

Central Study Hour – Sabbath School Lesson Notes

“Stewardship”: Lesson 1, “Creation and Fall”

QUARTERLY INTRODUCTION & SABBATH AFTERNOON

Quarterly Introduction: Share highlights to give focus to this quarter’s theme.

Sabbath Afternoon: Read the first paragraph.

God’s original plan was unity for the whole human family. “Unfortunately, this unity was severed after the tragedy of sin. In sin alone, the roots of disunity and division arose.” The plan of salvation will restore that original unity.

Read the final paragraph.

SUNDAY: “Love as a Foundation of Unity”

Share highlights from the first paragraph.

Read Genesis 1:26-27. *What do these verses teach about human uniqueness in contrast to the rest of the earthly creation as depicted in Genesis 1 and 2? God created mankind in His image. This is not said about any other creation in the Genesis creation account.*

Read 1 John 4:7-8, 16. *How can these verses help us to understand how we were originally created and how this could have impacted the original unity found at creation? For the answer, share the final paragraph.*

MONDAY: “Consequences of the Fall”

Share Highlights from the first paragraph. *How did discord and disunity first show up with Adam and Eve? Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the snake. Blaming disrupts unity.*

Read Genesis 3:16-19. *What in these verses reveal the results of sin and its impact on the harmonious world God had created? The curse of sin would result in many sorrows: pain in childbirth, male dominance in the marriage relationship; hard labor, hindrance of thorns and thistles in effort to grow crops for food; and finally, death for all.*

Refer to the story of Cain and Abel in **Genesis 4:1-15** to show how quickly the consequences of sin led to violence and death. But it would get worse.

Read Gen 6:5 from the lesson with the sentence that follows (about the flood).

Ask and discuss the questions from the box at the bottom of the page.

TUESDAY: “Further Disunity and Separation”

Refer to the tower of Babel story from **Genesis 11:1-9**. **Read Genesis 11:7-9.** *What happened here that made the problem of separation and disunity worse? Confusion of languages and dispersion of the people into like groups.*

Read and/or share the highlights from the last 3 paragraphs.

Ask the question in the box at the bottom of the page, and then go to Friday’s page to read and discuss Discussion Question #2.

WEDNESDAY: "Abraham, Father of God's People"

Read the first paragraph. *What elements of Abraham's faith are in each of the following Bible references?*

Hebrews 11:8-19. 1.) Obedience, 2.) He waited for the promise of land, etc.

Romans 4:1-3. 3.) Faith.

Galatians 3:29. 4.) Trusted in the plan of salvation.

Share highlights from the last paragraph.

Ask the question in the box at the bottom of the page.

THURSDAY: "God's Chosen People"

Read the first paragraph.

Read Deuteronomy 7:6-11. *Why did God call Israel His people? Why did He choose the descendants of Abraham as His people? It was due to His love and His covenant with Abraham.*

Read the third paragraph (It is a strange....glory before Him.").

Read *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 288 (from the last 2 paragraphs).

Discuss the question in the box at the bottom of the page (see specific questions below).

1. **What would be the parallels for the promised land?** (Heaven, New Earth, Anything before heaven?)
2. (Parallels for) *The promised chosen people?* (The church, the remnant, the 144,000).
3. (Parallels for) *The promised blessing to all the families of the earth?* (The gift of Jesus and salvation, the return of Jesus and finally eternal life).
4. What is our part of the covenant? (Obey, have and live by faith, service in fulfilling the Gospel Commission).

Conclusion: **Read *Child Guidance*, p. 535** (from the last part of Friday's paragraph). *How does this quotation fit the theme of this quarter? What does the Sabbath and the family have to do with "oneness in Christ"?*