

CrossWise Living | *Bible Study Series*

*The Book of*  
**Genesis**

— *Part 1: Creation to Covenant* —

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.

Published by Treasure House Press

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

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# The Book of Genesis

— Part 1: Creation to Covenant —

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Lesson 1 .....	5
Lesson 2 .....	15
Lesson 3 .....	27
Lesson 4 .....	35
Lesson 5 .....	43
Lesson 6 .....	51
Lesson 7 .....	61
Lesson 8 .....	69
Lesson 9 .....	77
Lesson 10 .....	85
Lesson 11 .....	93
Lesson 12 .....	101
Lesson 13 .....	111
<i>Prayer Requests</i> .....	118
<i>Notes</i> .....	134
<i>Group Members Information</i> .....	136

## 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 13-week inductive Bible study in the CrossWise Living Series is an exploration 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. We will be exploring the origins of the universe, humanity, sin, and God's covenants with his chosen people in Genesis chapters 1-25. We will also find Jesus throughout the pages of this Old Testament history book. In our companion study, *The Book of Genesis Part 2: Promise to Provision*, we continue through chapters 25-50 of Genesis as we encounter timeless lessons that speak directly to modern life and will strengthen our hope in Christ.

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*

CrossWise Living | Bible Study Series

# The Book of Genesis

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# LESSON 1

*“And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.’ And it was so.”*

GENESIS 1:14-15

# INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to the first 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

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1. Write out 2 Timothy 2:15 in the form of a prayer.
2. Read Luke 24:13-32. Write out Luke 24:27 and explain why it is so significant to our study of Genesis.

3. Read Acts 17:22-28, which is a description of Paul's stop in Athens on his second missionary journey. After reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews, he went out into the public square to talk, and debated with Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. List everything Paul teaches his pagan audience about God.
  
4. As Paul was preparing to preach the gospel to the Greek philosophers gathered at the Areopagus, he had to take a different approach than he did when preaching in Jewish regions. Paul did not have to prove to the Jews that there was one true God, nor did he have to convince them of the sinful state of man. Because they had the Torah—the first five books of the Bible in which God revealed himself to Israel through the writings of Moses—they had a foundational understanding of their Creator and man's sin problem. Paul merely needed to point his fellow Jews to the Savior, the Messiah that was promised in the Law and the Prophets.

As we see in this passage in Acts, Paul was engaging in discussion and debate with people who thought of themselves as very religious—in fact, they worshipped gods of all sorts, they even had an idol of an unknown god just in case they had missed one! What they lacked, however, was knowledge of their Creator, the one and only true God. And so Paul had to introduce them to their Creator before he could introduce them to their Savior. Paul begins his address to the philosophers of Athens by saying, “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands” (Acts 17:24).

Our task today is similar. The people we meet who need Jesus often do not even believe there is a God who created them. They have no concept of their own sinfulness. In many cases, we must take those who are honest seekers to the book of Genesis first—even before we share the good news of their Savior in the gospels in the New Testament. Their eyes must be opened to the truth of the very existence of the one and only sovereign creator God. Once they see the hand of the designer, we can begin to speak to them of his heart. For this reason, we who seek to share the gospel of Jesus Christ must be firmly convinced of the truths contained in the book of Genesis.

- a. Can you think of a time you were able to use some element of God's creation to begin a conversation that would lead you to share the good news about Jesus?
  
- b. Have you always believed in God? If not, can you remember what your thoughts were about God before you came to know Jesus? What caused the change?

# DAY TWO

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1. Do some outside research to answer the following questions:
  - a. Who wrote the book of Genesis? When was it written?
  - b. What is the style or genre in which it is written?
  - c. Who was Moses' intended audience and what was the purpose of this book?
  - d. What is the main theme of the book of Genesis?
  
2. Read Genesis 1 in two different translations. Which words or phrases stand out to you? Did you notice any particular details for the first time?
  - a. Summarize and identify the main idea of this chapter.
  - b. We will be exploring this chapter in depth in later lessons, but for now, as you think of the big picture, what is most interesting to you? What are you most curious about?
  
3. Psalm 104 is one of the six creation Psalms David wrote (8, 19, 29, 65, 104 and 139). Read Psalm 104 and notice how differently Moses and David treat the same subject.
  - a. What strikes you? What key differences do you notice?
  - b. What central truths are common to both?
  - c. Which verse in this Psalm was your favorite?

# DAY THREE

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1. A key emphasis throughout our study of Genesis will be to see Jesus. In John 5:39 and 46, Jesus says to the Pharisees, "You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that *testify about me*, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." And "If you believed Moses, you would believe me for *he wrote about me*." Compare Genesis 1:1 with John 1:1-3. What conclusions do you draw?

2. What do the following verses teach about Jesus' role in creation?

Colossians 1:15-17

Hebrews 1:2

3. What does the Father say about the Son in Hebrews 1:10-12?

4. What evidence of the Trinity do you find in the first few verses of Genesis 1?

5. What was the Holy Spirit's role in creation? See also John 3:5-6. What do you conclude?

# DAY FOUR

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1. Today we are going to take a close look at Genesis 1:1-5. Read these verses slowly and try to take in as much detail as possible. Read this passage numerous times and then list everything it tells us, both explicitly and implicitly.

2. What “beginning” is Moses talking about here? What does Psalm 90:1-2 teach?

3. What light do the following verses shed on the nature of our eternal triune God?

John 17:5 and 24

Ephesians 1:4

2 Timothy 1:9-10

1 Peter 1:18-20

4. Read and respond to the following quotes about time:

“Time is actually a created entity. The first verse of the Bible reads: ‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.’ A study of this verse reveals that God created time, space, and matter on the first day of Creation Week. No one of these can have a meaningful existence without the others. God created the space-mass-time universe. Space and matter must exist in time, and time requires space and matter. Time is only meaningful if physical entities exist and events transpire during time. ‘In the beginning...’ is when time began! There was no time before time was created!”

— Ken Ham, “What Was God Doing Before Creation”

“In the Creation account, God had to have some place to put matter, so He created space. He had to make room for motion so he made time...time is the medium in which things change. It is not time that makes a baby grow—it is change that does it. In order for change to occur, there must be a sequence of change. We call that sequence time. ... Then in the record we see that God created life. He created life so that there could be a consciousness of time and space and motion and matter. Then God created spirit, in order that there might be creatures who were conscious of God Himself.”

— A.W. Tozer, *Jesus: The Life and Ministry of God the Son*

“Time is short. Eternity is long. It is only reasonable that this short life be lived in the light of eternity.”

— Attributed to Charles Spurgeon

5. What would be your action steps in response to these truths?

# DAY FIVE

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The very first verse in Genesis establishes for us that our God is **eternal**. He has no beginning or end, he has always been and will always be; he is the God of the past, present and future. When we read Jesus' claim to the Pharisees in John 8:58: "Before Abraham was, I am," we find the odd juxtaposition of past and present tenses to be jarring at first until we realize what Jesus is actually saying. Jesus is echoing God's words from the burning bush, when he identifies himself to Moses by name as "I Am" (Exodus 3:14-15). This is one of Jesus' many claims to deity. In Revelation 1:8 he says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come."

1. How does Deuteronomy 33:27a encourage you in your current situation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What blessings do we derive from the truths found in the following verses which speak of eternity?

Psalm 16:11

John 3:14-16

John 10:28-30

1 John 5:11-13

3. What does John 6:35-40 say to you about your eternal security in Christ?

# DAY SIX: OPTIONAL WORD STUDY

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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

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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*

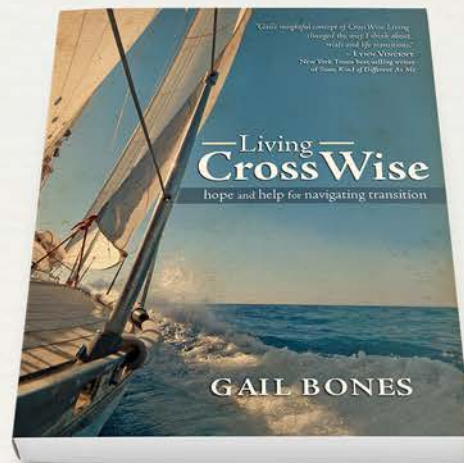
As relentless as the waves of the sea, times of transition challenge us. How can you find God's power to chart your course and move forward in the face of constant change?

*"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](http://gailbones.com). Multiple copy discounts available.

# More Bible Studies from Gail Bones

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