

# Step Into Scripture: Shadows

**Day 8 Reading: Job 17—20 and Day 8 of Step Into Scripture**

## Week 2 Lesson: Sons of God

This Wednesday, we're going to deviate from the original plan to discuss Job. (Don't worry—we'll dig into Job next week!) Instead, this week we'll address questions about the Nephilim from Scripture, particularly focusing on their origins and significance as mentioned in Genesis. We will examine the distinction between the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men," suggesting that the former refers to the righteous lineage of believers, while the latter represents those who have turned away from God. Using additional biblical references, we will dispute the cultural notion of the Nephilim as hybrids of angels and humans, instead recognizing Scripture's portrayal of them as a powerful and sinful group associated with evil in the world. Ultimately, the account of the Nephilim teaches us about the dangers of corrupting God's family and emphasizes the importance of remaining faithful to God and His righteous lineage.

### Optional Icebreaker Question:

Prior to the flood, animals didn't fear humans (Genesis 9:2). If you lived before the flood and you had to pick an animal to be your personal bodyguard, what animal would you choose and why?

### Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think the term 'sons of God' means in the context of Genesis 6:1-4, and how does it differ from the 'daughters of men'?
  - 'Sons of God' can refer to either supernatural beings or God's people, contrasting them with the 'daughters of men,' who are seen as representing the lineage of Cain.
  - How can understanding these different identities help us in our own relationship with God and the people we choose to associate with in our lives?
2. What scriptural evidence supports the view that the Nephilim were not human hybrids but rather a powerful group of people?
  - The Nephilim are linked to the Anakites, a people group described as large and powerful, using scriptures like Numbers 13:33 for context.
  - How might our understanding of the Nephilim affect how we view challenges or giants we face in our own lives?
3. What are the implications of the flood narrative in Genesis when considering the existence of the Nephilim afterward?
  - If the Nephilim were hybrids and the flood aimed to eliminate them, their continued existence would indicate a failure of that objective, presenting a challenge to the interpretation of the flood's purpose.
  - How does this idea challenge or reinforce your understanding of God's judgment and mercy in your own life?

4. Moving forward in our reading, we'll see that evil arose again after the flood. What does this teach us about human nature and the persistence of sin?
  - Although the flood washed away much evil, sin continued to exist, and God still judged unrepentant evil in later biblical narratives.
  - In what ways do you see the persistence of sin in today's world, and how can we, as believers, address these ongoing challenges?
5. How do the references to 'sons of God' in the New Testament, such as in Romans 8:14, relate to our identity as believers today?
  - In the New Testament, 'sons of God' includes all believers, emphasizing that everyone in Christ is part of God's family and has a special identity.
  - What does being called a 'son or daughter of God' mean to you personally, and how can that understanding impact your daily life and decisions?

**Prayer:**

- Ask for prayer requests from the group.
- Pray for guidance to live out the lessons learned from our Bible study this week.
- Ask God to help strengthen relationships within the group as we all reflect on His word together.
- Pray for opportunities to apply the teachings in your daily lives.