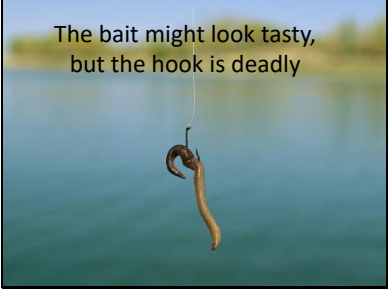
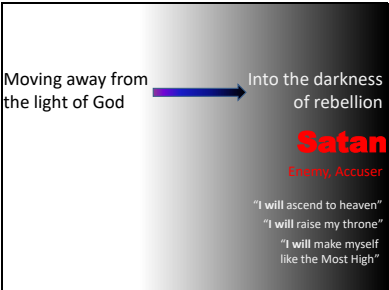


Study Plan <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Question / Topic</th> <th>Passages</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1- Is the Bible Trustworthy?</td> <td>Various</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2- Did God Really Create the World?</td> <td>Genesis 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3- If God is good, why does suffering exist?</td> <td>Genesis 2:3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4- Why is evil so widespread and powerful?</td> <td>Genesis 4-11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5- How can evil people become righteous?</td> <td>Genesis 12-47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6- Who is God?</td> <td>Exodus 3-12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7- What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments?</td> <td>Exodus 14-34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8- What does it mean to take a "step of faith?"</td> <td>Joshua, 1&2 Samuel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9- How do the Old and New Testaments fit together?</td> <td>Isaiah, Luke</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10- Why did Jesus perform miracles?</td> <td>Mark</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11- What did Jesus really say?</td> <td>John</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12- Is death the end (or the beginning)?</td> <td>Matthew</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Question / Topic	Passages	1- Is the Bible Trustworthy?	Various	2- Did God Really Create the World?	Genesis 1	3- If God is good, why does suffering exist?	Genesis 2:3	4- Why is evil so widespread and powerful?	Genesis 4-11	5- How can evil people become righteous?	Genesis 12-47	6- Who is God?	Exodus 3-12	7- What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments?	Exodus 14-34	8- What does it mean to take a "step of faith?"	Joshua, 1&2 Samuel	9- How do the Old and New Testaments fit together?	Isaiah, Luke	10- Why did Jesus perform miracles?	Mark	11- What did Jesus really say?	John	12- Is death the end (or the beginning)?	Matthew	
Question / Topic	Passages																										
1- Is the Bible Trustworthy?	Various																										
2- Did God Really Create the World?	Genesis 1																										
3- If God is good, why does suffering exist?	Genesis 2:3																										
4- Why is evil so widespread and powerful?	Genesis 4-11																										
5- How can evil people become righteous?	Genesis 12-47																										
6- Who is God?	Exodus 3-12																										
7- What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments?	Exodus 14-34																										
8- What does it mean to take a "step of faith?"	Joshua, 1&2 Samuel																										
9- How do the Old and New Testaments fit together?	Isaiah, Luke																										
10- Why did Jesus perform miracles?	Mark																										
11- What did Jesus really say?	John																										
12- Is death the end (or the beginning)?	Matthew																										
<u>If God is Good, why do Evil and Suffering Exist?</u> It was very good, but then...																											
The Awesome, Perfect, Eternal God To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing. Isaiah 40:25,26	As we begin, I want to remind you that every created thing had a beginning. As we back up into history, we eventually come to something that did not begin to exist – the only One who is eternally existing – the “first cause” of everything else. Of course, we are talking about the Awesome, Eternal God. Read these verses from Isaiah 40:25,26 and remember who He is and who we are by contrast. He is the center of all attention, not us. When we get that reversed, we set ourselves up for confusion and despair.																										
From Last Week: In the <u>beginning</u>, <u>God created</u>... (Genesis 1:1) God Spoke: “Let there be light...” (Gen 1:3)	Last week, we saw three important things in Genesis 1:1 – In the <u>beginning</u>, <u>God</u>, and <u>created</u>. In verse 3, we saw the first example of what God often does – <u>He sends</u> forth <u>His word</u> into darkness, bringing <u>light</u> (physical and spiritual).																										
From Last Week: In the <u>beginning</u>, <u>God created</u>... (Genesis 1:1) God Spoke: “Let there be light...” (Gen 1:3) In a world of darkness, God sends His word to bring light (physical and spiritual) “God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.” (Gen 1:31)	Also, Genesis 1:26 shows us how God made people special: in His image. He gave them a mind, a will, emotions, and authority. God created us in His image so that we might know Him personally. We ended by looking at Genesis 1:31 – God made a wonderful world, a beautiful garden (Eden), and created people in his image for an unhindered relationship with Himself. It was all “very good.” But when we look at our world today, it is far from perfect.																										

<u>What happened?</u>  We see evil all around us, and (if we are honest), We see evil inside of us Why...?	We see evil all <u>around us</u>: terrorism, abuse, disease, and death. And if we're honest, we sense the evil <u>within</u> us: greed, lying, lust, and rebellion. What happened?
<u>Before God created people...</u> - God created Angels - John 1:3 – God made <u>everything</u> "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."	Remember: God is the creator of everything that exists. When you back up into eternity, He is the "Uncreated One," the "first cause" of everything else that exists.
<u>Before God created people...</u> - God created Angels - John 1:3 – God made <u>everything</u> - Psalms 103:20 – servants and messengers "Bless the LORD, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of His word!"	Even before God created people, He created "spirits" to be His servants. God is greater than the spirits - He lived before them eternally, He made them, He gave them life. Spirits do not have physical bodies, like us - they can move about wherever they want to. In the beginning, the spirits were all God's angels. Angels means "messengers" or "servants."
<u>Before God created people...</u> - God created Angels - John 1:3 – God made <u>everything</u> - Psalms 103:20 – servants and messengers - Not all Angels are the same	God didn't create all the spirits exactly the same. Some were more beautiful, some were more powerful than others.
<u>Before God created people...</u> - Lucifer, a powerful and beautiful angel - Ezekiel 28:13-15 – a "guardian cherub" "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; ... You were an anointed guardian cherub ... You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.'"	The greatest angel was called Lucifer. Lucifer means "morning star." God does not create evil – everything He makes is perfect.

<u>Before God created people...</u> - Lucifer, a powerful and beautiful angel - Ezekiel 28:13-15 – a “guardian cherub” - Isaiah 14:12-14 – “I will be like God” “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’”	God gave Lucifer a place of great authority over the other angels in Heaven. Lucifer was created blameless and perfect, but after a time, Lucifer became proud of his beauty and position and wanted to be “like the Most High.”
	God is perfectly good. But when a creature chooses to go their own way, they move away from His light into darkness, choosing to be their own god. Lucifer was the first one to do this evil, an action for which he <u>has been judged</u> and <u>will be condemned</u>. Lucifer is also called Satan which means “enemy, adversary, opponent, or accuser.” Other angels followed Lucifer in his rebellion, and are now called demons. (2 Peter 2:4)
<u>A Choice in the Garden</u> - God did not make people like robots - True love requires a choice - Genesis 2:16,17 “And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.’”	Because Adam was created in the image of God, he was given a will – the ability to choose obedience or disobedience. Therefore, God gave him the privilege to eat from any tree in the entire garden except for one: Genesis 2:16,17 God could’ve created Adam and Eve like the animals or like robots, only programmed to do good. But true love requires a choice, so he gave people a will – the ability to choose to follow or reject His leadership.
<u>A Choice in the Garden</u> - God did not make people like robots - True love requires a choice - Genesis 2:16,17 - They had a perfect relationship with God and each other (Gen 2:25) - The man and woman could eat from every tree in the garden, but... ...there was one rule: do not eat the fruit of the forbidden tree	As we said above, life in the Garden of Eden was very good – perfect. Adam and Eve had everything they needed. God put Adam in position of manager over all the creation. God gave them a variety of plants and fruits and vegetables to eat, and they had a perfect friendship and fellowship with God and with each other (Genesis 2:25).
<u>Satan tempted Eve</u> Genesis 3:1 – “Did God <i>really</i> say...?” “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden”?’”	Satan knew about God’s warning to Adam concerning the one tree. Because Satan hates God, he wanted to destroy the man and woman God made in His image. Therefore, Satan planned to deceive Eve. Genesis 3:1 Why did Satan ask Eve this question? – Two reasons: to create doubt about the truthfulness of God’s word, and to tempt them to think that God really didn’t love and care for them.

<u>Satan tempted Eve</u> - Genesis 3:1 – “Did God <i>really</i> say...?” - He wanted Eve to doubt <u>God’s Word</u> - He tempted Eve to doubt <u>God’s love</u> - Genesis 3:4-5 – “You will not die...” “‘You will not certainly die,’ the serpent said to the woman. ‘For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”	Satan is a deceiver. He tries to make what is good appear useless or evil, and what is evil appear good. Satan deceived Eve by coming to her in the form of a snake. Up until that time, the animals had not been harmful in any way to Adam and Eve or to each other, so Eve was not afraid (2 Corinthians 11:14). Genesis 3:2-5 Satan had already rebelled against God’s authority. He wanted to be independent of God and rule his own life. Now Satan was suggesting to Eve that she should also rebel against God. Satan said that eating the fruit would make Eve like God in knowing good and evil. Satan wanted Eve to believe that she wouldn’t need God to tell her what was right and wrong. But the truth is that God did not make people to live by their own ideas and thoughts, and He made us to be guided by His own Word.
<u>Satan tempted Eve</u> - Genesis 3:1 – “Did God <i>really</i> say...?” - He wanted Eve to doubt <u>God’s Word</u> - He tempted Eve to doubt <u>God’s love</u> - Genesis 3:4-5 – “You will not die...” “You will be like God” (Satan’s original sin) “Believe in yourself - rule your own life!” - But God did not make us to live apart from Him. He made us to be guided by His word.	Remember – they were already created in the image of God. Satan’s temptation to “be like God” really meant to “be like God”! Perfect freedom does not come from the absence of wise rules...
<u>Eve and Adam make a choice</u> Genesis 3:6 – The woman saw: “When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”	Genesis 3:6 What did God say would happen to them if they ate of the tree? – He told them that they would die. Even though Adam knew that God had said not to eat it, he deliberately disobeyed God’s command. Adam turned away from depending on God. Up to this point, he had personal experience with the goodness of God. Now, because he had chosen to follow Satan, he will become personally familiar with evil.
<u>Eve and Adam make a choice</u> - Genesis 3:6 – The woman saw: - The fruit looked like it would taste good - The fruit was attractive to the eyes - Eating could increase her wisdom and power - She ate, and then Adam ate	The Bible has an amazing consistency from beginning to end. We face these same three temptations today, ones which are described in 1 John 2:16 – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.
The bait might look tasty, but the hook is deadly 	If we rush into sin without stopping to look for the hidden danger, we can find ourselves hooked and on the pathway to death.

	Sadly, the man and woman followed Satan’s original path into sin, choosing to rule their own lives instead of submitting to the loving authority of God.
What is Sin? Sin = to turn away from God and go your own way Jeremiah 32:33 – “They have turned to me their back and not their face. And though I have taught them persistently, they have not listened to receive instruction.” When we sin, we ignore God and His law. We substitute our ideas of right and wrong for His wisdom.	It might be small thing to ignore the request of a friend, but it is a dangerous thing to ignore the request of our boss (or our president). The evil of sin becomes even more clear when we consider the level of authority of God, the One we have truly offended! God created us – He has complete authority! When we choose to follow our own earthly ways, we decide what is right or wrong based on ourselves and our culture. Idolatry = putting our trust in that which is not God (usually, ourselves) Psalms 14:1-3 shows the root of our sin: ignoring God, <u>turning aside</u> from Him: “The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have <u>all turned aside</u>; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.”
What is Sin? Romans 1:21-23 – “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.” When we sin, we eventually put ourselves in the place of God (a terrible choice!) Treason (叛国罪) = to betray your country and overthrow the leader. What is the penalty for treason? Sin is the biggest problem we have!	People create their own gods and methods of salvation to maintain control over the process (we want to retain authority). Although we might not think that we are taking the place of God, it becomes clear when we define our own morality, meaning, and salvation method. 叛国罪 The normal penalty for treason is death! (Romans 6:23) Sin: the biggest problem of every human being!
What is Death? • Genesis 2:16,17 – what did God say would happen when they ate from the tree? • Isaiah 59:2 – sin separates us from God “But your wickedness has separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”	When something dies, it becomes separated from the source of life. Physical death is the time when a person’s spirit is separated from their body. Spiritual death is the time when a man becomes separated from God (Isaiah 59:2).
What is Death? • Genesis 2:16,17 – what did God say would happen when they ate from the tree? • Isaiah 59:2 – sin separates us from God – When someone dies <i>physically</i>, their soul is <u>separated</u> from their body – When someone dies <i>spiritually</i>, their spirit is <u>separated</u> from God • Genesis 3:8 – they hid themselves from God “Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”	The first sign of separation from God we read about is that they tried to hide from God.

<u>What is Death?</u> • Genesis 2:16,17 – what did God say would happen when they ate from the tree? • Isaiah 59:2 – sin separates us from God – When someone dies <i>physically</i>, their soul is <u>separated</u> from their body – When someone dies <i>spiritually</i>, their spirit is <u>separated</u> from God • Genesis 3:8 – they hid themselves from God ➤ Death = separation from life	
Are these flowers alive or dead?  Hint	They are cut off from the source of life...
<u>The results of sin (Genesis 3):</u> • Verses 9-12 > Three Things: “‘But the LORD God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’ He answered, ‘I heard You in the garden, and I <u>was afraid</u> because I <u>was naked</u>; so I hid.’ And He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?’ The man said, ‘The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I <u>ate it</u>.’”	Could God see where they were hiding? Why did God call out? – He loved them and wanted to give them an opportunity to confess their sin. We are responsible for our actions. Do you think God needed to ask them to find out what happened? No, but He was <u>giving them an opportunity</u> to agree with Him that what He said was truth and that they were wrong in believing and following Satan.
<u>The results of sin (Genesis 3):</u> • Verses 9-12 > Three Things: ✓ Fear – “I was afraid” ✓ Shame – “I was naked” ✓ Guilt – “I ate” • Curses on People and Creation (verses 16-19): “To the woman he said, “I will make your <u>pains in childbearing</u> very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he <u>will rule over you</u>.” To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ <u>‘Cursed is the ground</u> because of you; through <u>painful toil</u> you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce <u>thorns and thistles</u> for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the <u>sweat</u> of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and <u>to dust you will return</u>.”	When Adam and Eve sinned, three things happened to them: fear (I was afraid), shame (I was naked), and guilt (I ate). All over the world, we see these three results of evil.
<u>The results of sin (Genesis 3):</u> • Verses 9-12 > Three Things: ✓ Fear – “I was afraid” ✓ Shame – “I was naked” ✓ Guilt – “I ate” • Curses on People and Creation (verses 16-19): ○ Verse 16 > woman: painful childbirth and loss of freedom ○ Verse 17-18 > man: thorns, pain, sweat, hard work ○ Verses 19 > man and woman: death	When God created Adam and Eve, He did not intend for them to die. Even though man did not die physically on the day that he ate from the tree, his genetics were now changed, eventually leading him to physical death. Death would now be routine for everything on earth.

<u>Bad news for all of us</u> • Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned”	The sin of Adam and Eve has been passed down to every human being on the planet. Just like you “inherit” genetics from your parents, we have all inherited sin and death from Adam and Eve. No child is born good – all are born with a sinful nature (that’s why parents have to teach their kids to do good – they naturally do bad). “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.” Psalm 51:5
<u>Bad news for all of us</u> • Romans 5:12 ▪ We all inherit sin – it’s not just what we do, it’s who we are ▪ Because of sin, we all <u>are</u> dead <u>spiritually</u> ▪ Because of sin, we all <u>will</u> die <u>physically</u> • The end of <u>last lesson</u>: “It was very good” • The end of <u>this lesson</u>: we are separated from God and will die because of our sin • The important question: Is there any hope?	Even though tonight’s lesson began with the words “very good,” it ends on a very sad note: men have been separated from God and are now destined to live in a cursed world of evil and death. The question is this: is there any hope for mankind?
<u>Some “clues” of hope...</u> • Genesis 3:9 > <u>God came</u> to the man and <u>called out</u> to him “But the LORD God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’”	The answer: yes, there is hope found in <u>two clues</u> above: God had every right to destroy the people He created: they were guilty and had corrupted His perfect world. But even when man was hiding from God, God came to the man and called out to him, giving him an opportunity to admit his sin and seek forgiveness.
<u>Some clues of hope...</u> • Genesis 3:9 > <u>God came</u> to the man and <u>called out</u> to him – “Where are you?” – God gives people an opportunity to confess sin and ask forgiveness • Genesis 3:21 > <u>God covered</u> their shame “The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”	Even when man was hiding from God, God came to the man and called out to him, giving him an opportunity to admit his sin and seek forgiveness. And instead of punishing the man, God killed an animal as a substitute in order to cover the shame of the man and woman.
<u>Some clues of hope...</u> • Genesis 3:9 > <u>God came</u> to the man and <u>called out</u> to him – “Where are you?” – God gives people an opportunity to confess sin and ask forgiveness • Genesis 3:21 > <u>God covered</u> their shame – What did God do to make their clothing? – God killed a <u>substitute</u> for the man to cover his shame • The Bible is <u>not just</u> a book of rules • The Bible is <u>the true story</u> of God seeking man.	Now that you understand the problem of death, it helps you to better understand the message of the Bible. It is not just a book of rules to try and help sinful people get along better with each other. It is the story of God seeking man. It is the amazing story of what God will do to restore His relationship with people who turned away from Him.

耶和華我們的主啊！你的名在全地是多麼威嚴，你把你的榮美彰顯在天上。我觀看你所造的天，和你所安放的月亮和星星。啊！人算什麼，你竟記念他？世人算什麼，你竟眷顧他？ Psalm 8:1,3,4 Remember: He is God, we are not God O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?	As we conclude, I want you to remember an important fact, one that Satan confused in the mind of Adam and Eve: God is God and we are not God Psalm 8:1,3,4 He is the center of all things, and we only exist because He has chosen to make us. When we keep our attention clear about this, it changes everything!
	
<u>Is anyone a “good person”?</u> (Psalm 14:1-3) • The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. • The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. • They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.	Psalm 14:1-3 shows the root of our sin: ignoring God, turning aside from Him
<u>A Correct View of Life</u>  For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen. Romans 11:36	The right view of Life: God is at the center of all things. I was not created to be self-centered, I was created to worship and enjoy God forever.
<u>Our (incorrect) view of life</u> 