SCRIPTURE DEVOTION | GENESIS 5

Last week, we saw a picture of the nature of sin. We saw how it is always growing, always seeking to devour us, always leads to death, and never remains just with us. This week, in Genesis Chapter 5, Moses will be taking his listeners through the genealogy that ends with Noah. Unlike the genealogy of Cain in chapter 4, God will provide glimmers of hope in those who "walked with God" amongst a depraved and violent generation.

GENERAL SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 4 individually or aloud giving a few minutes for reflection & prayer.

- What does this text say about God?
 - How would you describe God after reading this passage? What do you learn about God's character and nature? How does this passage relate to how society defines God?
- What does this text say about people?
 - What do you learn about people's character and nature? How does this compare to what society says or believes about people?
- What does this text say about how we should live in light of what he has done?
 - What should I change in my life based on what I've read? Should I be praying about anything? Do I need to confess anything? Are there any promises I need to take hold of? What truths do I need to receive?

TEXT-BASED ONE ANOTHERING QUESTIONS

This time for group members to practice confession, repentance, accountability, biblical encouragement, etc. with the help of the Holy Spirit through his word.

- In Genesis 5:1-3, Moses, the author of the book of Genesis, briefly describes again the creation of Adam "in the likeness of God," but then goes on to describe Adam's fathering of Seth as, "in his [Adam's] own likeness, after his image."
 - What marks Seth's line, having been made in the image of Adam? (*sin/death*) What evidence do we have to confirm this? ("and he died")
 - Why do you think this differentiation (God's image vs. Adam's image) matters as we make our way down this genealogy?
- Several sons down our genealogy we come to a man named Enoch, who is described as one who "walked with God." It is even stated that Enoch "was not, for God took him" which is quite different from the "and he died" rhythm of this text. Read Hebrews 11:5-6.
 - In these verses in Hebrews, what did Enoch have that "pleased God?"
 - Faith is a word found both in the Word and in the world, how does our culture define faith? How do these verses describe it? (answer: "for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him")
 - Put this verse in your own words. What is one placing faith in? (God is who he says he is and will do what he says he will do.)
 - For those who have been saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8), in 4-5 sentences describe your experience of coming to Christ. <u>(This will be hard but be brief.)</u>
 - God has saved us by grace through faith but he also *is saving* us or said another way, is sanctifying us by his grace through faith.
 - Is there an area of life or an area of sin in which it has been difficult to have faith in God? Why do you think that is?
 - What do you think would change in your struggle if your faith in God in this particular sin, struggle, or doubt increased?
 - How do you think our faith in God grows or deepens over time? What scriptures come to mind as examples of this?
 - How do you think our faith in God could diminish over time? What scriptures come to mind as examples of this?

• Lastly, in Genesis 5, we see a picture of God's faithfulness to his promise that he would bring through Eve's offspring the snake crusher. God establishes through Adam and Eve another lineage, apart from the murderous Cain, through which he will fulfill his promise. How does seeing God's faithfulness to his promises give you hope in the coming days? Is there is an area of life or sin struggle that you are finding it difficult to hope in God? Share with your group.

MISSION

Evangelism

We want to be intentional in our everyday lives to have gospel conversations with people that don't know Jesus. These people God has placed in our path are not projects, but friends. Friends we long to see have the hope and joy of Christ! Have each group member choose one person they are going to pray for and initiate conversations with about Jesus. Each week, follow up:

- Were they able to share the gospel with them, encourage them, or pray with them this week?
- How can the group pray for the group member? How can the group pray for the person they are walking with?
- What is one next step they can take with this person? Can they ask them to church? To come to community group? Read the Bible together? Etc.

Missions

We want to be mindful and prayerful for the work the Lord is doing in the world. There are tons of ways you can encourage your group members to engage in God's work around the world. Below are some ideas for this week:

- Read a recent update from your group's missionary/missionary family and pray for them.
 - Consider putting together a care package for them! Supply a list of items people can bring. Have kids draw cards/notes. Etc!
- The weather is beginning to change, work together as a group to plan a block party where your group can meet and bless the neighborhood that you meet in each week.
- Continue to pray for the war in Ukraine.

PRAYER

- Check in on life (ex. relationship with Christ (prayer & word), their marriages/singleness, children, etc.) to discover prayer needs.
- Spend time in confession & prayer for those who have shared areas of disbelief, wrong beliefs, sin, etc. during discussion time.
- Spend time as a group praying for Ukraine and Russia and the conflict there. Pray for the churches in both countries. Check out this <u>Instagram post</u> for helpful prayer points.
- If you have more time or separate time for men & women choose 1-2 questions on the following page for accountability time or create your own.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

Knowing the members of your group, and having heard about their week, choose 1-2 questions for your time of confession, encouragement, & prayer. We have gathered these questions from various resources, so feel free to jump around this document or come up with your own questions to best serve your group.

- Have you been a testimony this week to the greatness of Jesus Christ with both your words and actions?
- Have you been exposed to sexually alluring material or allowed your mind to entertain inappropriate thoughts about someone who is not your spouse this week?
- Have you lacked any integrity in your financial dealings this week, or coveted something that does not belong to you?
- Have you been honoring, understanding and generous in your important relationships this past week?
- Have you damaged another person by your words, either behind their back or face-to-face?
- Have you given in to an addictive behavior this week? Explain.
- Have you continued to remain angry toward another?
- Have you secretly wished for another's misfortune so that you might excel?
- Did you finish your reading this week and hear from the Lord? What are you going to do about it?
- Did you spend significant time with God through His Word, prayer, quiet time, devotions, and other spiritual disciplines? How consistent? Is He your driving force?
- What blocks your growth in Christ? What blocks growth, in your other relationships, from becoming more mature and effectual?
- Have you faithfully served the Lord, His people, and the lost?
- Did you go and participate in church activities and worship this week? How so? Why not?
- Have you made your family a priority? What noteworthy activity or deed did you do for your spouse and/or family?
- How have you struggled with sin? What are the sins that have weighed down your walk with God this week?
- What did you do to enhance your relationship with your spouse/friends? What can you do to make that relationship better?
- In what ways has God blessed you this week? How have you shared your blessings?
- What disappointments did you face? Did they consume your thoughts? What did you do about it? What can you learn?

- Have you committed any sexual sin? Did you look at someone lustfully? Have you been alone in a compromising situation? Have you been flirtatious? Have you struggled with pornography or "romance novels?" Have you exposed yourself to any sexually oriented material? Did you put yourself in a situation with anyone that could appear to be compromising, even though it may not have been?
- Have you shared your faith? In what ways? How can you improve? Have you had an opportunity to share with a non-Christian?
- How well are you handling your finances right now? Have your financial dealings been questionable?
- Have you been trustworthy? Have you lied? Stolen? Cheated? Been dishonest or manipulative? Have you elevated yourself over another for your own personal agenda? What about your language and attitude?
- Have you been prideful? Have you been guilty of gossip or anger? slandered? Shown indifference? Been greedy? Not controlled your tongue?
- Have you demonstrated a servant's heart? How so? What have you done for someone else this week?
- Did you struggle with a disappointment this week? How did you handle it?
- Have you respected and treated your classmates, coworkers and peers graciously by showing them compassion and the love of God in your words and deeds? What can you do to enhance your relationships here?
- How is your level of character, according to the comparison of Gal. 5:22-23 versus Gal. 5:19-21?
- How did you practice joy this week? Have you had a thankful attitude toward God? Have you struggled with anger toward God? How so? What can you do about it?
- Have you taken care of the temple of the Holy Spirit with rest, sleep, exercise, healthy eating, etc? What about addictions, gluttony, or substance abuse?
- Have you been honest while answering these questions? If not, how so? If not, why?
- How can we support you as a group?