Operation Restoration God's Redemption Plan Begins GENESIS



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STRONG curriculum

A world weak on truth needs a strong, trustworthy message. STRONG Curriculum builds stronger churches by teaching all Scripture to produce spiritually mature believers who measure up to the stature of Christ.



A Plan You Can Trust

The Bible has the answers to what students need most. No other book or philosophy contains God's power to save and transform lives. Because of this, we've made it our unwavering commitment to build Strong Students upon the sure foundation of God's Word. With this curriculum, your church can develop teens who will be strong defenders of the faith.

The Strong Students scope and sequence is designed around the seven teaching aims Jesus modeled in His ministry. Since these are Jesus' aims, teachers can be confident in the aims' effectiveness and purpose. Every lesson in the Strong Students scope and sequence addresses at least one of Jesus' teaching aims.

Every lesson also focuses on students' needs. We understand the challenge of teaching the Bible to today's teens because of four barriers culture has pushed on them:

- Struggles with identity
- Subjective view of truth
- Hope in a social utopia
- Belief that a career and wealth guarantee happiness

Strong Students takes care of the tough part for you by striking at the foundation of these barriers and providing a Biblical response to each one. With Strong Students, you can concentrate on communicating to your teens and helping them grow into strong believers in Christ without worrying whether you are effectively addressing the philosophies competing for their minds.

JESUS' TEACHING AIMS

- **B**ELIEVE THE GOSPEL. Jesus taught His students to trust in Him alone for salvation and to share the gospel with others. This aim is obviously fundamental to all the rest
- UNDERSTAND BIBLICAL ETHICS. Jesus instructed His students to live according to moral values. These values provided them with the tools to make wise decisions.
- INTERNALIZE GODLINESS. Jesus taught His followers to be godly on the inside. He warned them not to become like the Pharisees, with a mere outward appearance of godliness.
- LEARN DOCTRINE. Jesus knew the importance of teaching His students the truth and identified doctrine as one of the means for spiritual growth. Wishy-washy doctrine leads to faulty practice.
- **D**EVELOP LIFE SKILLS. Jesus taught His followers to meet life's challenges in a way that honored and glorified God. He gave them the skills to navigate those challenges successfully.
- **U**PLIFT OTHERS. Jesus' life was all about others. Leading by example, He taught His followers to be all about others too.
 - PREPARE TO SERVE. Jesus prepared His followers to serve in the context of local churches that were established soon after His ascension. He emphasized sacrifice and dedication.



Kit Contents

☐ Teacher Guide

☐ Student Book

Order one book for each student

Card with online download code

Includes PowerPoint, resources, Home Connection Tool, and additional teacher resources

DVD

Verse Poster

Posters

Ordering Information

All materials are available from Regular Baptist Press.

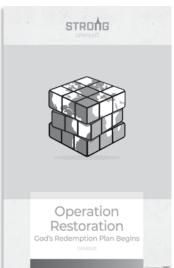
- Web: www.StrongCurriculum.com
- E-mail: orders@rbpstore.org
- Toll-free orders in the United States: 1-800-727-4440
- Fax: 1-847-843-3757
- Canada: Contact your distributor.

This Strong Students course covers the book of Genesis with a special emphasis on the unfolding of God's redemption plan. Sin entered the world and ruined God's creation, including Adam and Eve, the world's first sinners. God shared His redemption plan in the Garden of Eden and then began to work it. This course tracks the unfolding of God's redemption in Genesis.













The Doctrinal Basis of Our Curriculum

A more detailed statement with references is available upon request.

- The verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scriptures
- Only one true God
- The Trinity of the Godhead
- The Holy Spirit and His ministry
- The personality of Satan
- The Genesis account of creation
- Original sin and the fall of man
- The virgin birth of Christ
- Salvation through faith in the shed blood of Christ
- The bodily resurrection and priesthood of Christ
- Grace and the new birth
- Justification by faith
- · Sanctification of the believer
- The security of the believer
- The church
- The ordinances of the local church: baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper
- Biblical separation—
 ecclesiastical and personal
- Obedience to civil government
- The place of Israel

- The pretribulation rapture of the church
- The premillennial return of Christ
- The millennial reign of Christ
- Eternal glory in Heaven for the righteous
- Eternal torment in Hell for the wicked

How to Teach STRONG STUDENTS Lessons

Leading a Student to Christ

STRONG STUDENTS has been designed to help you clearly present God's Word to your students. Each lesson will guide students through the Bible, encouraging them to interact with the material and apply it to their lives.

Familiarize yourself with the resources included in the kit and on the download pages so you can maximize your effectiveness in the classroom. The key resources you need are Student Books, the PowerPoint (download), and the Home Connection Tool (download).

Encourage students to use their Student Books during each lesson so they can follow the PowerPoint presentation by taking notes. The words to fill in the blanks are either part of the outline or highlighted in orange in the sentences in the PowerPoint.

Some of the PowerPoint presentations contain additional slides that obviously tie into the teacher guide lessons. Make sure you review the PowerPoint presentations before teaching.

The student books include a daily devotional. Encourage your students to complete them after coming to class.

The Home Connection Tool gives the parents of your students an idea of what you are teaching in class. Consider emailing those to each family represented in your class. You can find them on the downloads page using the code on the download card.

Before Each Lesson

- Read the Scripture Focus passage several times.
- Do the Time with God section of the Student Book to know what your students are studying.
- Memorize the key verses.
- Prepare the materials you will need for each activity.
- Work through the Bible Study section and carefully plan the lesson.
- Plan how you will apply the Bible lesson to your students' lives. Make sure what you say is clear and shows students how they can use the lesson.
- Pray for yourself, your students, and your lesson.

AS A TEACHER, your most important concern is the personal salvation of your students. Find out whether your students know Jesus Christ as their Savior in a way that doesn't introduce doubt in their minds. An easy and gentle way to find this out is to give your students several minutes to write out an answer to a question like, How can a person get to Heaven? Collect their answers and read them during the following week. If any of your students seem confused about salvation, you can present the gospel to them and provide the opportunity for them to receive Christ. If possible, deal with students individually.

The Plan of Salvation

- Everyone is a sinner. No one can live up to God's perfect standard (Romans 3:23).
- Sin's penalty is death (Romans 6:23).
- God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for our sin. Christ died in our place (John 3:16; Romans 5:8).
- When a person places his trust in Jesus' payment for sins, Christ becomes his Savior. His sins are forgiven, and he receives God's gift of eternal life (John 1:12; 5:24).
- Everlasting life begins the moment we trust in Jesus (John 3:36).
- After that, nothing we ever do will take us out of God's hand; we are secure (John 10:27–29).
- The experience of the new birth (being born into God's family) is not based on a feeling, but on confidence in God's Word (1 John 5:11, 12).

Encourage students to pray, but explain that prayer does not save a person. Prayer is how we communicate our inward thoughts to God. Ask new believers to explain what they have done and what has happened to them.

Discipleship

Encourage new believers to read the Bible, and explain the importance of prayer. Also explain 1 John 1:9 to them so they can deal with sin in their new Christian life. Make it a priority to follow up with new believers.

Knowing Your Students

Description of Physical, Social, and Emotional Development

- I MAY feel developmentally out of step with my peers—behind or ahead in physical changes—as I experience puberty.
- I MAY be sensitive about my weight and body shape and worry about whether I am normal.
- I AM developing my own sense of identity.
- I AM more interested in and influenced by my peer group than by the adults in my life.
- I MAY be moody, depressed, or anxious about academic or social issues in my life.
- I AM very focused on myself and may feel both high expectations and lack of confidence.
- I AM better able to express feelings through talking, but I tend to respond dramatically, feeling that no one else has ever experienced the same feelings and emotions.
- I DO NOT always exhibit the emotional maturity that matches my more adult-like appearance. I have trouble thinking before acting; sometimes I seem silly and unfocused on the task at hand.

Effective Responses

- Provide emotional and spiritual support and encourage students to develop a strong sense of self as a valuable person created by God.
- Accept students as they are and avoid comparing them to others. Resist stereotyping. Not every tall boy is a basketball player.
- Generate an atmosphere of acceptance and love for all, demonstrating interest and care for each student.
- Create an atmosphere of mutual respect so youth feel they are part of a community.
- Help build genuine relationships by honestly sharing mistakes and life experiences.
- Help students talk through the ramifications of their choices without asking, How could you? What were you thinking?

- Avoid arguments by remaining calm and not engaging in banter over an issue.
- Be patient with the tendency of some youth toward constant personal grooming.

Cognitive (Learning) Development

- I MAY be hesitant to try new things for fear of embarrassing myself in front of my peer group.
- I AM developing new thinking skills and am able to think about multiple options and possibilities.
- I CAN think more deeply and significantly about abstract ideas such as faith.
- I AM developing a stronger sense of right and wrong.
- I MAY be ready to take significant steps in areas of faith and Christian growth.

Effective Instructional Methods

- Create an open and stress-free environment where youth can learn and share concerns in a confidence-building atmosphere.
- Provide background information, a purpose to the lesson, and understanding of the text.
- Combine love, high energy, enthusiasm, and seriousness with engaging ways to present the lesson.
- Use personal stories that illustrate Biblical principles to keep students engaged in learning.
- Provide honest answers to guestions.
- Stimulate thinking in areas of salvation and Christian growth.
- Help Christians work through issues of assurance of salvation and to begin studying the Bible for daily decision making.
- Encourage students to articulate Biblical principles of right and wrong that they are learning from God's Word.
- Invite volunteers to look up and read aloud Bible passages. But don't put students on the spot or ask them to do things that make them feel foolish.



SESSION 1 GOD'S CREATION REVELATION

Scripture Focus

Gen. 1; 2; Ps. 19:1–6; Matt. 6:26–30; Rom. 1:18–21

BuildUP Theme



LEARN DOCTRINE

God created paradise to declare His glory and bring His creatures joy.

Measurable Response

Students will glorify God for His creation and for His plan to redeem it.

Memory Verse

"Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalm 33:8, 9).

Teacher Preparation

- ☐ When, if ever, have you concluded that your were "in paradise"? What about your surroundings caused you to make such a conclusion? What eventually reminded you that you weren't "in paradise" after all?
- □ Read Genesis 1 and 2. Adam and Eve understood what it meant to live in paradise. They enjoyed the earth, and the Garden of Eden specifically, as the perfect place for them to live. God provided for all their needs and gave them work that allowed them to express their creativity. They enjoyed the life that we dream about and occasionally get to experience.
- □ The world and everything about it changed when Adam sinned. It was like an unsolved Rubik's Cube, all there but all messed up. We live in a post-Eden world with all of its problems and obstacles. Studying Genesis 1 and 2 reveals God's glory and awesome power in His creation of the universe. And learning about God's glory and awesome power lays the foundation for understanding His redemption plan.

Cultural Barrier

This session addresses the false idea that man can create a utopia on earth. Studying God's creation week reminds us of all that is wrong with the earth and with us. And it shows us that we lack the power to make the world a paradise again. But God doesn't. He is working out His redemption plan to bring back paradise.

Session Starters

Option 1—Picture It

Gather

- Paper.
- Colored pencils or makers.

Steps

- 1. Students draw a picture of something in nature that causes them to stand in awe.
- 2. Discuss the students' drawings.

ASK: Whose drawing, if any, causes you to stand in awe?

God made everything that causes us to stand in awe. Comparing our drawings to what He can do with the word of His mouth shows the great gulf that divides His abilities from ours. That was the point of nature. God wants us to see His greatness in what He created.

3. Transition to the Bible study.

We will study Genesis 1 and 2 and a few other passages to learn what God created and why He created. Our study should motivate us to glorify God for His creation.

Option 2—Earliest Memories

Gather

• Pictures of you as a child (optional).

Steps

- 1. If possible, bring in some pictures of when you were very young. Pictures of you in places and doing activities you actually remember would be best. Display the pictures or pass them around to your students. Talk about your earliest memories.
- 2. Have your students share their earliest memories.

ASK: What is your earliest memory?

ASK: What do you know about the day you were born?

ASK: When did God first know you? *In eternity past. God has always known each of us because we are part of His eternal plan.*

3. Transition to the Bible study.

It is mind-boggling to think that God's plan is from eternity past and that each of us have always been part of His plan. This session focuses on the first seven days of creation. We will notice that life today is much different than life in the Garden of Eden. We will also learn that God still wants us to glorify Him with our lives.

Bible Study

Gather

• Resources 85-R1, 85-R2, and 85-R3.

I. God's "Good" Creation (Gen. 1:1–30)

A. What God created (1:1-30)

Genesis opens with God "in the beginning" of the universe, meaning God has always existed in eternity past (Ps. 90:2). God created the entire universe in 6 days from nothing.

READ: Genesis 1:1, 2.

On the first day of creation, God created the earth and covered it in water. God was present and active in His creation through the activity of His Spirit, Who moved across the face of the water. And God the Son actually did the creating (John 1:1–3).

READ: Genesis 1:3–5.

God also created light on the first day (1:3–5), thus revealing the character of darkness and beginning the cycle of evenings and mornings. The first day was a twenty-four-hour day with God as the light source to illuminate the earth as it rotated.

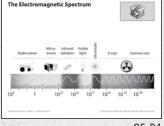
DISPLAY: Resource 85-R1.

Light includes not only visible light but also all light waves along the electromagnetic spectrum. The different lengths of light waves allow us to listen to the radio, operate remotes, and warm food in a microwave.

READ: Genesis 1:6–8.

On the second day, God divided the water in the atmosphere from water on the earth by creating a firmament that He called "Heaven." The firmament was perhaps a water vapor canopy that rested in the earth's sky.

READ: Genesis 1:9–13.



On day three, God separated the water on the earth into specific bodies called seas, leaving dry land in some places. God also created grass, trees, and vegetation—the first elements of creation that had the ability to reproduce.

READ: Genesis 1:14–19.

On the fourth day, God placed the sun and moon and an innumerable host of objects in the sky. The sun marked each day as well as the seasons.

READ: Genesis 1:20–23.

On day five of creation, God created birds to fly above the earth in the open firmament and sea animals to fill the waters in the seas.

READ: Genesis 1:24–30.

God filled the land on the sixth day with cattle, creeping things, and beasts of the earth. Later that day, God created man in His own image, meaning God made man as an eternal, moral being with personality, including intellect, emotion, and will. All of man's characteristics come from God, their source, Who possesses them in infinite perfection.

God commanded man to fill and subdue the earth while exercising dominion over the animal kingdom. As Adam and Eve obeyed God's commands, they would act as His rulers on earth and glorify Him for His amazing creation. God's creation, even post-Fall, should motivate us to glorify Him.

ASK: What parts of God's creation motivate you to glorify Him?

B. Why God's creation was "good"

God created to glorify Himself and thereby bring joy to His creation.

1. It revealed God's power (Ps. 19:1-6)

Moses recorded that God simply made the stars (Gen. 1:16). If we started counting stars at three per second, in one thousand years we would not even get through all the stars in just one galaxy! And the number of galaxies is in the hundreds of billions and perhaps even trillions! God made the countless stars and spread them across a vast, unmeasurable universe by simply speaking. That's mind-boggling power!

READ: Psalm 19:1–6. **ASK:** What in creation best reveals God's power to you?

2. It reflected God's perfection (Rom. 1:18-21)

God never said "oops" during the creation week. All that He created was perfect in its original, uncursed form. God called everything He made "good" (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). Even Satan, who was originally a good angel, was perfect in the day God created him (Ezek. 28:14, 15).

Only the angels and Adam and Eve experienced God's perfect creation. Adam's sin affected the entire world to some degree. Yet, the remnants of God's perfect creation still point us to a perfect God. Paul wrote that enough of God's glory, including His invisible attribute of perfection, remains reflected in creation to demonstrate God's character and condemn sinners (Rom. 1:18–21).

READ: Rom. 1:18–21.

ASK: What might you conclude about God if all the problems in creation existed as part of His original creation? *That God wasn't perfect or that He lacked the power to create perfect things and beings.*

3. It communicated God's love (Matt. 6:26–30)

Adam and Eve lacked nothing at the end of the creation week. They had a perfect environment, all their physical needs met, a perfect relationship with each other, and daily fellowship with God. Every day they discovered a new aspect of God's creation that helped them know God loved them.

Jesus pointed His followers to His creation as evidence of His love for them. We can observe God's creation, even in its fallen state, and know that God loves and cares for us.

READ: Matthew 6:26–30.

DISPLAY: Resource 85-R2.

ASK: What other parts of God's creation reveal God's love for you?

II. God's "Very Good" Creation (Gen. 1:31—2:25)

READ: Genesis 1:31.

God described His creation as "very good" when He was done putting everything and everyone in place (1:31). So the combination of the parts of God's "good" creation made it "very good."

READ: Genesis 2:1–3.

God "rested" on the seventh day, meaning He ceased from creating anything new. But God's process of bringing Himself glory was just beginning. God set up His creation to generate glory for Himself and joy for man, His highest creation. The remainder of Genesis 2 presents



85-R2

four ongoing actions God took to ensure His creation generated glory for His name.

A. God sustained life (2:4-7)

1. Plant and animal life (2:4-6)

God set up the earth to be self-watering. Plant seeds could sprout and grow without dying from drought.

READ: Genesis 2:4–6.

God provided water for the earth's plants by causing a mist to rise and condense on the ground. The atmosphere was different before the Fall and the Flood. God somehow used the firmament He put in place on the second day of creation to cause an ongoing water cycle that watered the earth. The water made plants thrive so that they produced leaves, fruit, and grain as food for all the animals (1:30).

God is still in charge of watering the earth, though He made the process less efficient and stable as a result of the Fall and the Flood.

READ: Psalm 65:9–13. **ASK:** How should we respond when we see vibrant fields of grain and lush green pastures that God has watered? *With shouts and songs of joy to God.*

2. Human life (2:7)

God also gave life to Adam after creating him out of the dust of the ground.

READ: Genesis 2:7.

God breathed into Adam's lifeless body the breath of life. Adam immediately became a living, eternal being. God's breath gave animals life too (7:22), but God did not create them in His image. Only man is in God's image and therefore accountable to God.

God is still man's source of life. No one lives and breathes outside of God's oversight. The prophet Daniel told King Belshazzar of Babylon that God holds the king's breath in His hand.

READ: Daniel 5:22, 23, 30. **ASK:** Why did Belshazzar lose his life? For praising false gods and for failing to glorify God.

God intends for everything that has breath, including all people, to praise Him (Ps. 150:6). God gives us breath so we might give Him glory.

B. God related to man (2:8, 9, 16, 17)

READ: Genesis 2:8, 9, 16, 17.

God used two trees to define His relationship with Adam and Eve.

He provided the tree of life as a reminder that He gave them life. The couple knew God was their creator and that they could not live without Him. The presence of the tree of life gave Adam and Eden the opportunity to express their dependence on God for life on earth.

God made the tree of knowledge of good and evil to communicate His expectations of them in their relationship with Him. If Adam and Eve disobeyed Him by eating the fruit, they would immediately die spiritually and eventually die physically. The presence of the forbidden fruit gave Adam and Eve the opportunity to demonstrate their devotion to and trust in God.

Adam and Eve's submission to God was "very good." They lived their best life before the Fall because they lived in obedience to God. They enjoyed the peace and joy of being rightly related to God as evidenced by their regular walks and talks with the Lord. When they eventually sinned, they broke their fellowship with God (3:8–10).

God still connects our joy to our obedience to Him. Jesus taught His followers about the important connection, stating that our obedience to God included loving one another.

READ: John 15:9–12. **ASK:** When have you realized that obeying God fills you will His joy?

C. God provided raw materials (2:10-15)

The Garden of Eden provided Adam and Eve with everything thing needed for life. But Adam and Eve didn't spend their days relaxing. He gave them resources to use as they saw fit.

READ: Genesis 2:10–15.

The river coming out of the Garden of Eden helped water Eden and the lands beyond it. Moses named the four original rivers that branched off the river from Eden. Because of Noah's Flood, we can't be sure where the rivers once flowed. But from Moses' descriptions and names, it seems like the existing Tigris and Euphrates rivers in the Middle East were two of the four original rivers.

Moses added that one of the rivers led to a land of gold, bdellium, and onyx stone. Bdellium is likely a fragrant gum resin from a tree. Onyx is a beautiful black stone that looks striking when paired with gold.

DISPLAY: Resource 85-R3.

Israel used onyx and gold in God's temple (1 Chron. 29:1, 2) and as part of the high priest's garments (Exod. 28:9–12). Both uses spoke of God's beauty and holiness. God will use onyx (sardonyx) and gold in constructing the New Jerusalem, the glorious home for all believers



85-R3

in eternity (Rev. 21:19–21). Obviously, God created gold and onyx as symbols of His glory and beauty. God provided them and other gems and metals to Adam as raw materials to creatively use in glorifying God for His beauty and greatness.

ASK: What might you do to glorify God creatively? Sing, write, or arrange a song; paint or draw a picture; take a photograph of a landscape and pair it with a Bible verse about God's greatness.

D. God established family relationships (2:18-25)

In the process of naming the animals, Adam realized God had not made a mate for him. God performed the world's first surgery to provide a wife for Adam.

READ: Genesis 2:18–23.

That Adam was without a mate was "not good." God made Eve to make Adam and Eve's lives "very good." Adam and Eve loved each other perfectly as a reflection of God's love for them. Eve completed Adam. They glorified God by their loving relationship.

READ: Genesis 2:24.

Adam and Eve's marriage union provided a pattern for future generations. Parents were to raise their children to leave their homes to build their own marriages and families.

READ: Genesis 2:25. **ASK:** What causes a person to feel shame? The awareness of sin and evil.

God created Adam and Eve to live sinlessly and shamelessly on earth forever. They wouldn't know shame, regret, tears, or guilt so long as they trusted and obeyed God regarding the forbidden fruit.

Moses' mention of shame in verse 25 foreshadows the events of Genesis 3. Adam and Eve didn't know shame because they didn't know sin, but their perfect state didn't last long. Once they knew sin, all of creation changed. We will learn in the next session that God immediately shared and started His redemption plan.

Memory Builder

Gather

Whiteboard and markers.

Steps

1. Write Psalm 33:8 and 9 on the board and review its meaning.

To fear the Lord means to respect Him based on the revelation of Himself. To stand in awe of the Lord means to be amazed by Him. God planned the universe and then spoke it into existence. And the universe continues to this day because God holds it in place. God's creative acts should move us to stand in awe of Him. As our creator, the Lord deserves our deepest respect. We belong to Him, and He will hold us accountable for our lives.

2. Discuss standing in awe of the Lord.

ASK: The Lord deserves our awe. In whom or what are we tempted to stand in awe instead? Ourselves, a boyfriend or girlfriend, peers, celebrities, sports figures.

ASK: Who or what causes you to stand in awe? Why?

ASK: What actions would help you learn to stand in awe of God? Being in God's Word and praying about your problems; spending time observing God's creation; praising God daily.

3. Students take turns reciting the verse. Have them replace the two instances of the word "it" with things God spoke into existence and commanded.

Session Application

Gather

Video 1 from the DVD—"God's Creation Revelation."

Steps

1. Show video 1 from the DVD to review the lesson. Below is a summary of the lesson.

God created the universe in just six days to reveal His power, reflect His perfection, and communicate His love. Adam and Eve lived joyfully and contentedly in the Garden of Eden. The combination of the parts of God's "good" creation made it "very good." God sustained all forms of life, related to man, provided raw materials for man to use in glorifying Him, and established family order and relationships. As we consider the state of God's creation before the entrance of sin into the world, we should be moved to fear God and stand in awe of Him.

2. Discuss being grateful for creation.

ASK: When was the last time you showed appreciation to God for His creation?

There is a poster available in the kit for tracking key truths from each session. Use that poster during the Session Application or at the beginning of each session as a review of the previous session. **ASK:** What could you do to keep your appreciation for creation fresh? Take time to observe it; thank God when you see its beauty; praise God when you experience its benefits; respect God when you witness its power and vastness.

3. Discuss being grateful for a relationship with God.

Genesis 1 and 2 remind us that everything we have in life is provided by our Creator God Who made all things to reveal both His Person and His goodness. He wants us to know Him and have a relationship with Him.

ASK: How might we learn more about God? *By studying His special revelation (the Bible) and reflecting on His general revelation (the created world).*

ASK: What is one truth you learned or were reminded of through your study of Genesis 1 and 2? Focus on that truth this coming week.

4. Close in prayer.

Session Takeaways

Before dismissing the students, draw their attention to the Time with God page in their student books. Instruct them to complete the study on their own. The activity review some of the key passages from this session.