



SETTING THE PLOT FOR THE REST OF THE STORY

Session Two Talk Notes

- I. Introduction
 - A. The Early World on the Chart
 - B. Reading Genesis 1-11, “a certain type of history”
- II. Creation (Genesis 1-2)
 - A. The earth
 1. Days 1-3: God brings form
 2. Days 4-6: God fills the void
 - B. Humanity
 1. Image and likeness (reason, will, capacity for love)
 2. Male and female
 3. Stipulations
- III. The Fall (Genesis 3)
 - A. The lie of the Enemy: You can be like God without God
 - B. The first sin: lack of trust in God (CCC 397)
 1. St. Thomas Aquinas: Pride is disordered self-trust
 - C. The “DNA” of sin (Genesis 3:6-7)

1. Good for food, a delight to the eyes, makes one wise
 2. Focus on the creation versus the Creator
 3. St. Augustine's example of stolen pears
- D.** Original sin: intellect darkened, will weakened, concupiscence
- E.** God has a plan: Genesis 3:15 (Protoevangelium, "first gospel")
- F.** Do you trust God?
1. St. John Paul II: "practical atheism"¹
- G.** Exile "East of Eden," guard on the Tree of Life
1. John 6: The Cross becomes the Tree of Life, its fruit the Eucharist
 2. KEY: the pattern of exile
- H.** The results of sin
1. Changed relationship with God
 2. Changed relationship with each other
 3. Changed relationship with the earth
- IV.** After the Fall (Genesis 6–11)
- A.** The Flood (Genesis 6–9)
1. God "repents"
 2. A new beginning: covenant with Noah
- B.** The world is populated (Genesis 10)
- C.** The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)
- V.** Conclusion
- A.** There is hope: God has a plan
- B.** Genealogies focus the story

T • A • K • E • A • W • A • Y • S

1. **God does not give up on broken lives.**
2. **God has a plan, and it includes you.**

¹ John Paul II, General Audience, April 14, 1999.

Discussion Questions

1. The story of the Early World is told in Genesis 1–11. Locate the Early World period on your *Bible Timeline Chart*. Who are the main characters, and what are the main events?
2. What does mankind's first sin consist of?
3. What are the consequences of the Fall for Adam and Eve and for us?
4. How do you see those consequences in the lives of the people that follow?
5. Turn to Genesis 3:15 in your Bible. At the outset of the story, what hope is given that the situation will be redeemed?

Home Preparation: Looking Ahead

By the end of the **EARLY WORLD** period, Adam and Eve's descendants have spread throughout the known world. For the rest of the book of Genesis, which narrates the period of the **PATRIARCHS** the story focuses on the family of one man, Abraham, with whom God will establish an everlasting promise of blessing. His descendants will be God's Chosen People, Israel, and through them, God will bless the entire world.

Use your Chart to fill in the following information about this time period:

Period name: **PATRIARCHS** Approximate dates: _____

Period color: _____ Color meaning: _____

List four key people from the Patriarchs period:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

What is the most important event? _____

What nation is the current world power? _____

The story of the Patriarchs period is full of action and many memorable stories, some of them central not just to Israel's history but to the history of the Church as well. If you do not have time to read Genesis 12–50, try reading one or more of the following passages.

PATRIARCHS:	Genesis 12:1-9	God calls Abraham
	Genesis 15, 17, 22	God's covenant with Abraham
	Genesis 25:19-34	Jacob and Esau
	Genesis 29:1–30:24	Jacob gets married; Jacob's children
	Genesis 32:22-32	Jacob wrestles with God and gets a new name
	Genesis 37–50	Joseph and his brothers: to just get the gist of the story, focus on Genesis 37 and 41–44