

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Reading Genesis 5 can feel a bit like reading a math textbook, just a long list of names, ages, and numbers. It's tempting to skip it, but we believe that there's value in all of Scripture. God speaks to us in this genealogy.

Adam and Eve rebelled in Genesis 3, and sin spread quickly. By chapter 4, not only does Cain murder his brother, but several generations later, Lamech even boasts about it. Genesis 5 shifts our focus to Seth's family line. These people decided to live differently and "call upon the name of the Lord."

As we search for patterns and breaks from the pattern in the genealogy from Adam to Noah, this phrase is a constant refrain: "...and he died." It's a repetitive reminder of the consequence of turning away from God. We die because of our sin.

But right in the middle of this list, someone breaks the pattern. Enoch "walked with God, and he was not, for God took him." In a difficult culture, Enoch chose a different path. He reminds us there is something beyond the grave. It makes us ask: what kind of legacy do we want to leave? If you were remembered for just one thing, what would it be?

Then we meet Methuselah, the oldest man in the Bible. His name means when he dies, it shall be sent. If you do the math, Methuselah died the exact year the flood came. His long life of 969 years shows God's patience, waiting to give people time to turn back to Him.

Lamech names his son Noah, meaning "rest" or "relief." While Noah brought rescue through the ark, this entire family line ultimately points forward to the final Deliverer: Jesus. While Adam failed at the tree in the garden, Jesus succeeded on the cross. He took the curse of sin upon Himself so we could find real rest.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

When you think about the idea of leaving a legacy, who is someone in your own life (a family member, friend, or mentor) who left a lasting, positive mark on you?

QUESTION TWO:

If you were to pass away and be remembered for just one thing, what do you want your legacy to be?

QUESTION THREE:

Enoch "walked with God" in a culture that was going the opposite direction. What does it look like to walk with God in your daily life, your workplace, school, or home? How does following Christ go against the grain of our culture?

QUESTION FOUR:

Lamech named Noah "rest" because he was exhausted from living in a broken, difficult world. In what areas of your life are you feeling tired or overwhelmed? How can you bring your burdens to Jesus and find rest?