

Keep On Forgiving

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)

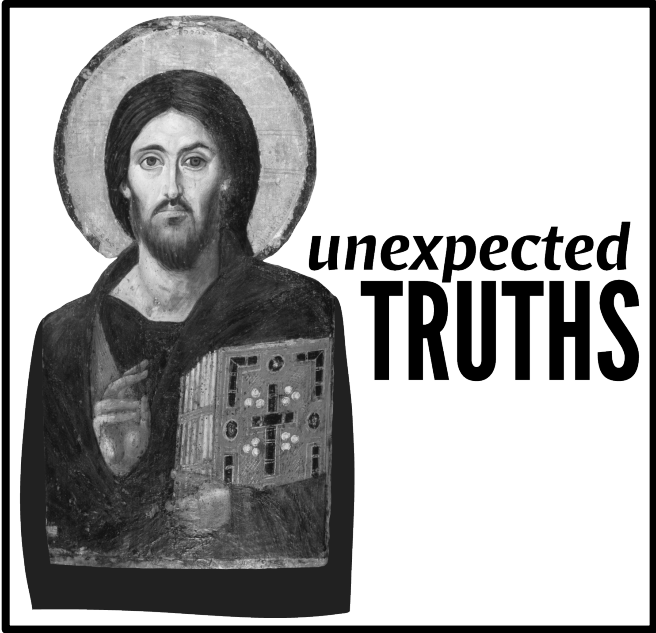
Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
W	B	U	M	Y	J	E	L	F	P	S	G	V	K	C	D	Q	T	X	I	N	O	R	A	H	Z

1. 11-20-21 _____
2. 9-22-23-12-20-13-7 _____
3. 24-11-14 _____
4. 24-21-11-1-7-23 _____
5. 10-7-18-7-23 _____
6. 2-23-22-18-25-7-23 _____
7. 11-7-13-7-21 _____
8. 6-7-11-3-11 _____

FORGIVE BROTHER	SIN ASK	JESUS ANSWER	SEVEN PETER
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Our Worship Series Theme

The opening lines of the United States Declaration of Independence boldly assert that certain truths are “self-evident” truths accessible to human reason and widely recognized by observation of the world. Among these are that all people are created equal and possess unalienable rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The founders appealed to principles they believed reasonable people could recognize simply by reflecting on human nature and justice. These truths were meant to be obvious, clear to the mind, and persuasive in the public square.

Lutherans, however, note that the most important truths revealed in the Bible are not self-evident at all. In fact, they frequently appear surprising or even contrary to human expectations. Scripture teaches that humanity is not naturally good but deeply sinful. It declares that salvation cannot be achieved through human effort but comes entirely by God’s grace. Most unexpected of all is the message that God brings forgiveness and eternal life through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

Biblical truth is revealed by God rather than discovered by reason alone. While some truths may seem obvious to human judgment, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected.

Ascension Lutheran Church

September 13, 2026

Welcome to worship today at Ascension!

Our worship theme today

Forgiveness does not come naturally to human beings. It is expected that humans will defend themselves, lash out when attacked, hold grudges, and bite back. So, when human beings hear that they are forgiven, they may even be suspicious or skeptical.

Jesus tells a parable that contrasts the forgiveness of God with our own unforgiving sinful nature. God forgives our huge debt. Who can comprehend such unexpected mercy? Certainly not unmerciful servants, who refuse to forgive small debts. Have mercy on us, Lord, and teach us to forgive like you!

Our order of service today is “Morning Praise.”

This order of service is based on the historic Matins service used at the beginning of the day. It is from our new hymnal and is an alternate version of Morning Praise. Joined to Christ, our risen Lord, we glorify God as we rise to the activities of this new day. Scripture readings are from the Evangelical Heritage Version. Liturgy, hymns that are not in the public domain as well as our Psalm of the Day are reprinted here under OneLicense #A-713900. Children’s activity pages used by permission (paid subscription).

Our Mission

Ascension exists to proclaim the joy of Jesus Christ in the Macomb County area by gathering to grow in the timeless truths of the Bible and by scattering to share the hope of heaven with everyone we meet. Ascension is a mission-minded congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Would you like to know more about Ascension Lutheran Church?

Please contact Pastor Dan Simons at revdsimons@gmail.com. Phone or text: 586-569-9895. Visit us at www.ascensionmacomb.com or you can also like us on Facebook at facebook.com/ALCmacomb.

Thanks to those who serve us today

Worship accompanist - Gloria Aita; Recording/Streaming Engineer – Sandy Borkowski, Paul Kokesh; Security – Paul Fuller; Worship Leader /Preacher – Pastor Dan Simons

MORNING PRAISE

Opening Hymn.....623 O Bless the Lord, My Soul



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with-in me join and
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, nor let his mer - cies lie for -
3 'Tis he for - gives your sins, 'tis he re - lieves your pain, 'tis
4 He fills the poor with good; he gives the suf - f'ers rest. The
5 His won-drous works and ways he made by Mo - ses known but



aid my tongue to bless his name whose fa - vors are di - vine.
got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness and with - out prais - es die.
he that heals your sick - ness - es and makes you young a - gain.
Lord has judg - ments for the proud and jus - tice for th'op - pressed.
sent the world his truth and grace by his be - lov - ed Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES

PSALM 32, SEL. VERSES

- M:** How blessed is the person whose rebellion is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
C: **How blessed is the person whose guilt the Lord does not charge against him,**
M: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover up my guilt.
C: **I said, “I will confess my rebellion to the Lord,”**
M: and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
C: **Because of this, let everyone who receives favor pray to you.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved others as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy, O Lord. Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to change my sinful life.

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

M: Give glory to God, our light and our life.

C: Come, O come, let us worship.

Refrain

Come, O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;
come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,
come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

1 You are a great and a won - drous God,
2 Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,

cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.
You made the hills and the moun - tains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,
you made the seas and the dry land. Refrain
we are the flock that you shep - herd. Refrain

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

First Lesson.....Genesis 50:15-21

How does forgiveness look, act, and sound? Consider Joseph. Though wronged by his brothers, he did not hold their sin against them.

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him.”

¹⁶They sent the following message to Joseph: “Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷“You are to tell Joseph, “Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.”” Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father.”

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, “See now, we are your servants.”

¹⁹Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones.” He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

Psalm of the Day.....103B Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple
3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him



trib - ute bring. Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same as ev - er,
frame he knows. In his hand he gent - ly bears us,
face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;



ev - er - more his prais - es sing; Al - le - lu - ia,
slow to chide, and swift to bless, Al - le - lu - ia,
res - cues us from all our foes; Al - le - lu - ia,
all who dwell in time and space, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
al - le - lu - ia! glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
al - le - lu - ia! wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows!
al - le - lu - ia! praise with us the God of grace!

Second Lesson.....Ephesians 4:29-5:2

Kindness, compassion, and forgiveness are marks of God’s love for us in Christ. For all who have received them, they become the marks of our faith in Christ.

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. ³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. ³²Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

¹Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ²And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Be seated

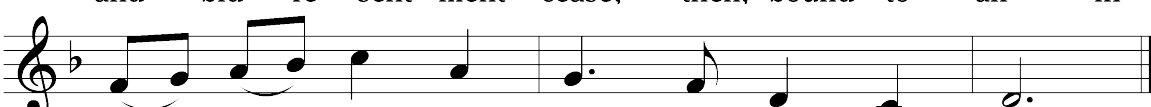
Sermon Hymn.....733 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,”
2 How can your par - don reach and bless
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



you taught us, Lord, to pray, but you a - lone can
the un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
the truth we dim - ly knew: how small are oth - ers’
and bid re - sent - ment cease; then, bound to all in



grant us grace to live the words we say.
will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
debts to us, how great our debt to you!
bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.; Tune: A Supplement to Kentucky Harmony, Harrisonburg, 1820, ed. Ananias Davisson; Text: © 1969 Oxford University Press. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713900; Tune: Public domain

Sermon Text.....Matthew 18:21–35

²¹Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

²⁶“Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

²⁹“So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

³¹“When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

³²“Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

³⁵“This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

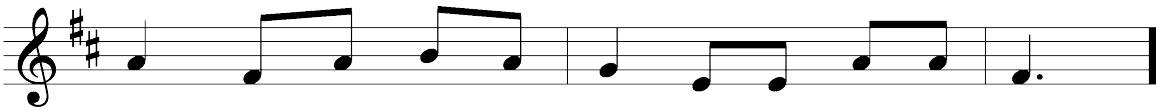
**Forgiveness:
It is for me to receive;
It is for me to give.**

Stand

Hymn of Praise.....583 God Loves Me Dearly



1 God loves me dear - ly, grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, my dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, him - self did
5 Now I will praise you, O Love e -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing to make me free.
deem - er, he sent forth Je - sus and set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, paid all I owed.
ter - nal; now I will praise you all my life long.



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, loves e - ven me.

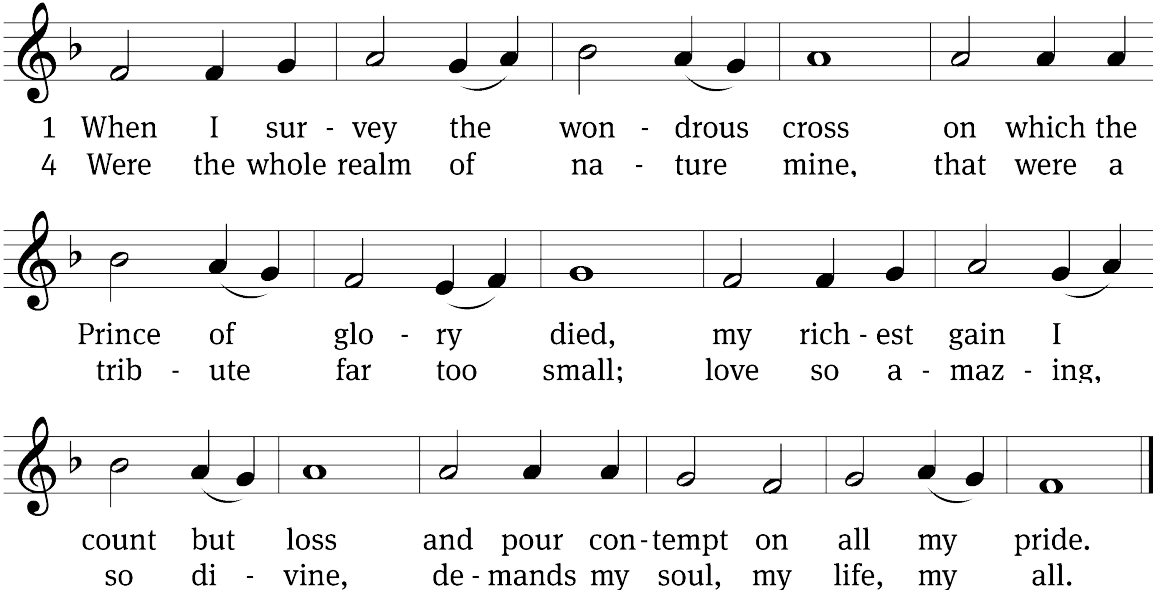
Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite
Tune: German
Text and tune: Public domain

Be seated

Offering

We consider it our privilege to honor God with gifts that support the ministry of the Word among us and around the world. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like a set, please ask. We will be glad to provide them, whether you are a member or not. A growing number of our worshippers choose to give their offerings online using our website. You can do so at www.ascensionmacomb.com. Click on the WATCH A SERVICE tile, then scroll down to the GIVE NOW button to make an offering or to set up an automatic recurring offering.

Offering Hymn..... 407:1', 4 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a
Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,
count but loss and pour con-tempt on all my pride.
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872
Text and tune: Public domain

INSTALLATION OF CHRISTLIGHT FOR KIDS STAFF

Stand

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; in your mercy, open your hand and fill our needs this day.



Lord, let your mer-cy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

LORD’S PRAYER and PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

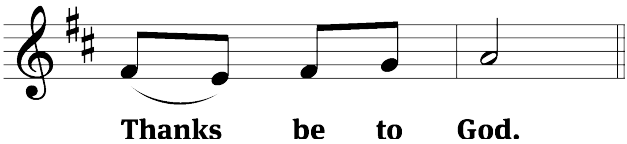
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

M: Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen

Be seated

Closing Hymn.....697 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

1 May we your pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill and do on
2 So may we join your name to bless, your grace a -
3 Spir - it of life, of love, and peace, u - nite our

earth our Fa - ther's will as an - gels do a - bove;
dore, your pow'r con - fess, to flee from sin and strife.
hearts, our joy in - crease, your gra-cious help sup - ply.

still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, with all your
One is our call - ing, one our name, the end of
To each of us the bless - ing give in Chris - tian

chil-dren, and o - bey the law of Chris - tian love.
all our hopes the same: a glo-rious crown of life.
fel - low - ship to live, in joy - ful hope to die.

LAST SUNDAY AT ASCENSION

In God’s House for worship: 35 (27 members; 8 repeat visitors; 0 first-timers)
Worshipped with us online – 5
Hard copies of sermon & bulletin delivered to homebound - 6
Worship Total – 46

Holy Communion – 27

Faith conversations and invitations to worship by Ascension people - 3
Ascension people in touch with each other (planning, encouraging, etc.) - 4

COMING UP AT ASCENSION

Sun. Sept. 13 9:30 a.m. Worship and Installation of Christlight for Kids Staff
10:45 a.m. Christlight for Kids begins: God Creates the First People
10:45 a.m. Bible Class Begins: One God – Two Covenants?
Noon Confirmation Instruction Class

Mon. Sept. 14 11:00 a.m. Devotional Service at Story Point, Chesterfield
6:30 p.m. Fall Fun Festival planning meeting
7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

Tues. Sept. 15 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Instruction Class

Wed. Sept. 16 6:30 p.m. New Life In Christ adult instruction class

Thur. Sept. 17 6:30 p.m. Church Council

Sun. Sept. 20 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Christlight for Kids begins: Man’s Sin and God’s Promise
10:45 a.m. Bible Class Begins: One God – Two Covenants?
Noon Confirmation Instruction Class
Noon Sisters of Ascension Lutheran



Planning Meeting
6:30 p.m.
tomorrow night!

OFFERINGS TOO BIG FOR THE PLATE:

In September, we will be supporting Elli's House. Elli's House is a 501(c)3 nonprofit serving homeless and runaway women involved in human trafficking in the city of Detroit. Our mission is to abolish sex trafficking in the city of Detroit through building relationships, offering safe shelter, and providing education. We will be gathering hygiene donations this month. Donations can be placed on the table along the back wall of the sanctuary. Below is a shopping list to help you in your donations. Please donate small sizes so that "hygiene kits" can be assembled in 1-gallon ziplock bags. If you wish you can also make up the kit yourself: toothbrush & toothpaste, bar of soap (regular or travel size), travel size body wash, washcloth, travel size shampoo & conditioner, travel size body lotion.



DO YOU OWN ANY THRIVENT PRODUCTS?



Do you know that you can apply for a Thrivent Action Team grant to help fund our Fall Fun Festival? It's quick and easy and can provide up to \$250 to help with the costs of this awesome event. Here's how:

- 1) Log in to your Thrivent account. If you don't have one, it's easy to establish one.
- 2) Click on **Thrivent Action Teams** to begin the application.
- 3) Here's the info you'll want to provide:
 - **Causes:** Families/youth
 - **Leader Involvement:** Click whichever apply to you
 - **Number of volunteers:** 60
 - **Volunteer participation:** We are hosting our annual Fall Fun Festival to bring families onto our campus. The purpose is provide a free event for our community at which we can share the good news about Jesus and build bridges into our community.
 - **Association:** skip or put Ascension Lutheran Church, Macomb MI
 - **Seed Money Type of Card:** physical card
 - **Use of Seed Money:** cider, donuts, popcorn, paper supplies, small prizes for children's games, trackless train ride, inflatables for children's play
 - **Estimated costs:** choose \$250
 - **T-shirt:** use your allotment of 25 to select various sizes
 - **Shipping Address and Contact Information** should be your address



Lesson 1 A Promise Proclaimed and Preserved

Introduction

Many people, even Christians, have the mistaken notion that the God whom we meet on the pages of the Old Testament is different from the warm,

loving, and merciful God whom we have learned to know from the New Testament. The God of the Old Testament, we think, was a no-nonsense and demanding God: Keep my commands perfectly or run the risk of being swallowed by the earth or reduced to a smoldering pile of ashes.

Yet God has not changed his view of sin or his promise to judge it severely. The New Testament tells us that "our 'God is a consuming fire'" who hates sin and demands that it be punished (Hebrews 12:29).

But neither has God changed in his love; he is constant in every way and "is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). The incomparable mercy that we have seen in Bethlehem's manger, on Calvary's cross, and at the empty tomb has been the trademark of God from the very beginning. In fact, students of the Bible will note that the message of God's love, while never negating the message of his judgment, always eclipses it, even on the pages of the Old Testament.

Studying God's Word

A Good World Gone Bad

1. A perfect creation testified to the truth that God is a God of love. What evidence can be found in the following passages that God has a special and exceptional love for mankind?
 - Genesis 1:27 – **God created the man in his own image. In the image of God he created him. Male and female he created them.**
 - Genesis 1:28,31 – **God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ... ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning—the sixth day.**

- Genesis 2:16-17 – **The Lord God gave a command to the man. He said, “You may freely eat from every tree in the garden,¹⁷ but you shall not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, for on the day that you eat from it, you will certainly die.”**
 - Genesis 2:18-25 – **The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is a suitable partner for him.”¹⁹ Out of the soil the Lord God had formed every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them. Whatever the man called every living creature, that became its name.²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal, but for Adam no helper was found who was a suitable partner for him.²¹ The Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. As the man slept, the Lord God took a rib and closed up the flesh where it had been.²² The Lord God built a woman from the rib that he had taken from the man and brought her to the man.**
 - ²³ The man said,
Now this one is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh.
She will be called “woman,”
because she was taken out of man.
 - ²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will remain united with his wife, and they will become one flesh.
 - ²⁵ They were both naked, the man and his wife, and they were not ashamed.
2. Read Genesis 3:1-5 – **Now the serpent was more clever than any wild animal which the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?’**
- ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden,³ but not from the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it. You shall not touch it, or else you will die.’”
- ⁴The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die.⁵ In fact, God knows that the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Agree or disagree. “Dethrone God and enthrone yourselves” was Satan’s message to Adam and Eve.

3. What evidence is found in Genesis 3:7-10 that Adam and Eve had lost the image of God?

“The eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for their waists.⁸ They heard the voice of the Lord God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ The Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

4. According to Genesis 3:15-19, what were the temporal consequences of sin? the eternal consequences?

I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.

¹⁶ To the woman he said: I will greatly increase your pain in childbearing. With painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, but he will rule over you.

¹⁷ To Adam he said: Because you listened to your wife’s voice and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, “You shall not eat from it,” the soil is cursed on account of you. You will eat from it with painful labor all the days of your life.

¹⁸ Thorns and thistles will spring up from the ground for you, but you will eat the crops of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the soil, for out of it you were taken. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

5. Read Genesis 5:1-3 - **This is the account about the development of Adam’s family:**

In the day that God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.² He created them male and female and blessed them, and on the day they were created, he named them “mankind.”

³ Adam lived 130 years, and he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his own image, and he named him Seth.

How do these verses reflect the drastic change that had taken place in Adam and Eve? -

God Proclaims His Promise

6. Read Genesis 3:15 – **“I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.”**

Define each of the words in italics. As you do, describe the promise God gave to Adam and Eve.

“And I () will put enmity between you () and the woman (), and between your offspring () and hers (); he () will crush your () head, and you () will strike his () heel.”

7. What were Adam and Eve to do to secure salvation?

God Preserves His Promise

The love of God is constant and neither grows nor declines. In his infinite love, God, who is completely independent, freely chose to create Adam and Eve and to have them be the objects of this love. Yet the expression of his love is far more astounding in Genesis chapter 3 because he loves those who have rejected his love and by their rebellion and sin become unlovable. Even more, he himself provides what is needed to save undeserving and fallen mankind.

8. Read Genesis 6:1-8 - **This is what happened when mankind began to multiply on the face of the earth.**

When daughters were born to people,² the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they took as wives for themselves any of them they chose.³ The Lord said, “My Spirit will not struggle with man forever, because he is only flesh. His days will be 120 years.”⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days. After that, the sons of God went to the daughters of men, who bore children for them. Those became the powerful, famous men of ancient times.

⁵The Lord saw that the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth, and that all the thoughts and plans they formed in their hearts were only evil every day.⁶ The Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with sorrow.⁷ The Lord said, “I will wipe out mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth, along with the animals, the creeping things, and the birds of the sky, because I regret that I have made them.”⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

How did the rescue of Noah from the floodwaters reveal God’s desire to preserve and keep alive his promise to send a Savior? How did God’s destruction of the world through the floodwaters reveal the same desire?

9. Read Genesis 11:1-9 - **The whole earth had one language and a single vocabulary.² As people traveled in the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they settled there.³ They said to one another, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used mud brick instead of stone for building material, and they used tar for mortar.⁴ They said, “Come, let’s build a city for ourselves and a tower whose top reaches to the sky, and let’s make a name for ourselves, so that we will not be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”**

⁵The Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the people were building.⁶ The Lord said, “If this is the first thing they are doing as one people, who all have one language, then nothing that they intend to do will be too difficult for them.⁷ Come, let’s go down there and confuse their language, so that they cannot understand one another’s speech.”

⁸So the Lord scattered them from there over the face of the whole earth, and they stopped building the city.⁹ It was named Babel,^[a] because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

God confused the languages of those who were building the city and tower of Babel. How did this reveal God’s desire to keep alive his promise of a Savior?

For Further Thought

10. Martin Luther wrote: “So, then, this tree of the knowledge of good and evil . . . would have been the church at which Adam, together with his descendants, would have gathered on the Sabbath day.” What did Luther mean by calling the tree of the knowledge of good and evil Adam’s “church”?

11. React to the following comment: If the almighty God wanted Adam and Eve to love him perfectly, why didn’t he just create them in such a way that they would never have disobeyed him? That would have saved all of us a lot of problems.

12. How do Genesis chapters 1–11 underscore the truth that God wants **“all [people] to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth”** (1 Timothy 2:4)?

13. Give examples of how God works in human history today to preserve the proclamation of the gospel and to fulfill his desire that people be saved eternally.

During the Week

Do one or more of the following:

- Read Genesis chapters 12–17.
- Find and review as many covenants as you can from the pages of the Bible.
- Memorize the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed and its meaning.
- Read Chapter 1 of One God—Two Covenants? by Lyle W. Lange.

Keep On Forgiving

Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” Matthew 18:21 (NLT)

Based on Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)



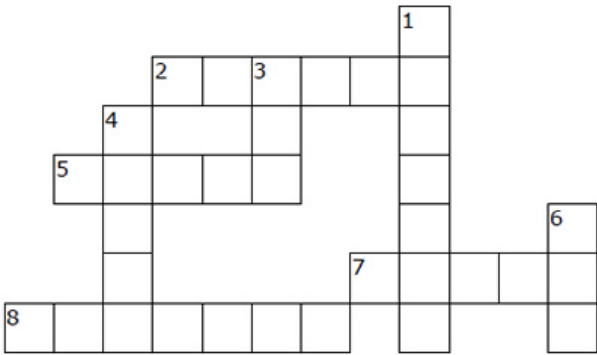
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MANY	SINS	PETER	FORGIVE
SEVEN	TIMES	JESUS	TIMES
ASKED	BROTHER	LORD	HOW

Keep On Forgiving

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 18:21-22



ACROSS

- 2. A statement given in reply to a question
- 5. The number that is equal to six plus one
- 7. The Son of God
- 8. To pardon someone for doing something wrong

DOWN

- 1. A male with the same parents as someone else
- 3. To break God's law
- 4. A fisherman who became one of Jesus' disciples
- 6. To seek an answer to a question

SEVEN	ASK	PETER	JESUS
BROTHER	FORGIVE	ANSWER	SIN



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