



THE GOD OF GENESIS
IS THE GOD OF THE
REST OF THE BIBLE.

THE STORY OF GRACE

This year we are embarking upon a brand-new curriculum which over the course of the next 12 months will tell God's story from Genesis to Revelation in 10 different story segments. The goal for this year is to understand how God's story impacts your story, and to learn how to effectively share His story with others. We will be studying scripture chronologically and encourage you to once again or for the first time read through the Chronological Bible. The weekend lessons will not be limited to the weekly reading, but the "workbook" provided will let you know where we are going in each section as we discover His Plan - Our Purpose from Genesis to Revelation. This month we will focus on the Story of Grace in the book of Genesis.

If we are going to look at "grace," we need to understand what it means. The grace of God is the most profound, powerful, and humbling thing we will ever experience; but it is also one of the most difficult concepts for us to grasp clearly. We are accustomed to the understanding of what is fair and what people deserve. But the message of grace is different and unique. It has been said, "Grace is the opposite of karma, which is all about getting what you deserve. Grace is getting what you don't deserve." Grace is the love of God shown to the unlovely; the peace of God given to the restless; the unmerited favor of God.¹ Grace begins in the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth. Ray Stedman says "We must remember, as we study, that Genesis is the first chapter of the story that ends with the presentation of the Lord Jesus Christ and the declaration of the way God has found to obtain the release of human life from despair and death, and to bring it into power, excitement, and grace. In other words, the God of Genesis is the God of the rest of the Bible."²

So often, we think the God of the New Testament is the God of Grace and the God of the Old Testament is the God of Judgment. We will see today and the weeks to come that from the very beginning of the story, God is a God of Grace; and within the grace of God there will be boundaries and ultimately consequences, even judgment. God is love (1 John 4:16) and that love is demonstrated both through His grace and His judgment.

This month we are going to explore the Story of Grace in the following ways.

Jan 4/5	Grace in Creation - Genesis 1 & 2
Jan 11/12	Grace in the Garden - Genesis 2 & 3
Jan 18/19	Grace in the Ark - Genesis 6-8
Jan 25/26	Grace to All - Genesis 15

Throughout these lessons prayerfully look at how God's Story impacts Your Story. Consider the words of Dr. Warren Weirsbe: "When He wrote the Bible, God didn't give us a ponderous theology book divided into sections labeled *God*, *Creation*, *Man*, *Sin*, and so forth. Instead, He gave us a story, a narrative that begins in eternity past and ends in eternity future."³

Let the story begin where it was intended; **In the beginning God.**

¹ Justin Holcomb, *What is Grace?*, Christianity.com.

² Ray C. Stedman, *Authentic Christianity*, Grand Rapids: Discovery House, 1996.

³ Warren Weirsbe, *Be Basic (Genesis 1-11)*, David C. Cook, 2010.