

IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 4:19—6:8

*The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become...
and his heart was filled with pain. Genesis 6:5–6*

1. Read Genesis 4:19–24 along with Genesis 2:24 and Romans 12:18–21. Which son of Eve's is Lamech's forefather? (Genesis 4:17–18) How does Lamech dishonor God?
2. Read Genesis 4:25–5:3. How does Eve view the birth of Seth? (vs. 25)
3. How is the description of the relationship between God and Adam and between Adam and his son Seth similar? (Genesis 5:1–3)
4. We were created in the "likeness of God". (Genesis 5:1) What do you think that means? How do you "image" or "look like" your Heavenly Father? (See also Galatians 5:16–26; 1 Peter 2:9–10.)
5. Read Genesis 5:3–32. In this genealogy, a cycle emerges. Describe the cycle and explain how it demonstrates both God's mercy and justice. (Genesis 1:28 and 2:17)
6. Which descendant of Adam does not die? (vs. 24) What understanding can we gain from Enoch's life about what pleases God? (Hebrews 11:5–6)
7. What other descendant of Seth is spoken of in a way that leads us to expect he will be special? (vs. 29)

8. Read Genesis 6:1–5. It is not clear who the “sons of God” are in verse 2, nevertheless, what do these sons of God see? What do they then do?

9. The Hebrew words for “were beautiful” and “married” (vs. 2) can be translated, respectively, “looked good” and “took.” How does this “look/took” translation repeat the pattern of original sin? (Genesis 3:6) What do we learn about God’s take on the situation in verses 3 and 5?

10. Read Genesis 6:5–8. As God looks at humanity, what does he see in addition to evil actions and behavior that would not be visible to you or me? (vs. 5b; 1 Samuel 16:7) How does God feel about humanity’s wickedness, and what does God determine to do about it? (vss. 6–7)

11. What do you think of God’s response to sin? What would this world be like if there were no consequences for evil behavior? What is your own response when confronted by sin (yours and others)?

12. Why do you think Noah “found favor in the eyes of the Lord”? How can you find favor with God? (Hebrews 11:1–6)