

CrossWise Living | Bible Study Series

The Book of
Genesis

— *Part 2: Promise to Providence* —

Dr. Gail Bones

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Dedication

To my husband Jeff, who inspired junior high science students for 25 years with his love for the God of Creation.

Special thanks again to:

Caleb Weeks and Nali Hilderman who I can always count on for invaluable help with editing and publishing these Bible Studies.

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"In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

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About the Author

Gail Nelson Bones, Ed.D., is the founder of CrossWise Living, a ministry devoted to helping people at all stages in life navigate change through cross-generational relationships. She has been engaging audiences as a speaker, songwriter, and worship leader for over 40 years. Formerly a professor of education at San Diego Christian College, Dr. Bones is the award-winning author of *Living CrossWise: Hope and Help for Navigating Transition* (2013).

Gail and her husband Jeff have been married for over 40 years and together have recorded seven albums of original Christian music. Along with their now-grown children, they spent many years presenting family concerts at churches across the United States. Gail is currently a women's ministry leader at her home church, a worship leader, and doting grandmother.



About the Study

This 10-week inductive Bible study in the CrossWise Living Series is a continuation of the foundational book of the Bible: Genesis. The “Book of Beginnings” serves as the starting point for understanding the great doctrines and core beliefs of the Christian faith. In our companion study, *The Book of Genesis Part 1: Creation to Covenant*, we explored the origins of the universe, humanity, sin, and God's covenants with his chosen people. As we continue through chapters 25-50 in Part 2, we will be looking into the character of God the Father and his Son, Jesus, as we encounter them in these stories of God's chosen people in the lives of the Patriarchs.

After you have read the passage and answered on your own, you may use the notes on your study Bible to supplement your understanding. Be very careful about information you may find online, however. Stick with reliable sources such as biblehub.com or blueletterbible.org for commentaries containing sound doctrine. Make sure you have a good Bible map or atlas because we'll refer to it often.

While you will be meeting with your group primarily to study the Bible together, an important part of your fellowship will be supporting one another in prayer. You'll find a section to record prayer requests at the back of the book. Since time is likely to be limited for this kind of sharing, try to plan ahead as to how you would like your group to pray for you that week—keep your requests succinct so you can devote the last 10-15 minutes of your time to prayer requests. Remember to record your own prayer request on your list so you can recall and record praise for answered prayer.

Here is my blessing for you as you embark on this exciting journey into God's Word. This is one of my favorite passages in Scripture:

“Then those who feared the Lord spoke with each other, and the Lord listened to what they said. In his presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared him and always thought about the honor of his name.”

Malachi 3:16

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LESSON 1

*“Praise the Lord, the God of my master, Abraham,” he said.
“The Lord has shown unfailing love, for he has led me
straight to my master’s relatives.”*

GENESIS 24:27

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second segment of our two-part study of the 50 chapters of the book of Genesis! Your diligence to study God's Word in a disciplined way will reap rich rewards. The learning goals for this study are listed below. As you read through the list, check off any of these goals that are especially meaningful or important to you.

This in-depth study of Genesis will:

1. Equip you to understand and explain *why* you believe what you believe as a Christian.
2. Help you see why the inerrancy of the book of Genesis is absolutely critical to our Christian faith. When we study Genesis we are studying history—not mythology or allegory. Seeing how Jesus viewed the writings of Moses will help us with this.
3. Enable you to engage in intelligent, fact-based discussion regarding the creation-evolution debate, and understand that science and faith are not at odds.
4. Demonstrate the scriptural foundation for our Christian beliefs regarding the sanctity of marriage and human life. To see God's design and purpose in his creation of men and women and the family. Our relationships with both God and man will be strengthened.
5. Inspire the development of Christian character by studying the biographies of the many men and women of faith depicted. God intended these histories to serve as examples and warnings for later generations of how to live a life that pleases the Lord.
6. Illuminate the nature of our triune God through an examination of his communicable and incommunicable attributes, in order that we might know him more intimately. As is clear from the first sentence in Genesis, this is a book, first and foremost, about God.
7. Provide the answers to some of life's most important questions: Why am I here? Where am I going? What is the source of all the evil in the world? Why is life such a struggle? What hope is there for our world? What hope is there for me? These are questions that will help us to engage in meaningful conversations with those around us who need to know their Savior.
8. Reveal the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and his activity as recorded in the Old Testament long before he "became flesh and dwelt among us."

DAY ONE: QUESTIONS

1. In review of Part 1 of our study of Genesis, what do you recall as the main events of those chapters?

7. Read Genesis 24:10-15. What did the servant pray for?
 - a. When did God answer his prayer?
 - b. Where else do we see this in Scripture? How does this encourage you? See:
Isaiah 65:24

Matthew 6:8
8. From verses 16-28, how did the servant respond when he perceived that God had answered his prayer?
 - a. What did he acknowledge about God?
 - b. Have you experienced God leading you to just the right place, at just the right time, in a way you later realized was no coincidence?
9. In what ways you have you recently experienced each of the three attributes of God the servant praised him for?
 - a. God's kindness
 - b. God's guidance
 - c. God's faithfulness

DAY TWO

1. Read Genesis 24:10-66. What qualities did Rebekah demonstrate by her actions when first meeting Abraham's servant?
2. Why did Abraham send expensive gifts to be given to Isaac's intended bride?
3. How did Rebekah's father, Bethuel, and her brother, Laban, initially respond after hearing the servant's testimony concerning the events that led him to their household?
4. What strikes you as significant about the fact that Rebekah's relatives wished to detain her? Why did the servant refuse their request?
5. What does her response say about Rebekah's character?
6. Genesis 24:58 seems like a simple question and answer. What are all the implications of Rebekah's answer to that question. What was she giving up? What did she stand to gain? What was required?
7. When Jesus said, "Follow me," what was your answer? What did you give up? What did you gain? What was required?
8. Rebekah set off in faith on a long journey across the desert, led by Abraham's servant in order to meet her husband. What did she find once she arrived?

DAY FOUR

1. Read Genesis 25:24-34. What kinds of men are Jacob and Esau? How are they different? What do their names mean?
2. Why did Isaac prefer Esau? What does this preference reveal about him?
3. Why did Rebekah prefer Jacob? What does this show us about her?
4. What are the results when parents favor one child over another?
5. What is the birthright of the first-born child according to Deuteronomy 21:17?
6. How is Esau described in Hebrews 12:16-17? What warning can we take from this?

7. What was wrong with Esau's conduct in this case? What does it demonstrate about his view of God?

8. In what ways might we be guilty of the same sort of thing as Esau?

9. What was wrong with Jacob's conduct in this case?

DAY FIVE

1. Read Genesis 26 and find these locations on your map. What caused Isaac to move into the land of the Philistines? How did God speak to him and what did he say?
2. Despite having had God appear to him personally to reassure and direct him, what trap did Isaac fall into?
3. Note that this Abimelech is not the same man Abraham had dealings with many years before. The name may have been a title, like Pharaoh. What similarities and differences do you note between his event and the one described in Genesis 20?
4. What does this chapter say to us about the way in which we pass on our values, weaknesses, and strengths to our children?
5. Have you struggled with areas of sin or weakness that may have plagued your parents or grandparents?

6. How did God protect Rebekah in this case?

7. From verses 12-13, does it seem that God punished Isaac for his failure and lack of faith? From earlier in the chapter, why does it say God blessed Isaac? When in this chapter did God appear to Isaac a second time? What did he say? How did Isaac respond?

8. What do you learn from Isaac's example about being a peacemaker?

9. What information is given about Esau at the end of this chapter?

DAY SIX: OPTIONAL WORD STUDY

In Part 1 of our Genesis study, we dug deeper using online research tools like BibleHub.com, and now that you're familiar with that process, BlueLetterBible.com is another excellent site to explore. For those who prefer handling physical books, *Vine's Concise Dictionary of the Bible* (2005, Thomas Nelson), keyed to Strong's numbers, is a very user-friendly study resource.

1. From your reading this week, choose ONE WORD to research. Is there a word that is repeated? Is there a word that strikes you as especially significant or "jumps out" at you? Is there a word that intrigues or puzzles you?

Your *Word of the Week*: _____

2. Type in your verse reference at **biblehub.com**. Click the **Interlinear** tab ("Int" on a mobile device) at the top in order to find the word in the original language. Click the link to the Strong's number to view the Lexical Summary. What is the Hebrew word and the Strong's #? _____
3. What are the range of meanings you find when search the Strong's definitions? What are synonyms or antonyms?
4. From the column on the right, find several other places in the Old Testament where this word is used. Click on the link to read the verse. What insight does this give you?
5. Now, type in your verse reference again at biblehub.com, but this time click the Commentaries tab. Browse through these to see if you can gain any additional helpful information.
6. What has your study taught you? Have you been able to find a point of application? As you have spent time meditating on the meaning of this word in this passage, has God given you any insight into why this word stood out to you today?

WEEKLY REVIEW

1. Which of God's attributes were most clear to you this week?
2. Which passages or insights were most meaningful to you this week? Explain.
3. How have you applied what you've discovered this week about God, others, or yourself?

About CrossWise Living Resources

CrossWise Living is a ministry devoted to helping people at all stages in life navigate change through cross-generational relationships. Anchored by the work of Dr. Gail Bones, the ministry has been commended by Christian authors, leaders and ministry directors including Pam Farrel, Wayne Rice, Leanna Tankersley, Virginia Friesen, Lynn Vincent, Mark Buchanan and many others through the years. Our discipleship resources promote intergenerational ministry and mentoring relationships.

The foundational concepts of CrossWise Living include: 1) Looking *up* to God for specific guidance, 2) Reaching out to those who have gone *before* us, 3) Reaching out to those who are coming *behind* us, and 4) Looking *down (inward)* in self-reflection about the practical details of our lives. Our flagship 12-week study, *Living CrossWise: Hope and Help for Navigating Transition*, is a thoughtful, Biblically-rooted resource that examines the uprooting, disorienting nature of change, loss and new growth in our lives. By combining metaphors from sailing with stories about life's transitions and topical Bible study, it teaches readers how to harness the power of the winds of change that propel us forward on a zigzag course through life's transitions.

Flagship Study: *Living CrossWise* Hope & Help for Navigating Transition

Includes a 12-week companion Bible Study and a Leader's Guide

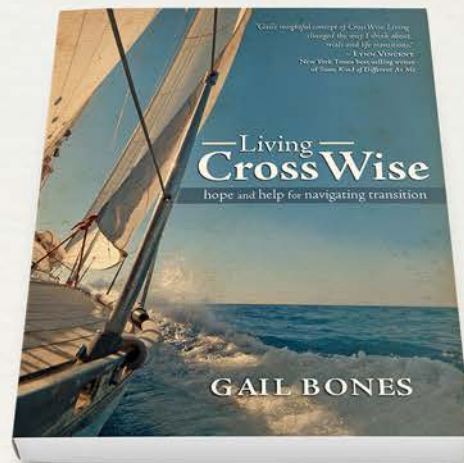
As relentless as the waves of the sea, times of transition challenge us. How can you find God's power to chart your course and move forward in the face of constant change?

"Gail's insightful concept of CrossWise Living changed the way I think about trials and difficult life transitions."

— LYNN VINCENT, New York Times best-selling writer of *Same Kind of Different As Me*

"If life is an ocean, then Gail Bones has not so much written a book as reinvented the art of seafaring. From the depths of her own loss and disappointment, from the midst of her own rough seas, she's emerged with skill, resolve, courage and insight—and humor intact—and distilled it all in these pages. This book is at once a map, a compass, a manual, and a whole boatload of supplies, all guaranteed to get you to the other side."

— MARK BUCHANAN, author of *Your Church is Too Safe* and *The Rest of God*



For ordering information visit gailbones.com. Multiple copy discounts available.

More Bible Studies from Gail Bones

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For ordering information visit gailbones.com. Multiple copy discounts available.

“I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed...”

Journey through the second half of Genesis (chapters 25-50) in this inductive 10-week study that examines the certainty of God’s promises and the power of His providence. Trace His unfolding plan of redemption as the covenant-keeping God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and witness the sovereign protection of His chosen people through Joseph’s rise in Egypt. Pair this study with *The Book of Genesis Part 1: Creation to Covenant* (chapters 1–25) for a complete view of the “Book of Beginnings” and a deeper understanding of the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith that will strengthen your hope in Christ.



Dr Gail Bones, a former English teacher and professor of education, has been engaging audiences as a speaker, Bible teacher, songwriter and worship leader for more than forty years. She has also written fifteen other Bible studies in the CrossWise Living series: *The Book of Ruth*, *The Book of Mark*, *Walk: The Letters of John*, *Jesus’ Farewell: Love to the Uttermost*, *Ezra & Nehemiah*, *The Life & Letters of Peter*, *The Life & Psalms of David*, *The Life & Writings of Solomon*, *Grace & Peace: The Last Letters of Paul*, *Elijah & Elisha*, *The Book of Joshua*, *The Book of Daniel*, *The Book of Esther*, *The Book of Genesis [Part 1]*, and the award-winning *Living Cross Wise: Hope & Help for Navigating Transition*.

CHRISTIAN LIVING/SPIRITUAL GROWTH/BIBLE STUDY



CrossWise Living
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