

CHAPTER 1

Creation: The Beginning of Life as we Know It

Journal your answers to these questions as you read through the chapter this week. You may wish to read one day and journal the next, or spread the questions over the whole week.

DAY 1...

1. God created Eve because he felt that it was not good for Adam to be alone (p. 4). When have you felt most alone? How would your life be different if you were experiencing deep community? What might you do help someone else who is alone and isolated?
2. Adam and Eve hid from God because they felt shame and guilt. Both failed to accept responsibility for their sins and failures. Often, the first step to the healing and the restoring of relationships is to accept responsibility for our mistakes. What, if anything, do you need to own this week?
3. Adam and Eve's disastrous decisions demonstrate our own inability to choose well between right and wrong. Describe a wrong choice you made and how it affected your life. How has God helped you heal from that choice?

DAY 2...

1. Cain's feelings of jealousy and hurt led to Abel's murder. Is there anyone in your family who you have hurt, or who has hurt you? What might you do to reconcile with this person? Identify a family relationship in your own life that is loving and secure. Share your thankfulness for that person with a note or phone call.
2. When God looked at the earth and saw that it was only evil all the time, He "regretted that he had made human beings, and His heart was deeply troubled." Our hearts are often deeply troubled when we observe the horrors of this world. How might you respond to someone who asks how a good God could allow so much evil to take place?

DAY 3...

1. God pursued Adam and Eve after they had sinned. God pursued Cain even as Cain was steeped in anger. Describe a time in your own life that God sought you out. What happened? How did it deepen your relationship with God?
2. Noah is noted for being "righteous" and "blameless." Are there any areas of your life that could be described this way? What areas of your life are most difficult to act righteously or blamelessly? Who do you know who could hold you accountable for these things?