

The Value of Stories

As a group, agree on one current movie, television show, and popular book of fiction that provides insight into people your own age. If a future historian came across these media what might they learn about your generation? Would this portrait be true or not? Choose one person to summarize your group's discussion in each area.

Media Type	What it says about most people's life-style:	What it says about most people's character and values:	What it says about most people's understanding of God and religion:
Movie Name:			
TV Show Name:			
Fiction Book Title:			

The Book of Genesis

Part 1: Genesis 1-11. The stories of creation and the beginning of human civilization.

Main Characters:

- Adam
- Eve
- Cain
- Abel
- Noah

Part 2: Genesis 12-25. The Abraham cycle.

Main characters:

- Abraham
- Sarah
- Lot
- Hagar
- Ishmael
- Isaac

Part 3: Genesis 25-36. The Jacob cycle.

Main Characters:

- Rachel
- Esau
- Jacob
- Laban
- Leah
- Rachel

Part 4: Genesis 37-50. The Joseph stories.

Main Characters

- Joseph and his eleven brothers
- Potiphar's wife
- Pharaoh
- Benjamin
- Asenath
- Ephraim
- Manessah

The Sabbath or Shabbat

Jews celebrate the Shabbat from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. They spend this twenty-four hour period in rest, joy, and prayer. Here are some of the rules or customs that Jews observe on the Sabbath:

1. Many Jewish families prepare for the Sabbath by cleaning the house, cooking a special meal, bathing, and dressing in nice clothes.
2. Some Jews attend synagogue services on Friday night or Saturday morning.
3. Families eat a festive meal on Friday night. A tablecloth adorns the table. The mother of the family lights candles to announce the beginning of the Sabbath. There is a blessing of family members, the reading of Bible passages, and the singing of songs.
4. Many Jews change the pace of their week on the Sabbath. They refrain from work. They take longer to eat. They walk slower. They try to be more patient in listening. They spend time in spiritual reading. (*Note:* Biblical prohibitions included thirty-nine types of work, including the following: lighting a fire, clapping the hands, jumping, slapping the thigh, or walking more than three thousand feet.)
5. Jewish spouses make time for one another on Friday evening.
6. Many Jews practice hospitality; they invite guests or strangers to the community to celebrate the Shabbat with them.
7. Some Jews reach out to others by visiting the sick, the shut-in, and the elderly on Saturday.
8. No funerals are permitted on the Shabbat.
9. At the end of the Sabbath, there is a special ceremony, called the *havdalah*. The family says good-bye to the Sabbath with the taste of wine, the fragrance of spices, and the light of a braided candle.

Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy. (Exodus 20:8–11)

Then he said to them, “The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.” (Mark 2:27–28)

- What are some ways you and your family can make Sunday—the Christian day for worship and rest—a day of rest, joy, and prayer?

Name _____ Date _____

Handout 3D

The Faith of Abraham

Read each passage and write a short summary. Check whether the passage describes trust in God or doubt. Be prepared to explain your answer.

PASSAGE	SUMMARY	TRUST?	DOUBT?
Genesis 12:1–9			
Genesis 12:10–20			
Genesis 13:1–8			
Genesis 14:1–24			
Genesis 15:1–21			
Genesis 16:1–14			
Genesis 17:1–27			
Genesis 18:1–15			
Genesis 18:16–33			
Genesis 20:1–18			
Genesis 21:1–20			
Genesis 21:21–33			
Genesis 22:1–14			
Genesis 23:1–20			