

2017 READ IT THROUGH IN 52

Week 1: Genesis 1-22;

Theme: Maintaining spiritual integrity while living in an evil culture

Memory: Genesis 4:7 *"...sin lies at the door, and its desire is for you but you should rule over it."*

1. In 1:27 it states *"God created man in His own image"* and in 1:31 it states *"God saw everything that He had made and indeed it was very good."* In 6:6 it states *"the Lord regretted that He made man on earth, and it grieved him to his heart."* What caused God to be so grieved? What lessons does this provide for you and me?
2. Genesis 6:8-9 (story of Noah)
 - A. In spite of living in a vile culture (see 6:5), Noah maintained a righteous life and blameless reputation. Today Christians face similar challenges. Let Noah's story encourage you to maintain a healthy relationship with God.
 - B. Write the name of a friend you know who is struggling to maintain a healthy Christian reputation. What are the issues causing such a struggle? Pray for this person and make it a point to encourage them to follow Noah's example.
 - C. Most credible Bible scholars agree it took between 80 and 120 years for Noah to build the Ark. Consider the significance of Noah demonstrating his faith for such a long period of time. Make a list of five of the most pressing needs you have, and pray fervently for those needs every day. Be encouraged with the reality that God hears and answers prayer. Take advantage of the opportunity to share your need with a prayer partner or with your church family.
 - D. In 9:13-15 God set a rainbow in the clouds to serve as a sign of a covenant he made with man. When you see trouble on the horizon, remind yourself of God's commitment to His promises.
3. In your opinion, what was Abram's greatest challenge when God called him in chapter 15? Was it fear, trust, convincing his family, or something else?
4. Chapters 13-14 (the story of Lot)
 - A. Consider how the choice Lot made impacted his family. Summarize the story of the life of Lot in one paragraph.
 - B. Do you know anyone who seems to be making the same mistakes as Lot? What can be done to help them turn around?
5. What is the primary lesson you learned from your reading this week?