

Step Into Scripture: Shadows

Day 1 Reading: Genesis 1–3 and Day 1 of Step Into Scripture

Week 1 Lesson: Sin, Sacrifice, and Covenant

In week 1 of our Step Into Scripture study, we'll be discussing the foundational chapters of Genesis, highlighting the overarching metanarrative of Scripture, which tells the story of God's plan for the restoration of mankind through themes of **sin**, **sacrifice**, and **covenant**. We will emphasize how sin disrupts the perfect relationship humans were created to have with God, illustrated by Adam and Eve's disobedience and its consequences. Through the lineage of Seth and ultimately through Jesus, God's ultimate sacrifice redeems humanity and restores that broken fellowship. We will conclude our lesson by pointing to the end of the biblical story, where God's original intention for creation is fulfilled in perfect unity and communion with Him again.

Optional Icebreaker Question:

According to Scripture, before the Flood, humans only ate plants—not animals. If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the concept of metanarrative mean in relation to the Bible, and why is it significant to understand this when studying Scripture?
 - The metanarrative is the overarching story of Scripture, which helps us see how all 66 books fit together in a unified story.
 - Can you think of a personal experience where understanding the bigger picture helped you make sense of a challenging situation?
2. In Genesis 3, we see how Adam and Eve's sin broke their relationship with God. What are some consequences of sin that are still relevant in our lives today?
 - The Bible describes the immediate consequences of Adam and Eve's sin, such as pain in childbearing and struggles in relationships.
 - How can you recognize and address the consequences of your own actions in your relationships with others?
3. What does the theme of sacrifice in Scripture tell us about God's nature, as illustrated by the story of Adam and Eve?
 - God made garments of skin for Adam and Eve as a sign of sacrifice needed to cover their sin.
 - Reflect on a time when you had to make a sacrifice for someone else. What did that experience teach you about love and compassion?
4. How does the story of Noah show God's desire for restoration after sin, and what does this tell us about hope in our own lives?
 - Noah found favor with God, and through him, God made a covenant to never destroy the earth again by flood.
 - Think about a time in your life when you felt hopeless. How can the story of Noah inspire you to find hope in difficult situations?
5. What is the significance of the Tree of Life mentioned in both Genesis and Revelation, and how does it relate to our understanding of eternal life?
 - The Bible connects the Tree of Life in Revelation with the restoration of humanity's relationship with God after the fall in Genesis.
 - How does knowing about the promise of eternal life affect the way you live your life today?

Prayer:

- Ask God to help us recognize the seriousness of sin in our lives.
- Pray for the strength to glorify God instead of ourselves.
- Request God's guidance in seeking restoration and unity with Him throughout the week.
- Share prayer requests and pray for one another's needs.