
Genesis: Let's Talk

This Grace@Home Let's Talk Guide provides discussion questions and activities that you may use to facilitate conversations about God and His Word in your home. The focus is on those chapters that are most likely to promote meaningful conversations for all ages of family members.

Genesis 1

Exercise: Set a timer for three minutes. Make a list of all the things God created. Can you identify on which day He created each of them?

Questions:

- What did God create "in the beginning"? What does the Bible mean by heavens (plural)?
- What did God say after He created everything? Why would He say that? What do you think a world without sin would look/feel like? How would it be different than our present world?
- What is your most favorite thing that God created? Least favorite? Weirdest?
- Is there any way that you can create something from nothing? Did God? How?

Genesis 6

Exercise: Watch this part of Evan Almighty:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80x9FmKsyg4&feature=fvsr>

After you watch the clip, read about Noah in Genesis 6.

Questions:

- How many sons did Noah have? What were their names?
- How many people were on the ark? How many of each kind of animal was on the ark?
- Are there any animals you wish Noah had not brought on the ark?

- Would you have believe someone like Noah (or Evan from the movie) if they said the world was going to flood? Why or why not? How do you imagine that God talked to Noah, face-to-face, a voice from the sky, or some other way?

Genesis 11

Exercise: Work together as a family or create a competition to see who can build the tallest structure. You can use blocks, legos, cards, plastic cups, or let the family decide the building materials. Be creative! The people of Babel tried to build a tower to heaven. Do you think anyone could build a tower that tall?

Questions:

- What did the people of the earth have in common?
- What did God do to everyone? Where did they go?
- Have you ever thought about how God is watching what goes on in your daily life?

Genesis 15

Exercise: Look up images on the internet of star constellations (or download Apps like Start Walk or Sky View). See if you can identify any of the constellations in the sky. How many stars do you think are in the sky?

Questions:

- What did God first say to Abram? (It's the most common thing that God and angels say to a human.) Why would he say that?
- How many descendants did God promise Abram?
- God promises Abram children at an old age. Can you think of any other promises God has made? Have you ever seen one of God's promises fulfilled in your life? What promise are you trusting Him for?
- Faith is believing God even before you see the outcome of what God says. How did Abram believe God in this chapter? Do you think that was easier to do than our faith in believing Jesus as Our Savior? Why or why not?

Genesis 17

Exercise: Set out a pile of marshmallow. Count out 99. How big is the pile? Share some hot chocolate and read the chapter together about Abram being 99 years old.

Questions:

- What did Abram do when God was talking to him? Why do you think he did these things? When you hear from God (by prayer or reading the Bible), how do you respond?
- What new name did God give Abram?
- What did God promise Abram? He had already promised this. Why would He say it again? Has God ever told you the same thing twice?
- How does God say He will bless Ishmael? Who are today's descendants of Ishmael?

Genesis 22

Exercise: Ask everyone in your family what they think the word "offering" means. Then go to <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/offering> to read the definition. What big offering did God ask Abraham to make in Genesis 22?

Questions:

- How long did it take for Abraham to begin to obey God's instructions? How quick are you to obey instructions that are difficult?
- How many days did they travel before they found the spot? Who did Abraham take to the offering in the land of Moriah?
- Who came to talk to Abraham about his offering?
- What do you think Abraham was thinking when God asked him to offer his son? (Remember Abraham had waited a LONG time for this son and God had promised to make many nations from him.) What do you think Isaac was thinking when he realized he was going to be the sacrifice? Do you think he could have overpowered his dad if had tried?

Genesis 24

Exercise: Prepare a picture of a beverage of your choice. Pour drinks for everyone in the family. As you read, Genesis 24, think about Rebekah's serving spirit.

Questions:

- How did the servant ask God to show him who should be Isaac's wife? Have you ever talked to God like that? Is it okay to talk to God like that?
- What is the name of Rebekah's dad? How is he related to Abraham?
- Have you ever served someone you didn't know? Explain what you did and why you did it? What can you do to serve others?
- How long did the servant give Rebekah to get ready to leave her family forever? What do you think she was thinking that last night at home? Could you obey God that quickly and radically?

Genesis 25

Exercise: Notice the major branches of Abraham's descendants. Many of those names sound strange to our ears. What is the funniest sounding name to you? What is your favorite name?

Questions:

- How old was Isaac when he married Rebekah? How old was he when his babies were born? How many years did he pray before he had children?
- How many babies did Rebekah have? What were their names? What do their names mean?
- Why did Esau give up his birthright for food? Did he make a good decision? Why or why not?
- Before Jacob was born what was prophesied about him? Did he allow God to fulfill this prophecy in him or did he try to make it come true for himself? Have you ever manipulated situations rather than let God work it out? If so, how?

Genesis 27

Exercise: Check out the funny Star Wars version of Jacob and Esau at this link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4SyrQ_alss

The Bible tells us Esau is hairy, but who would have ever imagined he was a Wookiee?!

Questions:

- Who did Isaac ask to make him food with the promise of blessing him at the end of the meal?
- What did Jacob do to "trick" his father into giving him the blessing instead of Esau?
- Why did Jacob steal both Esau's birthright and his blessing? What is the difference between the birthright and blessing?
- Do you think the advice Rebekah gave Jacob was right? Why or why not? Can parents ever make mistakes?

Genesis 29

Exercise: Make a family tree of all of your relatives. List all of your siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. How far back can you go?

Questions:

- Who did Jacob want to marry? Who did Jacob end up marrying?
- How long did Jacob have to work for Laban for his first wife? How long for his second wife?
- Would you have trusted a person like Laban? Why or why not?
- Jacob left his home because he tricked his brother. There is a phrase "what goes around comes around." How is what Laban did to Jacob similar to what Jacob did to Esau?

Genesis 32

Exercise: Let's wrestle! As a family, engage in some thumb wrestling matches. Then read how Jacob wrestled with his fears and with God.

Questions:

- Why was Jacob afraid of meeting Esau? Have you ever been afraid of meeting someone? How did you handle it? How did Jacob handle it?
- How many people did Jacob take with him when he crossed over the ford of Jabbok?
- Who did Jacob wrestle with at night? What happened to Jacob as a result of this wrestling match? How might that physical reminder of his wrestling match actually help Jacob the rest of his life?
- Have you ever "wrestled" with God? What happened? Do you have any lasting reminders as a result? (Parents – this is a great opportunity to share as you may have more answers here than your kids)

Genesis 35

Exercise: Jacob built an altar to remind him of how God protected him. Get out the Playdoh. Create something that helps you remember God and all He has done for you.

Questions:

- Where did God tell Jacob to build the altar? What did it represent?
- What did God rename Jacob? What did God promise Jacob?
- If your name reflected what God had promised for you in your life, what would you like to be renamed?
- Throughout the Bible, God tells His people to remember the specific times He delivered them. They often made altars or pillars at the places He delivered them. How do you record or remember the times God has provided for you? If this is a new idea to you, how could you start today?

Genesis 37

Exercise: What do you dream about? Everybody dreams, but most people (90% or more) don't remember their dreams. On average, a person dreams about four to seven dreams per night. Talk about your dreams and the best dream you remember.

Questions:

- What were the two dreams Joseph shared with his family? Was he wise to share these dreams the way he did? How would you have felt if you were one of his parents or siblings?
- Have you ever had a dream that came true? If so, what happened?
- What did his brothers do to Joseph? Why did they do this? Have you ever been jealous of a sibling?
- If you were Joseph's brother, what would have been a better way to handle your jealousy? If you were Joseph's father, what could you have done to help the brothers get along better? How did Jacob contribute to the jealousy?

Genesis 39

Exercise: Look up what the words blessed and blessing mean. God blessed – or found favor – with Joseph. How do you feel blessed to be a believer of Christ?

Questions:

- Who bought Joseph? What was his occupation?
- What job did they give Joseph?
- Multiple times in this chapter it says that the "Lord was with Joseph." How can you tell this was true?
- If the Lord was with Joseph, why did He allow Joseph to be sold into slavery and then put into prison? Why didn't God just protect Joseph and give him good things? Can you think of a hard circumstance God allowed you to experience that led to a great deliverance later?

Genesis 40

Exercise: Draw a picture to illustrate Joseph's dreams. What did Joseph say his dreams meant?

Questions:

- Who was in the prison with Joseph?
- If you were Joseph and had been pulled away from your family, sold into slavery, then wrongly accused and thrown into prison, do you think you would even notice anyone else's problems? What question does Joseph ask the two men? What does that tell you about Joseph's character?
- What did each of their dream's mean?
- God gave Joseph the gift to interpret dreams. What is something you are good at that you can use for God?

Genesis 42

Exercise: Talk about a time when you have had to ask for help. What type of help did you need? Was it difficult to ask someone for help?

Questions:

- Why did Joseph's brothers come to Egypt? Did Joseph's brothers recognize him when they saw him?
- How was this chapter a fulfillment of Joseph's earlier dreams?
- Do you think the brothers were sorry for what they had done to Joseph? Why or why not?
- Would you be willing to help someone who had treated you badly? Can forgiveness occur before the person who wronged you is sorry? Explain.

Genesis 45

Exercise: Share with your family members a time when you have been surprised. Do you like surprises? What types of feeling do you get when you are surprised?

Questions:

- How did Joseph see that his trials had all been a part of God's plan for good? Have you ever seen a trial in your life work for good?
- What did Joseph ask his brothers to tell their father, Jacob?
- Who did Joseph hug first? How do you think you would have felt to see your little brother after many years?
- What was Jacob's response when he heard that Joseph was still alive? What would you be thinking if you were Jacob on your way to meet your son you thought had died?

Genesis 47

Exercise: Find a world map. Locate Egypt. What famous structure is in Egypt?

Questions:

- What is the occupation of Joseph's brothers and father?
- How old was Jacob when he came before the Pharaoh?
- How do you think Jacob and his family felt about relocating to Egypt? Do you think they wondered if they would ever return to their Promised Land in Canaan? If you have ever moved, what are some of the challenges in getting settled in a new place?
- What request did Jacob make of Joseph? Why?

Genesis 48

Exercise: As Christians, we can be a blessing to those around us. Listen to the song, "The Blessing" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWs-4tPGMGE>

Questions:

- How many sons did Joseph have? What were their names?
- What happened when Jacob (Israel) laid his hands on Joseph's sons to bless them?
- What other story about blessings and brothers have you read about in Genesis that sounds similar to this one?
- When you get to heaven, do you have any questions that you would like God to answer? If so, name one. His ways are beyond our human understanding but we can trust Him to take care of us no matter what happens. How is Joseph's life a good illustration of this principle?