

## January 2018

### Week 1

<p><b>January 1</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 4</p>	<p>** In Genesis 1-2, God created a perfect world that was “very good.”</p> <p>? What does it mean to be created “in the image of God?” Can you see ways in which your attitudes, words, and actions increasingly show God’s character?</p> <p>? Genesis 1 uses the name “God” and shows His power over the universe. Genesis 2 uses the personal name “Lord God” and shows His personal interest in humanity. As you read these chapters, ask, “Do I know God in a personal way or only as the powerful God of the universe?”</p> <p>**In Genesis 3-4, the sin of Adam and Eve damaged man’s relationship with God (Gen 3:10). It damaged the relationship between husband and wife (Gen 3:12). It damaged the relationship between man and our world (Gen 3:17-19). Death entered the world and Cain even murdered his brother. But a loving God remained part of our world and provided the promise of a Savior who would someday “bruise Satan’s head” (Gen 3:15).</p> <p>? As you read Genesis 3, notice how Satan led Eve to sin. How does Satan lead you to sin? Are you prepared to resist his temptation today?</p> <p>? How has sin damaged relationships in your life? Your relationship with God? Your relationships with other people?</p>
<p><b>January 2</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 8</p>	<p>** By Genesis 6, man was so wicked that God “regretted that He had made man.” Genesis 6-8 tells the story of the Flood which destroyed sinful man. In Genesis 9, God gave the rainbow as a sign of His promise that He would never again destroy the world with a flood.</p> <p>? Even in a wicked world, men like Enoch (Gen 5:24) and Noah (Gen 6:9) were righteous; they “walked with God.” What was different about these men? (You can find an answer to this in Hebrews 11:5-7.)</p> <p>? How can you walk with God in our sinful world? What are the practices that will help you to remain faithful to God in a world where sin is so common?</p>
<p><b>January 3</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 9</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 11</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 12</p>	<p>** Soon after the Flood, man again rebelled against God. At the Tower of Babel, man united to build a tower to reach to the heavens. Like Eve, the people of Babel wanted to take the place of God. God judged man’s rebellion by confusing their languages and scattering the people.</p> <p>? In our world today, how do we seek to “make a name for ourselves” in order to take God’s place of authority?</p> <p>** However, once again, God showed His mercy. Genesis 12 begins the story of Abraham. Genesis 12:2-3 is one of the most important promises in the Old Testament. “All nations” will be blessed through the Messiah who came through the line of Abraham. This promise begins the story of the line of the Messiah that continues all through the Old Testament.</p> <p>? In each of the stories we have read (Adam and Eve, Noah’s Flood, Babel, Abraham), we see God’s judgment on sin and His loving mercy on those who call on Him. Think back across your life to this point. How have you seen God’s judgment when you sinned against Him? How have you seen God’s mercy when you called on Him for forgiveness?</p> <p>? When Abraham failed to trust God completely, he lied to Pharaoh (Gen 12:13). Are there areas in your life where you need to trust God more fully? Ask God to give you faith to trust Him completely.</p>

<p><b>January 4</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 13</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 14</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 15</p>  <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 16</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 17</p>	<p>** The covenant in Genesis 15 between God and Abraham is very foreign to our customs. However, in the ancient world, this was a way of making a “blood oath.” When the flaming torch that represents God passes between the parts of the sacrifice (Gen 15:17), God is saying to Abraham, “I put myself under an oath. I will die (like this sacrifice) before I will break my promise to you.”</p> <p>? What does this oath say about the character of God? Do you see that He is a God who will always keep His promises to you?</p> <p>** When we read about Bible characters like Abraham, we sometimes think, “They were perfect. I can never be like them.” However, although Abraham became a great man of faith, he first struggled to trust God completely. After God gave the promise that Abraham would be the father of a great nation, Abraham doubted. He and Sarah decided that he would father a child by Hagar, a servant. Although this was a common custom in their world, it was not God’s plan. When Abraham was ninety-eight years old, God again promised that he would have a son. God loves His children enough to lead us to complete faith in His promises.</p> <p>? As you read Abraham’s story, do you identify with his doubts? Do you find it difficult to believe God’s promises without reservation?</p>
<p><b>January 5</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 18</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 19</p>  <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 21</p>	<p>** The story of Sodom shows how man quickly returned to the evil of the time before the Flood. However, God had promised that He would never again destroy the entire earth with a flood. He kept His promise.</p> <p>? In Genesis 18, are you surprised when Abraham “bargains” with God about Sodom? What does that say about Abraham’s close relationship with God? What does it say about his deep love for Lot?</p> <p>? Try to imagine Abraham’s joy to have a son when he was 100 years old. Do you think Abraham ever again doubted God’s promises?</p>
<p><b>January 6</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 22</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 23</p>  <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 24</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 25</p>	<p>** Genesis 22 tells one of the most difficult stories in the Bible. God called Abraham to sacrifice his son. To understand Abraham’s faith, read Hebrews 11:17-19. Abraham trusted that God could raise Isaac from the dead.</p> <p>? Do not ask, “Do I have as much faith as Abraham showed in this story?” Instead, ask, “Am I willing to allow God to grow my faith as He chooses?”</p> <p>** When you read Genesis 24, you must put yourself in the ancient world where a son’s wife was chosen by the father for the benefit of the family name. Take time to notice how faithfully Abraham’s servant carries out his master’s instructions.</p> <p>Also notice Rebekah’s beautiful spirit of service in Genesis 24:46. (Each camel could drink as much as twenty-five gallons of water.)</p> <p>? Abraham, Isaac, and Rebekah all show a great trust in God in this story. Are you learning to trust God with the situations of your life? Are you willing to patiently wait as He works out His plan for your life?</p>
<p><b>Weekly Summary</b></p>	<p>Write down one “big lesson” that you have learned from this week’s readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>

**Week 2**

<p><b>January 8</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 26</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 27</p>       <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 28</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 29</p>	<p>* Just as God made great promises to Abraham, He made a great promise to Isaac (Gen 26:3-5). And just as Abraham only gradually grew in his faith and trust in God, Isaac struggled to trust God fully. Like his father, Isaac lied to a ruler to protect his wife, Rebekah. In Genesis 27, we see another challenge to the fulfillment of God’s promises to Abraham. Jacob “stole” the blessing that rightfully belonged to the older brother Esau. However, despite Isaac’s failure to fully believe and despite Jacob’s deceitful character, God’s promises were fulfilled. As you read, rejoice that we serve a “promise-keeping God.”</p> <p>? What situations in your life have caused you to doubt God’s promises? Will you trust Him to fulfil His promises despite obstacles that cause hesitation and doubt?</p> <p>? As Jacob was fleeing from an angry Esau, God revealed Himself to Jacob at Bethel. Think back across your life. How has God revealed Himself to you? Through people you have known? Circumstance in your life? His Word, the Bible? How have you responded to His revelation of Himself to you?</p>
<p><b>January 9</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 31</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 32</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 33</p>	<p>* Jacob cheated Esau. Laban cheated Jacob. Jacob then found a way to cheat Laban. The result of these ancient family rivalries is that Jacob is forced to run again – back to Esau. He is forced to face the consequences of a lifetime of deception.</p> <p>The story of Jacob wrestling with God (32:22-32) symbolizes the transformation of Jacob’s character as God forces him to confess, “My name is Jacob – cheater.” God then renames Jacob “Israel,” the name by which God’s chosen people will be known. If you see areas of your character that should be transformed, the story of Jacob will encourage to trust God and allow Him to shape your character.</p> <p>? In the ancient world, names were a picture of character. If a person’s name was changed, it meant that their character had been changed. If your name reflected your character, what name would you be called? More importantly, since meeting Christ, what new name would you receive? Take time today to think about the transformation that God has made in your life. Thank God for making you a new person through Christ.</p>
<p><b>January 10</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 34</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 36</p>    <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 37</p>	<p>* It is easy to understand God’s great promise to Abraham – a man who left his home and traveled 1100 miles in obedience to God. But it is more difficult to understand God’s great promise to Jacob, a cheater who spends much of his life running from the results of his deceptions. But God says to Jacob, “The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you and your offspring.” You may not feel like an Abraham. Perhaps your past is more like Jacob. If that is you, rejoice in a merciful God who looks beyond our past to the bright future that He intends to create for His people.</p> <p>* Genesis 37-50 tells the story of Joseph. Joseph is a son of Rachel, Jacob’s favored wife. Because of this, his father unwisely gives him special favors. Joseph’s brothers become jealous and sell him to a passing caravan of Ishmaelite traders. Through this, Joseph ends up as a slave in Egypt.</p> <p>? If you are Joseph, sold into slavery by your brothers, how will you respond to your situation? How will you feel towards your brothers? Towards Potiphar, your owner? Towards God who allowed this terrible situation? As you prepare for tomorrow’s readings, imagine your response to Joseph’s situation. Tomorrow, compare your response to Joseph’s response.</p>
<p><b>January 11</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 38</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 39</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 40</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 41</p>	<p>* Think back to God’s promises to Abraham: “I will make you a great nation; your descendants will be a blessing to all families of the earth.” It is now 200 years later. Jacob, a dishonest man is the patriarch of the family. Simeon and Levi, Jacob’s sons, murder the men of Shechem. Judah, another son, has twin sons through a shameful act with his widowed daughter-in-law. And Joseph, the bright spot in the family, is a slave in Egypt. If you are reading Genesis the first time, does it appear that God’s promises to Abraham’s family will be kept?</p> <p>* In the ancient world, dreams were seen as God’s communication with mankind. In Genesis 37, Joseph had shared dreams that showed God’s favor. Now in prison, he interprets dreams from two prisoners. Later, he interprets Pharaoh’s dream that foretells years of famine. Through this,</p>

PBCCC Bible Reading Plan

	<p>Joseph is raised to a position of great power in Egypt. God uses Joseph to spare Egypt's population during the famine, and ultimately to save the Hebrew people.</p> <p>? Joseph is sold as a slave by his own brothers. He assumes he will never again see his homeland or his family. Yet he continues faithful to his God. He resists the temptation of Potiphar's wife; he refuses to become bitter towards the cupbearer who forgets him; he faithfully serves Pharaoh, the enemy of his people. The secret seems to be his constant awareness of God's presence, even in times of trouble (39:9; 40:8; 41:16; 41:25-32; 41:51-52). How did Joseph remain close to God during his years as a slave? How do you remain close to God in your daily life? Does your awareness of God's presence strengthen you in the face of temptation or discouragement?</p>
<p><b>January 12</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 42</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 43</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 44</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 45</p>	<p>* As you read these chapters try to see the story through the eyes of each character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How did Joseph feel when he recognized his brothers? Was he tempted to anger and revenge?</li> <li>- How did the brothers feel when this Egyptian governor treated them so strangely on their first visit? How did they feel when he revealed himself as the brother they had sold into slavery?</li> <li>- Imagine Jacob's emotions when he hears that his son is still alive.</li> </ul> <p>? You do not need to ask, "Could I forgive as Joseph forgave?" You are not in Joseph's situation. Instead, look in your heart. Is there someone who has wronged you in your past? Have you forgiven them? If not, as you read Joseph's story ask God to give you grace to forgive the person who has wronged you.</p>
<p><b>January 13</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 46</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 47</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 48</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 49</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 50</p>	<p>* These chapters conclude Joseph's story. In preparation for the book of Exodus, they explain how God's people were in Egypt instead of Canaan, the Promised Land. Jacob's blessing on each of his sons (Gen 49) foreshadows the role of each tribe of Israel. Especially important is his blessing on Judah (49:10). Judah will be the tribe who provides Israel's King David. Later, the Messiah will come from the tribe of Judah.</p> <p>? Take time to meditate on Genesis 50:20. Realize that there was a long time (more than twenty years) between the brothers' "evil" (being sold into slavery) and God's "good" (saving Israel from famine). What difficult circumstances in your life may be intended for good in God's great plan? As you think about this, read Romans 8:28-29 and remember that God is working "all things" to accomplish the good of making you into His image.</p>
<p><b>Weekly Summary</b></p>	<p>Write down one "big lesson" that you have learned from this week's readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.</p>