

— THE JESUS STORY —

CHAPTER 1: THE GARDEN

Every story has a beginning. But The Jesus Story begins before the beginning. Before there was space or time, before there was sun and moon and stars. God looked out at the expanse of nothingness and declared, “Let there be light!”

In quick succession, the Creator speaks everything into existence—earth, animals, plants, fish, sky, and sea. And, as the pinnacle of His creation, He takes a useless mound of dirt and ends up with an invaluable species called a human. A human who has the unique honor to bear the stamp, “In His Image.”

But, as the story unfolds, the devil—disguised as a snake—feeds mankind a line—and an apple—and gullible Adam and Eve swallow them both. This one act of rebellion sets in motion a dramatic and erratic courtship between God and man. Two bites of a single apple—disobedience to God’s commands—and the result is bondage, slavery, and death. The characters and scenes change, the story repeats itself endlessly. God, still the compassionate Creator, reaches out to His creation. Man alternately reaches out in repentance or runs away in disobedience.

The rebelliousness and sinfulness of man becomes so great that God regrets having made man in the first place. Determined to rid His creation of mankind’s sin, God decides to flood the earth and wipe the slate clean. But even in the midst of this darkness, God’s love is so great that one man finds favor with Him. Noah is asked by God to build something nobody has ever seen so he and his family will live through a punishment that no one else will escape.

Chapter One of The Jesus Story sets the stage for all that will follow: a true story of love so great that it will stop at nothing to restore the broken relationship between the Creator and His creation.

2012 NEW LIFE READING PLAN

Throughout the next 40 weeks we will be providing a weekly reading plan that will help you stay in sync with the weekly teachings.

READ FEBRUARY 13-17

■ Monday	February 13	Genesis 1 and Proverbs 13
■ Tuesday	February 14	Genesis 2 and Proverbs 14
■ Wednesday	February 15	Genesis 3 and Proverbs 15
■ Thursday	February 16	Genesis 4 and Proverbs 16
■ Friday	February 17	Genesis 5 and Proverbs 17

READ FEBRUARY 20-24

■ Monday	February 20	Genesis 6 and Proverbs 20
■ Tuesday	February 21	Genesis 7 and Proverbs 21
■ Wednesday	February 22	Genesis 8 and Proverbs 22
■ Thursday	February 23	Genesis 9 and Proverbs 23
■ Friday	February 24	Genesis 10 and Proverbs 24

READ FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 2

■ Monday	February 27	Genesis 11 and Proverbs 27
■ Tuesday	February 28	Genesis 12 and Proverbs 28
■ Wednesday	February 29	Genesis 13 and Proverbs 29
■ Thursday	March 1	Genesis 14 and Proverbs 1
■ Friday	March 2	Genesis 15 and Proverbs 2