of God’s love. The first book of the Bible is called “Genesis.” You would be hard-pressed to find a fiction book with as many twists and turns as Genesis. In the first several verses we learn the order in which God created all things, but we’ll home in on the beginning of humanity.

God created Adam (the first man) from the dust of the earth. I don’t know how that went down, but the bottom line is God created this man in God’s own image. God wanted Adam to have a partner, so He put Adam into a deep sleep, removed one of his ribs and used it to create Eve—the woman who would be Adam’s wife.

Adam’s new wife brings some issues into the marriage. Namely, she doesn’t act like she’s 100 percent sure she trusts God. The first lady of the garden did her fair share of disobeying. Everything was going swimmingly for Adam and Eve. They had a great place to live, and all their needs were met. But even from the beginning of time, there was the question that haunts us to this day: “Does God really have my best in mind?”

1. Identify a situation where you wondered, “Does God really have my best in mind?”

God’s instructions had been clear: anything was fair game to eat with the exception of fruit from one particular tree. Well, we humans buck anything that feels like a limitation on our “rights.” So Satan, clothed as a snake, shimmies into the picture and plants a seed of doubt in Eve’s mind.

Eve falls for it. She decides the fruit is a good thing—after all, why wouldn't a loving God want her to have this fantastic knowledge? She takes a bite and hands one to Adam. And everything changes. Forever.

DISCUSS

What are possible ways people answer the question, "Does God really have my best in mind?" What can result from each of those answers?

God created a situation where His people could choose whether or not to live in accordance with His rules. They chose not to. That decision shaped every person who would ever be born, because their disobedience resulted in separation from God. God is perfect, so the stain of sin put them (and us) in a state of opposition from Him. In and of ourselves, we do not have the power to bridge that gap.

2. Read in your Bible Romans 5:12,15-19. What is the:

Bad news?

Good news?

Let's take this opportunity to deal with another big issue we're going to face so the elephant in the room doesn't impede our main goal. If we are genuinely seeking the glory of God, let's agree for the time being to set down our preconceived notions and bits and pieces of arguments that have influenced our opinions. Above and beyond any of our lofty desires is this unshakable reality: We do not and will never know everything there is to know, nor were we created to understand all the mysteries of God.

It's not a cop-out to say you're clothing yourself in humility and seeking His voice. Before you get any further, spend just a moment praying over anything that rises up in you in an attempt to discredit the Word. Commit to yourself and to God that this study is not a place for wrestling out every question you have, but rather an opportunity to grow in knowledge. There will be plenty of opportunities to take what you learn and apply it, but the heart of this study is to come to the Lord with our hearts open, refusing to let a defensive stance prevent us from growth.

Day 3

Results of the Fall

After their disobedience, Adam and Eve were filled with shame, suddenly aware of their nakedness and fearful of the consequences of sin. They attempted to hide from God, but God asked His own “first question” (Gen. 3:9). Now listen. He’s God. He knows all things, so He isn’t actually trying to figure out where they’ve gone. In my mind, God wasn’t asking them to identify their location, but their condition. He was asking: “Where are your hearts? What in the world are you thinking, imagining you can so blatantly disregard Me then hide?”

As you read Scripture, think critically about passages and apply them to yourself instead of seeing each as a far-removed history lesson. In other words, when you read, “Where are you?” imagine He’s talking to you. No matter what you answer, know this: it is not a surprise to God.

1. Imagine God asking you, “Where are you?” What would your response be?

I wish I didn’t see myself in what happens next, but of course I do. God asked Adam and Eve to give an account. Adam started right (v. 10). In other words? I screwed up, then I really regretted it. Good place to start when you’re chatting with the God of the universe who breathed life into your lungs. But when God starts to corner Adam, he does something I would never do (untrue). Adam blamed both his wife and God. Eve evidently also minored in “passing the buck” at the University of Eden: He tricked me! How was I supposed to know all of this would happen? The trouble is, neither Eve nor we are helpless victims. We always have the choice to believe either God or the devil. It can’t be both.

Next, God speaks to the serpent, and we find the first reference to Jesus, the Savior who will be sent to restore our relationship with God (v. 15). The heart of what God is saying is this: Satan will bruise the heel

of God's people—he will wound them and have a negative effect on their lives. But a wound to the heel is not lethal; it is temporary.

On the other hand, crushing the head of a serpent results in death. A snake's poison is in its head, so the power to inflict injury is erased when the head is destroyed. Here we see a promise from God, spoken just after His creation has gone astray: The state you have placed yourself in is temporary. Out of my deep love for you, despite how little you deserve it, I will bring a solution to bridge the chasm between us.

Does this eliminate repercussions? No. Indeed God speaks directly to both Adam and Eve, detailing ways their sin will continue to affect all generations to come (vv. 16-19). After God sends Adam and Eve out of the garden, the pattern of sin continues in their children. The world's first murder takes place as one of their sons (Cain) kills the other (Abel) out of anger.

We are about to dig into some lineage—who was born to whom and why that eventually matters. If you're like me, your tendency is to glance over long lists of names and continue to skim until something that seems important and relevant shows up. But the truth is, having an idea of how much time passed between people and events is really helpful to seeing the big picture, so take a few minutes and review Genesis 5:21-32.

2. As you read Genesis 5:21-32, list the names mentioned in these verses. Next to each name, record at least one fact you find interesting about that person.

DISCUSS

Why does God deal so aggressively with sin? What is God's greatest demonstration of His aggressive strategy against sin AND His amazing love for us?

See? It's not so bad. Unfortunately, the conditions of humanity continued to decline, until we come to Genesis 6:5-8. God is taking stock of the way His creation is behaving. He is grieved by how far they have wandered. Knowing their hearts, He recognizes this will continue to worsen, alienating them further and further from Himself. He determines the best way to deal with it is to wipe out creation.

I'm sure this comes across as an aggressive strategy. It is meant to. Inasmuch as He is good, He is also just. You might be tempted to shake your head at a God who would destroy His own creation. I would urge you to keep in mind one teeny-tiny-itsy-bitsy detail—we aren't God. That means we can't "put ourselves in His place." Attempts to apply our own standards and expectations on Him are basically futile. He is entirely separate from us, and fully sovereign—meaning He can do what He wants when He wants. He is also fully love so what He does is ultimately loving whether we understand or not.

But (and this is important), He cannot go against His nature or His promises, and as we will see in the coming weeks, He has given us more than enough information on those to give us a secure faith.

Day 4

The Flood

God was about to destroy the earth and kill everyone. Actually, He wasn't going to kill everyone, but very few people were chosen to survive. God tells Noah He is going to send a great flood, and Noah is to build an ark to take his family to safety. Along with his wife, sons, and daughters-in-law, Noah is also instructed to bring seven pairs of every kind of clean animal and one pair of every kind of unclean animal as well as seven pairs of every kind of bird in order to keep them alive and reproducing for generations to come.

God gives detailed information on the exact dimensions of the ark as well as the materials to be used and other preparations that should be taken before the flood comes. (Here's a Bible trivia tidbit for you. Every time the number 40 is used in Scripture, it indicates a time of testing.) The water didn't dry up after forty days, it just stopped raining then (Gen. 7:24). They were on the boat much of a year (see 8:14). I'm just saying that's a lot of quality family time.

1. Read Genesis 8:20. Once Noah and his family get off the boat, what's the first thing they did?

Read Genesis 8:21-22 and 9:12-17. What did God do?

Once they do get off the boat, what's the first thing they do? Read Genesis 8:20. This brings us to one of the central themes of Scripture: the use of sacrifice as a symbol of our need for atonement. (*Atonement*: the reconciliation between God and humankind ultimately accomplished through Jesus Christ.)

Now, maybe you just saw an image in your mind of a pretty little rainbow, and it's taking the edge off the whole mass destruction part, but you're not all that inclined to be moved by the gesture. But what it signifies is profound and entirely indicative of the enduring love God has for His people, and a reminder that He has chosen to be in relationship with us. Even when we didn't deserve it, God gave us another chance. In your own sense of entitlement, you might miss what that means. God doesn't owe us a single thing. It's His show, y'all. Every bit of it. As much as you might intrinsically recoil at that statement, I promise you: the greatest freedom and joy you will ever know are wrapped up in God's work, offered as a gift from the King of all kings. Nothing else from here on out will land where it's supposed to if you don't at least have the desire to understand that truth.

DISCUSS

What did the rainbow indicate to Noah then? What can it indicate to us now?

God doesn't have to love you, but He does. You can't do anything to earn it, because you're flawed in ways that make your best efforts completely useless. In the quietness of your own heart, consider this mental perspective shift. Instead of wondering why He did something as drastic as killing an entire world of people, ask yourself a more pressing question: *why did He let anyone live?*

So often, we go into situations in life with our fists up, ready to defend our rights and opinions, but this is one area where attempting to do so is dangerous. I'm sorry to be such a party pooper, and I promise things are going to get better as we go, but if we don't lay it out here, we might not fully appreciate the beauty that lies up ahead. And believe me, it is beautiful.

2. Read Isaiah 54:8-10. What beautiful truths can be understood from the story of Noah?

Day 5

Job & Babel

I'm going to take what appears to be a rabbit trail here, but it's actually not. One of the reasons the Bible is hard to understand as one complete story is that it didn't necessarily happen in the order we read it. For example, the book of Job was written about a man who suffered immensely in a very short amount of time. If you look in your table of contents, you'll see it's the 18th book of the Bible, nowhere near where we are in the book of Genesis.

But actually, Job's story probably happened right around where we are in Genesis. Historians have indicated Job lived sometime shortly after the flood. I think Job is one of the most difficult books of the Bible to understand, to embrace, and to teach. God gives permission to Satan to do whatever he wants to with Job, so long as he doesn't kill him. We watch as Satan strips Job's life away from him, and if we are honest, we are tempted to be angry about it. What kind of loving God would willingly let one of His loved ones be treated this way? It feels cruel and unnecessary, but all I know to say is this: I believe God is good even when I don't understand all the particulars of His decisions.

1. Read Job 13:15 and 19:25-26. What did Job believe about God even when he didn't understand what God was doing?

I don't say this flippantly. I say it as a woman who has stood in a cemetery while her daughter was being buried. And with the thud of every shovelful of dirt that separated us, I had a decision to make about the God who allowed it: either He loves me or He doesn't. Either He is good or He is not. I decided to believe God is good, and He loves me. It wasn't a decision based on emotion or shallow hope—it was, quite simply, the only place I found safe enough to rest my weary bones.

I'm willing to bet you've had some Job-like moments in your life, and maybe they've been what led to your losing faith. Your heavenly Father isn't afraid of your questions, your doubt, or your frustration.

2. Read Genesis 11:1-4. What did the people do, and why?

What are ways you seek to make a name for yourself?

It didn't take too long for people to move in ways that elevated themselves and not God, did it? When God saw this happening, He intervened again by dispersing the people and confusing their language. You may have heard this story before, as its name is famous, but now you'll have some context for the "Tower of Babel." It was a monument that stood for man's desire to be important. When God scrambled their ability to understand language and had them spread out instead of building power together, He was reinforcing our need for humility.

DISCUSS

What can we learn about God and ourselves from the biblical accounts of Job and the tower of Babel?

LEADER GUIDE

The main point of this lesson is: God begins to weave the seamless revelation of His plan from the opening of the Bible.

Focus on this goal: To help adults affirm the importance of the beginning in their walk with Christ

Key Bible Passages: Genesis 1–11

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Invite adults to indicate if they've ever read books or watched movies that were part of a series. **Ask:** *Is it possible to read the books or watch the movies out of order and still enjoy them? What's the value of reading or watching them in order?*

Note reading or watching serial stories in order gives us a better grasp of the overall story arc and a deeper understanding of the characters, and it helps us see how all the stories fit together. **State:** *That's true of Scripture as well. We can know and love individual Bible stories, but understanding how they fit together into one seamless narrative can bring the Bible's truths into much sharper focus.*

STEP 2 - Getting Started

Invite a volunteer to read the first two sentences of Day One (p. 7).

Relate the author's experience of not understanding what Christians were talking about and how she gained a better grasp of the Bible (p. 7).

Invite volunteers to share what has helped them understand the Bible better.

Relate the author's desire for readers to see Scripture's overarching story and its characters and themes to come to life. **Relay** the author's challenge by reading the Day One paragraph (p. 8) beginning with, "Before we start . . ."

Discuss Day One, activity 2 (p. 8).

STEP 3 - Creation & Fall

Read the main point of this lesson statement (p. 17).

Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1. **Request** adults consult Genesis 1:31 and state what God declared about everything He made.

Instruct one-third of the group to silently read Genesis 1:27-29, another third to read Genesis 2:8-9,15-17, and the remaining third to read Genesis 2:18-22. **Call on** volunteers from each group to state from the verses they read what God gave Adam and Eve.

Read Genesis 3:1 and **ask** what the serpent sought to make Eve think about all God had given them.

Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 3:2-7. **Ask:** *Why would God allow the serpent to tempt Eve this way? Why did Adam and Eve fall for it?*

Read the Day Two paragraph (p. 10) beginning with, “God created a situation . . .”

Discuss Day Two, activity 2 (p. 10).

STEP 4 - Results of the Fall

Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 3:8-9. **Determine** possible reasons God asked that question.

Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 3:10-13. **Consider** how we may respond like Adam and Eve when God confronts us about our sin.

State we might be disheartened that barely three chapters in to God’s amazing story humanity has already fractured their relationship with God and one another. But God already had a plan to restore that relationship.

Request a volunteer read Genesis 3:14-15. **Consider** how those verses point to Jesus. **Analyze** the significance of Satan striking Jesus’s heel while Jesus strikes Satan’s head.

Note there were, and still are, terrible repercussions of that original sin. The book of Genesis continues to relate the decline of the human condition.

Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 6:5-8. **Invite** volunteers to share how they feel upon hearing these verses. **Ask:** *What must we keep in mind about God when we read such difficult words in Scripture?*

STEP 5 - The Flood

Invite volunteers to share what they recall from the Bible about Noah and the ark. **Note** that Noah, his family, and all those animals were all together in the ark for about a year.

Discuss Day Four, activity 1 (pp. 13-14). **Consider** reasons offering a sacrifice to God was the first thing Noah did.

Encourage adults to underline the Day Four statement (p. 14, first paragraph), “This brings us to one of the central themes of Scripture: the use of sacrifice as a symbol of our need for atonement.”

Analyze the profound truths signified by the rainbow.

Discuss Day Four, activity 2 (p. 15).

STEP 6 - Job & Babel

Put your finger at Genesis 10, then **flip to and hold** all of the book of Job in the other hand. Explain that the events of the book of Job fit right after Genesis 9.

Invite volunteers to share what they know about the book of Job.

Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 15). **Note** it’s amazing that even before God chose the Hebrews or gave the law, He already had faithful people like Job who chose to be in a right relationship with Him. Unfortunately, Job tended to be the exception.

Discuss the first question of Day Five, activity 2 (p. 16).

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Ask: *If you were watching the events we’ve explored today play out in a movie, what would you think about humanity? About God? Would you have found this to be a hopeful story? Explain. Why is understanding the beginning of God’s story in the Bible important to your own life’s story?*

Close in prayer.