

Name \_\_\_\_\_

***The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith & Justice***

Directed Reading Worksheet

Chapter 3, *Stories for the Journey*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read carefully through Chapter 3 and then use the text as a reference to locate answers for the questions. All questions in this *Directed Reading Worksheet* are taken in sequential order from the chapter – first questions from the early sections of the chapter; last questions from the end of the chapter, etc. Answer **True or False** questions by circling the word True or False at the beginning of the question. **Fill-in-the-Blank** questions must often be answered with one than one word per blank. (Refer to your text often!) Write your own **Short Answers** for other questions.

**Pages 60-1 Introduction**

1. To learn about the history of individuals and societies, we need to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. True or False. The first eleven chapters of Genesis are not historical in the sense that they include verifiable facts.
3. What do the stories in the first eleven chapters of Genesis contain?
4. The Israelites, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, adapted the creation stories of the ancient Near East in order to tell \_\_\_\_\_.
5. From Genesis 11:27 through 50:26 we read of the faith of our ancestors, including \_\_\_\_\_.
6. True or False. For hundreds of years, the stories of the ancient Hebrews were preserved through oral traditions.

**Pages 61-65 God's Creation**

7. Humans are created with a desire to \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Note five differences between the two stories of creation found in Genesis 1-2.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
9. What are some of the perpetual questions the Genesis stories provide answers to? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Recent scientific discoveries have cast more specific light on the details of human creation, including the theory of \_\_\_\_\_ of mankind, and the attempts to pinpoint when and where the first humans appeared on earth.
11. The creation of the world and the creation of man and woman was Yahweh's first step at forging a \_\_\_\_\_ with Israel.
12. What are three truths the creative actions of God reveal about him?
  - a.
  - b.

- c.
- 13. The first story of creation reveals that human beings have been created by God with both a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_. We share in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God because we are intended to be temples of the Holy Spirit, and we are to regard the human body as \_\_\_\_\_. We must honor it because God has created it and will raise it on the last day.
- 14. The ongoing revelation of God is the subject of the Old Testament and serves as a prelude to the \_\_\_\_\_ and God’s full revelation in \_\_\_\_\_ in the New Testament.
- 15. True or False. There are no other discussions of Creation in the Bible outside the book of Genesis.

**Pages 65-67 Original Justice and the Fall of Man**

- 16. The second creation story teaches us that the first man was created \_\_\_\_\_

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- 17. The Church teaches that Adam and Eve were created in a state of grace known as “\_\_\_\_\_ justice.”
- 18. What were four gifts of original justice?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
- 19. True or False. Genesis 3 uses figurative language to describe the fall of man and does not describe an actual deed that took place.
- 20. The basic root of sin is \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. The original sin, in essence, is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- 22. Adam and Eve lost the harmony of original justice. What are the unfortunate side effects of this?
- 23. In Genesis 3:15 God promised a \_\_\_\_\_ for the fallen mankind. The woman’s offspring, mentioned in the passage is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 24. Sin spread quickly after Adam and Eve. \_\_\_\_\_ murder of his brother \_\_\_\_\_ is a personal \_\_\_\_\_ which arose from the shared \_\_\_\_\_ of humanity.
- 25. The doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_ is an essential truth of the faith. Without it, the mystery of \_\_\_\_\_ is undermined because we do not need the salvation offered through Christ.

**Pages 67-70 Renewal of Life**

- 26. In a Eucharistic prayer used at Mass we are reminded that God’s revelation was not broken by the sin of Adam and Eve when it says, “\_\_\_\_\_.”
- 27. The next stage of God’s revelation is the covenant he made with \_\_\_\_\_.

28. One of the most famous flood legends of ancient Mesopotamia was the Epic of \_\_\_\_\_.
29. What are unique teachings of the Hebrew version of the flood story?
30. Summarize the theory about the preponderance of ancient flood legends.
31. The story of the Tower of Babel occurs at a place called \_\_\_\_\_ which is an ancient term the Bible often uses for \_\_\_\_\_.
32. Explain the two interpretations regarding the diversity of languages associated with the story of the Tower of Babel.
33. Summarize what the primeval history stories teach us about God and his will.

**Pages 71-74 *Ancestors of Faith***

34. The people and events from the time of Abraham onward can be placed in the historical setting of the Near East from between \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ B.C.
35. How is Abraham the “father of all believers?”
36. Describe the order of the prominent Old Testament personalities in the book of Genesis.
37. How do those who closely study the Bible know the book of Genesis was written much later than the events it describes?
38. Bible scholarship has concluded that some of the ancestor stories repeat themselves because they were originally \_\_\_\_\_ which were probably passed on by word or mouth long before they were ever written down.
39. When there are two versions of the same story, the different versions always use \_\_\_\_\_.
40. In good translations of the Bible the name for God, “Yahweh,” will be translated consistently in one of these two ways: “\_\_\_\_\_” or “\_\_\_\_\_”.
41. Another tradition used a more generic name for Israel’s God, “Elohim,” which is usually translated as \_\_\_\_\_.
42. A popular theory about the origins of the Bible is that there were originally \_\_\_\_\_ of early stories and traditions.
43. One source, the \_\_\_\_\_ source, consistently used “Yahweh” as the name for God, while another tradition, the \_\_\_\_\_ source, used “Elohim” as the name for God.

44. Summarize the two possibilities for why the editors and writers decided to keep both versions of some stories.

45. What are the two ways we should read the ancestor stories of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Pages 75-79 Abraham: Father of Faith**

46. \_\_\_\_\_ is the first patriarch of the Jewish faith who, with his wife \_\_\_\_\_, and his descendants, make up the nation of people from whom God would bring salvation.

47. True or False. Abraham was a mighty general whose native land was Palestine.

48. Using the map on page 75, estimate the distance Abraham and his family traveled before settling in Canaan.

49. Explain how Abraham's journey foreshadows the one the Hebrews will later make in later stages of history.

50. Name the four people God makes a covenant with in the Old Testament.

51. Explain the covenant agreement between God and Abraham.

52. The two signs of God's covenant with Abraham are the change in his \_\_\_\_\_ and, more importantly, the sign of \_\_\_\_\_.

53. Abraham's faith in God's promises is considered an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

54. An important theme in the early ancestor stories of Abraham is \_\_\_\_\_ which have been promised to him and his descendants by God.

55. What are two "threats" to the blessings promised to Sarah and later Abraham?

56. What is the "external threat" to Abraham in Genesis 12:10-20?

57. What is the "internal threat" in Genesis 21:1-21?

58. In Genesis 16, \_\_\_\_\_ is so doubtful that she is really going to bear the promised descendants of Israel, she asks Abraham to have a son through \_\_\_\_\_, an Egyptian servant. This son's name was \_\_\_\_\_ and he is honored as the ancestor to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Arab peoples.

59. The story of Hagar illustrates that God's \_\_\_\_\_ extends beyond Abraham and his wife to Hagar and Ishmael.

60. The story of Hagar also clearly illustrates the “\_\_\_\_\_” as she and her son represent all three of these things: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ when they are sent away by Abraham.

61. True or False. Abraham would have been shocked by God’s request for the sacrifice of his son.

62. There are two lessons in the story of Isaac’s sacrifice. First, Hebrews do not \_\_\_\_\_, and second, Abraham’s \_\_\_\_\_.

63. Explain how Christians can read the passage yet another way.

64. The stories of the patriarchs teach us to \_\_\_\_\_ God as the giver of all \_\_\_\_\_, and to continue to trust him even when things seem \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Pages 79-81 *The Blessing of Jacob***

65. \_\_\_\_\_ is a transitional character between the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ stories.

66. Rebecca instructs \_\_\_\_\_ to deceive his father Isaac, and to take his older brother, \_\_\_\_\_’s, place. \_\_\_\_\_ is fooled and Jacob gets his blessing.

67. Jacob fell in love with \_\_\_\_\_ but had to marry \_\_\_\_\_ first.

68. Genesis 32:22-32 tells of an unusual story of Jacob’s dream in which he \_\_\_\_\_ with God’s messenger at Jabbok. The messenger of God is in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_.

69. As a consequence of this struggle Jacob is given a new name-- \_\_\_\_\_, just as \_\_\_\_\_ was renamed before him. The origins of the name are related to the verb “sara” means \_\_\_\_\_ and the first syllable of \_\_\_\_\_, that is, God.

70. The reconciliation between Jacob and Esau represents the hope that \_\_\_\_\_ can at times live in \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, especially the Edomites who are traditionally seen as descended from Esau.

### **Pages 82-83 *Joseph in Egypt: Foreshadowing the Exodus***

71. What is the difference between the narrative about Joseph and the rest of the Genesis stories?

72. Joseph is able to use his office to protect the lives of his family who were in danger of \_\_\_\_\_.

73. Egypt had a massive, centralized economy served by thousands of \_\_\_\_\_ and poor agricultural \_\_\_\_\_.

74. Egypt famously hoarded impressive amounts of wealth, collected on the basis of \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ and the widespread \_\_\_\_\_.

75. True or False. The Joseph narrative is based on an ancient Hebrew admiration for the achievements of Egypt.

76. True or False. The Joseph stories set the stage for the main event of the Old Testament: the Babylonian Exile.

77. True or False. One of the lessons of stories like Joseph and Daniel is that the Hebrews not only can survive outside the land of Palestine, but actually can prosper.

78. For whom did the stories of Joseph and Daniel provide hope and consolation?