

Listening Guide

Introduction

[1] How does the Bible deal with the fact of God's creation?

[2] What events open and close the "Beginnings" era?

[3] What is a helpful way to think of the four Old Testament eras?

Genesis

[4] What two segments do we divide Genesis's story into?

[5] To whom did Moses write Genesis?

[6] When?

[7] Why?

[8] What “beginning” mattered most to Moses’s original readers?

[9] What did Moses have to tell Israel in order for their own beginning to have the greatest impact on them?

[10] What is the first fact established in Genesis 1–11?

[11] What is the second fact described in Genesis 1–11?

[12] What fact recorded in Genesis 3 helps the rest of the Old Testament story make sense?

[13] What does Genesis 4–11 add to the fact presented in Genesis 3?

[14] How complete was humanity's rebellion against God in Noah's day?

[15] How did God decide to respond to this human rebellion against Himself?

[16] How successful was God's actions with Noah's family?

[17] How did God respond to humanity after their rebellion at Babel?

[18] Where in the Bible is Abraham introduced?

[19] How is Abraham significant to the Old Testament story?

[20] What role did Genesis play for its original hearers/readers?

[21] Why did Moses emphasize that the people of Israel were descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

[22] What two contexts do we have to put Abraham's story in?

[23] How are these two contexts different?

Exodus

[24] What was Israel's condition when the book of Exodus opened?

[25] How did Israel respond to their enslavement?

[26] List some of the ways God convinced Israel He was able to fulfill His promises to them.

[27] What actually happened at Sinai?

Numbers

[28] What happened at Kadesh-Barnea?

[29] What is the story of Numbers about?

[30] What is the great choice each of us must make many times each day?

[31] What are the three beginnings described between Genesis 1 and Genesis 12?

[32] List at least three miracles God performed between the time Moses introduced the idea of leaving Egypt and the end of Numbers.

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

The final paragraph of Lesson 4 reminds us that the Israelites were not the last people to disobey God and pay the consequences of their poor choices. Israel's failure to trust God at Kadesh-Barnea resulted in a life of meaningless wandering in the Sinai desert. We are all susceptible to making choices that ignore God's wisdom follow our own. What are some ways you can remind yourself to follow God's teachings when you have your own "Kadesh-Barnea" moments?