Lesson 1 · In the Beginning

Person
- Abraham

Scope
- Creation – c. 1800 BC · Genesis, Job
- Beginnings
- The Patriarchs · c. 2000 BC
- Isaac, Jacob, Joseph · c. 1900 BC

Before & after
- **This lesson: In the beginning, God promises an “Offspring”**
- Next: God's promise is greater than “Egypt”

Discussion
- From the offspring of the woman in Gen 3:15 to “in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed” in Gen 22:18, how does God's plan of redemption narrow step by step to one family in this lesson?
- What parallels do you see between Abraham offering Isaac (Gen 22) and John 3:16? Which one moves you most?
- Job never learned what had happened in heaven. Have you ever had an experience of “not understanding, but still trusting”?

Main sentence
In the beginning, God promises an “Offspring”

Key verse
Gen 12:2–3

I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing… and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Five key events
1 · Creation and Fall
- God made all things by his word, but humanity sinned and death came to all
- Yet within the curse God left a promise: the offspring of the woman would bruise the serpent's head

2 · Flood and Babel
- Sin spread over the whole earth
- God judged it with a flood but preserved Noah's family through the ark
- At Babel humanity was scattered into many nations

3 · The Call of Abram
- God called Abram from Ur and made a covenant with him: the land of Canaan, countless offspring, and blessing for all the families of the earth through him

4 · The Offering of Isaac
- God tested Abraham's faith and provided a ram in Isaac's place
- The promised offspring lived, and the promise was confirmed again

5 · A Family Becomes a People
- Isaac and Jacob inherited the promise
- Jacob's twelve sons became the twelve tribes, and Joseph brought the whole family to Egypt, where seventy of them sojourned