



Week of March 27
Walking Faithfully with God¹

Overview:

Did you ever wonder...Why are we here? How did all of this come to be? What are the origins of our universe, our story, and our purpose? In the first eleven chapters of Genesis, we see a cosmic story unfolding—an epic narrative of God shaping a good and meaningful world, what went wrong, and how God is redeeming the mess and restoring us to something good. During this series, we will explore new ways to study this narrative and learn how to apply those tools to all of Scripture.

Group Objectives:

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Ask and invite each group member to consider, share, pray about, and take their best next step in walking faithfully with God.

DNA statement(s) tie-in:

- *We encounter the Father daily.* God the Father speaks to us through the Bible, and we commune with God through prayer.

Conversation Starters:

- Who is the oldest person you have spoken with? What was a favorite story they shared?
- Who have you witnessed walking faithfully with God? Share one or two characteristics you have observed in their walk.

Read and Reflect: Bible Study Discussion

As we read and reflect on the different genealogies of Cain (unfaithful) and Seth (faithful), we see one family line that goes from bad to worse and another that is marked with faithfulness. We all want to exhibit the line marked with faithfulness, but these two men started with the same parents. They both made choices – one that allowed sin to overtake, and one that chose to rule over sin. We also have this same choice. We can choose faithfulness, even if we come from a family line that is marked with unfaithfulness to God. We can choose to take steps toward faithfulness. But it starts with a choice, a decision to walk in the ways of the Lord and to choose God's ways over our ways.

- **Read Genesis 5:21-23**
 - What seems to shift in Enoch when (or around the time) he becomes a father?

¹ This week's lesson was written by Allison Dykhouse; edited by Dawn Gentry.

- We do not know what instigated Enoch's following God, but the text tells us that after Methuselah's birth, Enoch "walked faithfully with God." It says it again in verse 24. There are no details of what this faithful walk looked like, but Hebrews 11:5-6 elaborates.

- **Read Hebrews 11:5-6**

- What more do we learn about Enoch's faithfulness?
- Keeping in mind that Enoch would not yet have the Bible to read, how do you think Enoch knew how to "walk faithfully" with God?
- God's word provides more context as well as moral laws for our understanding today. How might that change the way we "walk faithfully" with God?

- **Read Hebrews 11:1-16**

- As you read, make a list of how faith is characterized within the text. Are these characteristics the same today? Why or why not?
- What other biblical characters come to mind who walked faithfully with God? What about their story inspires you and why?

Respond and Pray: *(break into groups of two or three for this portion)*

- **Look back and celebrate²:**
 - As you look at your own life, where have you seen your own faith grow? Share a testimony and celebration of what the Lord is doing in your life with your small group.
- **Look forward and receive:**
 - Take a moment to pray silently, asking the Lord to help you examine your own heart. What is the best next step of obedience to God that you can take that would help you walk more faithfully with God?
- **Look to one another for encouragement & accountability:**
 - Share one step each of you want to take this week to walk more faithfully with God. Plan to share how this went when you meet next.
- **Look to Jesus for strength and boldness:**
 - After everyone in your smaller group has shared, pray over one another for specific requests to help each person walk with the Lord in deeper obedience this week.

For further study:

- Bible Project Podcast – "What is Faith?" available at <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/book-hebrews-part-7-what-faith/>
- Bible Project Video – "Faithfulness," Character of God series. <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/faithful/>
- Peterson, Eugene H. *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

To help you in the process, some additional resources—including books, videos, and podcasts—can be found at ccomaha.org/origins. If you need additional help, please reach out to a member of the Adult Ministries team.

² Some of this format is adapted from the *3/3rds Bible Study* from Southeast Christian Church, available at <https://3thirdsmovement.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/3-3rds-Script.pdf>