# JESUS in GENESIS an RbC Study Guide



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"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet... I wait for your salvation, O Lord."

- Genesis 49:10, 18

"Come, Lord Jesus!"

- Revelation 22:20

#### **Table of Contents**

Preface — From Blueprint to Building — Page 7

Week 1 — Creation — Jesus our Light of the World — Page 13

Week 2 — The Fall — Jesus our Promised One — Page 16

Week 3 — Noah and the Flood — Jesus our Ark of Safety — Page 19

Week 4 — The Tower of Babel — Jesus our God with Us — Page 22

Week 5 — Abraham — Jesus our Righteousness — Page 25

Week 6 — Abraham and Isaac — Jesus our Provision — Page 28

Week 7 — Jacob — Jesus our Advocate — Page 31

Week 8 — Joseph — Jesus our Elder Brother — Page 34

Week 9 — The Sons of Jacob — Jesus our Lion of Judah — Page 37

#### **Preface**

As we embark on *Seeing Jesus in Genesis*, I desire for each of us to know Genesis is a part of the blueprint of the building. In one sense, the Old Testament (Genesis to Malachi) is the blueprint and the New Testament (Matthew to Revelation) is the building. In a deeper sense, may we know that all of our understanding of the Genesis (the blueprint) is found in its fulfillment in Jesus (the Building). This guide is designed to continue pointing us to the reality that all Scripture is the crucial blueprint for the kingdom of God and Jesus is the building. Ultimately, Jesus desires to build you and transform you into the likeness of Him. In fact, when we place our faith and trust in Jesus, it is as good as done. "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

In this introduction, there is included an abridged article written by Dr. Scott Redd. Scott is one of my professors at Reformed Theological Seminary and the president of Washington D.C. campus. I have found his teaching and his provided analogy (as laid out in his article on the next page) have been extremely helpful in seeking to understand the Old Testament and therefore seeing Jesus in the Old Testament. I pray that his words will prepare the ground for us as seek to know God, be known by God, know one another, and be known by one another. I pray also that this guide will be helpful for us in this season of *Seeing Jesus in Genesis*. Thank you for taking the time to explore out how to live life in Christ, with community, on mission, TOGETHER.

His and yours,

Dam Mallya Pastor of Spiritual Formation Rockbridge Church

### **From Blueprint to Building in your Bible** (Abridged) Scott Redd

taken with permission and found on TheGospelCoalition.org

As an Old Testament professor I often get asked, "How does the Old Testament relate to the New?" Here's an analogy I like to give in response: The Old Testament is the blueprint; the New Testament is the building.

Before you build, you need a blueprint. The blueprint explains exactly how the building will be built. It shows you the wiring, the framing, the joists, the rooms, the floor plans. But once the building is built you don't throw out the blueprint; you keep it around since it shows you the inner-workings. Anyone who's renovated a home knows the value of the blueprint. You need to know where the wiring is laid, where the load-bearing walls are located, where the stairways and exits can be found in case of emergency. It's hard to locate these things when you're looking at the building. The blueprint is of utmost importance, but no one would say the blueprint is the building.

The blueprint *explains* the building. If someone asks to see the building before it's built, you take them to the blueprint. Once the building is completed, however, you take them to the building itself.

The same is true with the New Testament. The New Testament is the edifice to which the Old Testament inevitably points and undoubtedly explains. The covenants, their signs, and the revelation that attends them anticipate Jesus and his kingdom. Indeed, they have little meaning without their fulfillment in Christ.

#### **Four Benefits**

Here are four further reasons why I think this is a useful analogy.

## 1. The blueprint relates to the building in an organic, interrelated way.

The relationship between the Old and New Testaments is similarly one of organic development from anticipation, shadow, type, copy (or what we might call plan, form, design, profile) to reality, fulfillment, substance, actuality.

In other words, Jesus and the apostles are not starting a new religion. They are interpreting the Old Testament in light of the person and work of Jesus. Just as you cannot separate the blueprint from the building it describes, so you cannot separate the Old Testament from the New.

# 2. Understanding the building assumes understanding the blueprint.

The teaching of the Old Testament is assumed in the New. If you wish to understand virtually anything about Jesus's life, death, resurrection, and significance for the world, you must flip back to the Old Testament.

For example, do you want to understand how Jesus is Christ (the Greek title referring to his role as Messiah), a prophet, or a priest, or a king, or a temple, or the true people of God? You can only discover what such titles and themes mean by reading the Old Testament. It is the blueprint for the kingdom of God, and Jesus is the building.

# 3. As the blueprint shows the building's structural and ornamental aspects, the Old Testament relates to the New in a variety of ways.

On the one hand, there are load-bearing—that is, structural—walls. Themes like God's presence, God's holiness, God as a warrior, God's requirement of righteousness, covenant, new creation, redemption from slavery/exile, grace, sacrifice, and sanctuary are crucial to an understanding of both testaments.

There are also themes we might call ornamental. The term "ornamental" does not mean unimportant. But these are more vague, allowing for a certain latitude in our understanding. The exact nature, role, and hierarchy of the angels, for example—and various aspects of the spiritual realm, for that matter—figure into the teaching of both testaments, but they often resist clear understanding.

# 4. The building is not a distraction from the blueprint, but its proper purpose.

The revelation of Jesus does not establish a parallel path of redemptive history that runs alongside the work of redemption established in the Old Testament. There isn't now one plan for those "in Christ" and another plan for ethnic Israel. All Old Testament roads lead to Christ. He is, after all, the Davidic heir, the true Israel, the better high priest, the righteous remnant, not to mention the one in whom the fullness of deity dwells bodily (Col. 2:9). He is the only hope for the new Israel—the children of the promise (Rom 9:8).

#### **Uses and Limits of Analogy**

No analogy yields a one-to-one relation to the thing it describes. If it did it'd be a copy, not an analogy. That said, sticky problems arise when we approach the relationship between the testaments, and word pictures can help.

I offer this blueprint/building analogy, then, as one that highlights not only the provisional nature of the Old Testament in relation to the New, but also their organic and progressive connection.

#### Each Week's Guide Includes:

- **SEE** Questions to help us SEE and learn who God is
- **HEAR** Questions to create space to HEAR from God
- RESPOND Questions to connect the dots and RESPOND actively to what we discuss by applying it to our lives daily
- **PRAY** A LIFEgroup who prays for one another grows in dependence on Jesus and deepens in community with one another and on mission where God has placed us and who He has entrusted us with in our lives.
- READ An approach (4-Ones) to spending time with Jesus and in His Word throughout the rest of the week that is simple but helpful
- DEBRIEF [Starting on Week 2] To check in with each other
  at the beginning of the discussion on how responding actively
  went over the last week and to remember that "it doesn't
  happen if we didn't debrief"

#### Week 1 — Creation — Jesus our Light of the World

We are meeting together to take the steps to know God, be known by God, know one another, and be known by one another. We are creating a space to live life in Christ, with community, on mission, TOGETHER.

Today, let's read **Genesis 1:1-31** together.

#### SEE

Everyone take a minute and write out a one-sentence answer to this question: What do we learn about God from this passage?

Now, discuss together your responses to the above question.

Based on these things you discussed, why do you think it is important to know God in these ways?

#### **HEAR**

How does it play out in our lives when we might not believe these things we learned about God? Take a minute (set a timer if needed) and silently listen to God. What is He saying to you? How might He want you to move forward this week in knowing and following Him? Now, share together what you are hearing.

#### **RESPOND**

Here are some New Testament (NT) verses to read and consider how they may connect to the passage in Genesis:

- Colossians 1:15-20
- Psalm 19:1-2
- Hebrews 1:1-3
- John 1:1-5, 9-13

Read these verses above out loud and discuss: How do you think these NT passages connect to the Genesis passage?

CONNECT THE DOTS: Where do we see Jesus as our Light of the World who was there "In the Beginning" in this passage of Genesis?

How could you respond actively to what we have read, heard, and discussed together in the coming week?

#### **PRAY**

For what would you appreciate others joining with you in prayer this week?

Either using post-it notes or write in the blank space above, commit to praying for at least one other person over this next week (besides, if applicable, your spouse). How to use sticky notes: everyone take a minute or two to write their name and their personal prayer request down on the sticky note. Briefly share the prayer request and then let someone in the group commit to sticking that note in a visible place and praying for and with you until the next time you meet together.

#### READ (4-Ones)

- ONE Week: Between the times you meet together
- ONE Chapter a Day (Roughly): Genesis 1-5
- ONE Question: What do we learn about God in Genesis or how we see Jesus in Genesis?
- ONE Response: Write down in a notebook or journal a response to that ONE question directly above.

#### Week 2 — The Fall — Jesus our Promised One

We are meeting together to take the steps to know God, be known by God, know one another, and be known by one another. We are creating a space to live life in Christ, with community, on mission, TOGETHER.

#### **DEBRIEF**

- How did responding actively to what we read/heard/discussed together last week go for you personally?
- How did you see Jesus at work in your life over the last week?
- Does anyone have any updates they want to share about their prayer request from last week?

Today, let's read Genesis 2:1-3:24 together.

#### SEE

Everyone take a minute and write out a one-sentence answer to this question: What do we learn about God from this passage?

Now, discuss together your responses to the above question.

#### **HEAR**

How does it play out in our lives when we might not believe these things we learned about God?

Take a minute (set a timer if needed) and silently listen to God. What is He saying to you? How might He want you to move forward this week in knowing and following Him? Now, share together what you are hearing.

#### RESPOND

Here are some New Testament (NT) verses to read and consider how they may connect to the passage in Genesis:

- Colossians 2:13-15
- Hebrews 2:14-15
- Romans 5:17
- 1 Corinthians 15:22

Read these verses above out loud and discuss: How do you think these NT passages connect to the Genesis passage?

CONNECT THE DOTS: Where do we see Jesus as our Promised One who has "crushed the head of the serpent" in this passage of Genesis?

#### **PRAYER**

For what would you appreciate others joining with you in prayer this week?

Either using post-it notes or/and write in the blank space above, commit to praying for at least one other person over this next week (besides, if applicable, your spouse). How to use sticky notes: everyone take a minute or two to write their name and their personal prayer request down on the sticky note. Briefly share the prayer request and then let someone in the group commit to sticking that note in a visible place and praying for and with you until the next time you meet together.

- ONE Week: Between the times you meet together
- ONE Chapter a Day (Roughly): Genesis 6-10
- ONE Question: What do we learn about God in Genesis or how we see Jesus in Genesis?
- ONE Response: Write down in a notebook or journal a response to that ONE question directly above.

Week 3 — Noah and the Flood — Jesus Our Ark of Safety
We are meeting together to take the steps to know God, be
known by God, know one another, and be known by one another.
We are creating a space to live life in Christ, with community, on
mission, TOGETHER.

#### DEBRIEF

- How did responding actively to what we read/heard/discussed together last week go for you personally?
- How did you see Jesus at work in your life over the last week?
- Does anyone have any updates they want to share about their prayer request from last week?

Today, let's read **Genesis 6:5-8, 7:11-13, 8:20-22, 9:8-17** together.

#### SEE

Everyone take a minute and write out a one-sentence answer to this question: What do we learn about God from this passage?

Now, discuss together your responses to the above question.

#### **HEAR**

How does it play out in our lives when we might not believe these things we learned about God?

Take a minute (set a timer if needed) and silently listen to God. What is He saying to you? How might He want you to move forward this week in knowing and following Him? Now, share together what you are hearing.

#### **RESPOND**

Here are some New Testament (NT) verses to read and consider how they may connect to the passage in Genesis:

- 1 Corinthians 1:18
- 1 Peter 3:18-22
- Acts 4:12

Read these verses above out loud and discuss: How do you think these NT passages connect to the Genesis passage?

CONNECT THE DOTS: Where do we see Jesus as our "Ark of Safety", in whom we are saved in the storm of God's judgment, in this passage of Genesis?

#### **PRAYER**

For what would you appreciate others joining with you in prayer this week?

Either using post-it notes or/and write in the blank space above, commit to praying for at least one other person over this next week (besides, if applicable, your spouse). How to use sticky notes: everyone take a minute or two to write their name and their personal prayer request down on the sticky note. Briefly share the prayer request and then let someone in the group commit to sticking that note in a visible place and praying for and with you until the next time you meet together.

- ONE Week: Between the times you meet together
- ONE Chapter a Day (Roughly): Genesis 11-15
- ONE Question: What do we learn about God in Genesis or how we see Jesus in Genesis?
- ONE Response: Write down in a notebook or journal a response to that ONE question directly above.

Week 4 — The Tower of Babel — Jesus Our God With Us We are meeting together to take the steps to know God, be known by God, know one another, and be known by one another. We are creating a space to live life in Christ, with community, on mission, TOGETHER.

#### **DEBRIEF**

- How did responding actively to what we read/heard/discussed together last week go for you personally?
- How did you see Jesus at work in your life over the last week?
- Does anyone have any updates they want to share about their prayer request from last week?

Today, let's read **Genesis 11:1-9** together.

#### SEE

Everyone take a minute and write out a one-sentence answer to this question: What do we learn about God from this passage?

Now, discuss together your responses to the above question.

#### **HEAR**

How does it play out in our lives when we might not believe these things we learned about God?

Take a minute (set a timer if needed) and silently listen to God. What is He saying to you? How might He want you to move forward this week in knowing and following Him? Now, share together what you are hearing.

#### **RESPOND**

Here are some New Testament (NT) verses to read and consider how they may connect to the passage in Genesis:

- John 1:14-18
- Colossians 2:9

Read these verses above out loud and discuss: How do you think these NT passages connect to the Genesis passage?

CONNECT THE DOTS: Where do we see Jesus as our "God with us who came to us," instead of building a tower to get to God as in this passage of Genesis?

#### **PRAYER**

For what would you appreciate others joining with you in prayer this week?

Either using post-it notes or/and write in the blank space above, commit to praying for at least one other person over this next week (besides, if applicable, your spouse). How to use sticky notes: everyone take a minute or two to write their name and their personal prayer request down on the sticky note. Briefly share the prayer request and then let someone in the group commit to sticking that note in a visible place and praying for and with you until the next time you meet together.

- ONE Week: Between the times you meet together
- ONE Chapter a Day (Roughly): Genesis 16-22
- ONE Question: What do we learn about God in Genesis or how we see Jesus in Genesis?
- ONE Response: Write down in a notebook or journal a response to that ONE question directly above.

#### Week 5 — Abraham — Jesus Our Righteousness

We are meeting together to take the steps to know God, be known by God, know one another, and be known by one another. We are creating a space to live life in Christ, with community, on mission, TOGETHER.

#### **DEBRIEF**

- How did responding actively to what we read/heard/discussed together last week go for you personally?
- How did you see Jesus at work in your life over the last week?
- Does anyone have any updates they want to share about their prayer request from last week?

Today, let's read Genesis 12:1-4, 15:1-6 together.

#### SEE

Everyone take a minute and write out a one-sentence answer to this question: What do we learn about God from this passage?

Now, discuss together your responses to the above question.

#### **HEAR**

How does it play out in our lives when we might not believe these things we learned about God?

Take a minute (set a timer if needed) and silently listen to God. What is He saying to you? How might He want you to move forward this week in knowing and following Him? Now, share together what you are hearing.

#### **RESPOND**

Here are some New Testament (NT) verses to read and consider how they may connect to the passage in Genesis:

• Romans 4:1-25

Read these verses above out loud and discuss: How do you think these NT passages connect to the Genesis passage?

CONNECT THE DOTS: Where do we see Jesus as our "Righteousness that was credited to Abraham by faith" in this passage of Genesis?

#### **PRAYER**

For what would you appreciate others joining with you in prayer this week?

Either using post-it notes or/and write in the blank space above, commit to praying for at least one other person over this next week (besides, if applicable, your spouse). How to use sticky notes: everyone take a minute or two to write their name and their personal prayer request down on the sticky note. Briefly share the prayer request and then let someone in the group commit to sticking that note in a visible place and praying for and with you until the next time you meet together.

- ONE Week: Between the times you meet together
- ONE Chapter a Day (Roughly): Genesis 22-28
- ONE Question: What do we learn about God in Genesis or how we see Jesus in Genesis?
- ONE Response: Write down in a notebook or journal a response to that ONE question directly above.

#### Week 6 — Abraham and Issac — Jesus Our Provision

We are meeting together to take the steps to know God, be known by God, know one another, and be known by one another. We are creating a space to live life in Christ, with community, on mission, TOGETHER.

#### **DEBRIEF**

- How did responding actively to what we read/heard/discussed together last week go for you personally?
- How did you see Jesus at work in your life over the last week?
- Does anyone have any updates they want to share about their prayer request from last week?

Today, let's read **Genesis 22:1-19** together.

#### SEE

Everyone take a minute and write out a one-sentence answer to this question: What do we learn about God from this passage?

Now, discuss together your responses to the above question.

#### **HEAR**

How does it play out in our lives when we might not believe these things we learned about God?

Take a minute (set a timer if needed) and silently listen to God. What is He saying to you? How might He want you to move forward this week in knowing and following Him? Now, share together what you are hearing.

#### **RESPOND**

Here are some New Testament (NT) verses to read and consider how they may connect to the passage in Genesis:

- John 3:16
- Galatians 4:21-31 (v. 28 highlight)

Read these verses above out loud and discuss: How do you think these NT passages connect to the Genesis passage?

CONNECT THE DOTS: Where do we see Jesus as our "Provision as a once-for-all sacrifice" in this passage of Genesis?

#### **PRAYER**

For what would you appreciate others joining with you in prayer this week?

Either using post-it notes or/and write in the blank space above, commit to praying for at least one other person over this next week (besides, if applicable, your spouse). How to use sticky notes: everyone take a minute or two to write their name and their personal prayer request down on the sticky note. Briefly share the prayer request and then let someone in the group commit to sticking that note in a visible place and praying for and with you until the next time you meet together.

- ONE Week: Between the times you meet together
- ONE Chapter a Day (Roughly): Genesis 29-35
- ONE Question: What do we learn about God in Genesis or how we see Jesus in Genesis?
- ONE Response: Write down in a notebook or journal a response to that ONE question directly above.

#### Week 7 — Jacob — Jesus Our Advocate

We are meeting together to take the steps to know God, be known by God, know one another, and be known by one another. We are creating a space to live life in Christ, with community, on mission, TOGETHER.

#### **DEBRIEF**

- How did responding actively to what we read/heard/discussed together last week go for you personally?
- How did you see Jesus at work in your life over the last week?
- Does anyone have any updates they want to share about their prayer request from last week?

Today, let's read Genesis 25:22-32 together.

#### SEE

Everyone take a minute and write out a one-sentence answer to this question: What do we learn about God from this passage?

Now, discuss together your responses to the above question.

#### **HEAR**

How does it play out in our lives when we might not believe these things we learned about God?

Take a minute (set a timer if needed) and silently listen to God. What is He saying to you? How might He want you to move forward this week in knowing and following Him? Now, share together what you are hearing.

#### **RESPOND**

Here are some New Testament (NT) verses to read and consider how they may connect to the passage in Genesis:

- 1 John 2:1-2
- 2 Corinthians 4:6

Read these verses above out loud and discuss: How do you think these NT passages connect to the Genesis passage?

CONNECT THE DOTS: Where do we see Jesus as our "Advocate who wrestled with God in the darkness" of "Gethsemane", so we might gain His blessing in this passage of Genesis?

#### **PRAYER**

For what would you appreciate others joining with you in prayer this week?

Either using post-it notes or/and write in the blank space above, commit to praying for at least one other person over this next week (besides, if applicable, your spouse). How to use sticky notes: everyone take a minute or two to write their name and their personal prayer request down on the sticky note. Briefly share the prayer request and then let someone in the group commit to sticking that note in a visible place and praying for and with you until the next time you meet together.

- ONE Week: Between the times you meet together
- ONE Chapter a Day (Roughly): Genesis 36-42
- ONE Question: What do we learn about God in Genesis or how we see Jesus in Genesis?
- ONE Response: Write down in a notebook or journal a response to that ONE question directly above.

#### Week 8 — Joseph — Jesus Our Elder Brother

We are meeting together to take the steps to know God, be known by God, know one another, and be known by one another. We are creating a space to live life in Christ, with community, on mission, TOGETHER.

#### **DEBRIEF**

- How did responding actively to what we read/heard/discussed together last week go for you personally?
- How did you see Jesus at work in your life over the last week?
- Does anyone have any updates they want to share about their prayer request from last week?

Today, let's read Genesis 45:1-15, 50:15-21 together.

#### SEE

Everyone take a minute and write out a one-sentence answer to this question: What do we learn about God from this passage?

Now, discuss together your responses to the above question.

#### **HEAR**

How does it play out in our lives when we might not believe these things we learned about God?

Take a minute (set a timer if needed) and silently listen to God. What is He saying to you? How might He want you to move forward this week in knowing and following Him? Now, share together what you are hearing.

#### **RESPOND**

Here are some New Testament (NT) verses to read and consider how they may connect to the passage in Genesis:

- Hebrews 2:5-3:6
- Romans 8:18,28
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Read these verses above out loud and discuss: How do you think these NT passages connect to the Genesis passage?

CONNECT THE DOTS: Why might Jesus as our "Elder Brother" could also say: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive" (Genesis 50:20)?

#### **PRAYER**

For what would you appreciate others joining with you in prayer this week?

Either using post-it notes or/and write in the blank space above, commit to praying for at least one other person over this next week (besides, if applicable, your spouse). How to use sticky notes: everyone take a minute or two to write their name and their personal prayer request down on the sticky note. Briefly share the prayer request and then let someone in the group commit to sticking that note in a visible place and praying for and with you until the next time you meet together.

- ONE Week: Between the times you meet together
- ONE Chapter a Day (Roughly): Genesis 43-50
- ONE Question: What do we learn about God in Genesis or how we see Jesus in Genesis?
- ONE Response: Write down in a notebook or journal a response to that ONE question directly above.

Week 9 — The Sons of Jacob — Jesus Our Lion of Judah
We are meeting together to take the steps to know God, be
known by God, know one another, and be known by one another.
We are creating a space to live life in Christ, with community, on
mission, TOGETHER.

#### DEBRIEF

- How did responding actively to what we read/heard/discussed together last week go for you personally?
- How did you see Jesus at work in your life over the last week?
- Does anyone have any updates they want to share about their prayer request from last week?

Today, let's read Genesis 49:1-28 together (notice v. 8-12).

#### SEE

Everyone take a minute and write out a one-sentence answer to this question: What do we learn about God from this passage?

Now, discuss together your responses to the above question.

#### **HFAR**

How does it play out in our lives when we might not believe these things we learned about God?

Take a minute (set a timer if needed) and silently listen to God. What is He saying to you? How might He want you to move forward this week in knowing and following Him? Now, share together what you are hearing.

#### **RESPOND**

Here are some New Testament (NT) verses to read and consider how they may connect to the passage in Genesis:

• Revelation 5:1-5

Read these verses above out loud and discuss: How do you think these NT passages connect to the Genesis passage?

CONNECT THE DOTS: Where do we see Jesus as our "Lion of Judah through whom the blessing will come, before whom people from all tribes and people and languages will one day bow", in this passage of Genesis?

#### **PRAYER**

For what would you appreciate others joining with you in prayer this week?

Either using post-it notes or/and write in the blank space above, commit to praying for at least one other person over this next week (besides, if applicable, your spouse). How to use sticky notes: everyone take a minute or two to write their name and their personal prayer request down on the sticky note. Briefly share the prayer request and then let someone in the group commit to sticking that note in a visible place and praying for and with you until the next time you meet together.

- ONE Week: Between the times you meet together
- ONE Chapter a Day (Roughly): Luke 24:13-35 (Read Daily, Repeat)
- ONE Question: What do we learn about God or how we see Jesus and see Jesus in Genesis?
- ONE Response: Write down in a notebook or journal a response to that ONE question directly above.

"Lion of the tribe of Judah, who reigns from your throne;

Savior of the world who feeds our hungry souls;

Israel of God, who has shown us the face of God;

beloved Son, from whom the knife was not spared;

our shield, our very great reward;

Lord of the nations;

ark of God, who protects us from the judgment we deserve;

second Adam, who gained for us more than the first Adam took from us,

living Word and light of the world—

we have seen you throughout the pages of Genesis, and it has made us love you more and long for you more.

You are the Promised One who came, and you will come again.

Like Jacob and his sons, we wait for your salvation, O Lord."

- Nancy Guthrie, The Promised One: Seeing Jesus in Genesis

