# WORKbook

## Genesis 12-50

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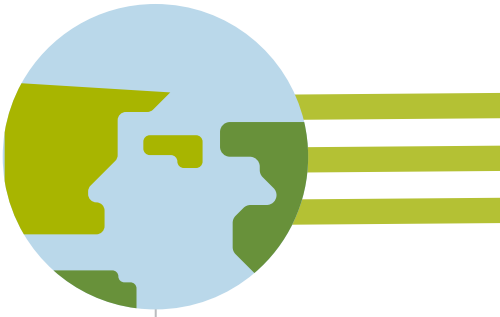


# Welcome...

*Welcome to this study of Genesis chapters 12–50, which covers the lives of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and their families. These chapters recount the origins of Israel, and by extension, the Church. God's commitment to bless the world through this deeply flawed family is evidenced in moments of heroic faith, heartbreaking failure, and even deeply disturbing actions from his covenant partners. But God is consistently faithful to his promises.*

*We may recognize ourselves in the ups and downs of Abraham and his family. The journey of faith is rarely linear. Faith and doubt, deception and dependability, and tragedy and success all go hand in hand. And through it all, God turns evil for good (Genesis 50:20).*

*May these ancient stories help us see our own stories and spur us on to greater dependence on the God who is faithful, who will not abandon his purposes. The God who uses flawed people like us to bring life, blessing, and flourishing to the world around us.*

## THE WORKBOOK

This workbook is designed to prepare you for each week's class. There are five days of homework, each of which should take 20–30 minutes each day, followed by space to take notes on the class lecture.

The homework and classroom time go hand-in-hand. Each class meeting will dedicate about 30 minutes to discussion of the homework questions. The best way to get the most out of the class is to complete the homework and come prepared to discuss it with your table group.

## BIBLE READING SKILLS

The class and homework are designed to help you become a better reader of biblical narrative. The homework explores the basic elements of narrative: plot, setting, and characterization. Additionally, it aims to make connections between individual stories and the broader scriptural narrative, and reveal applications for your own life.

Our prayer is that the exercises and time together in class form us more and more into the image of our Savior Jesus Christ. May God richly bless you as we encounter him in this study.

*Christ Community Adult Ministries*

# maps

*Map of Canaan*

*Overview Map of Ancient Near East*

*fyi*

*Blue, italicized text throughout the sessions indicates discussion questions.*

Recommended resources for continued study.

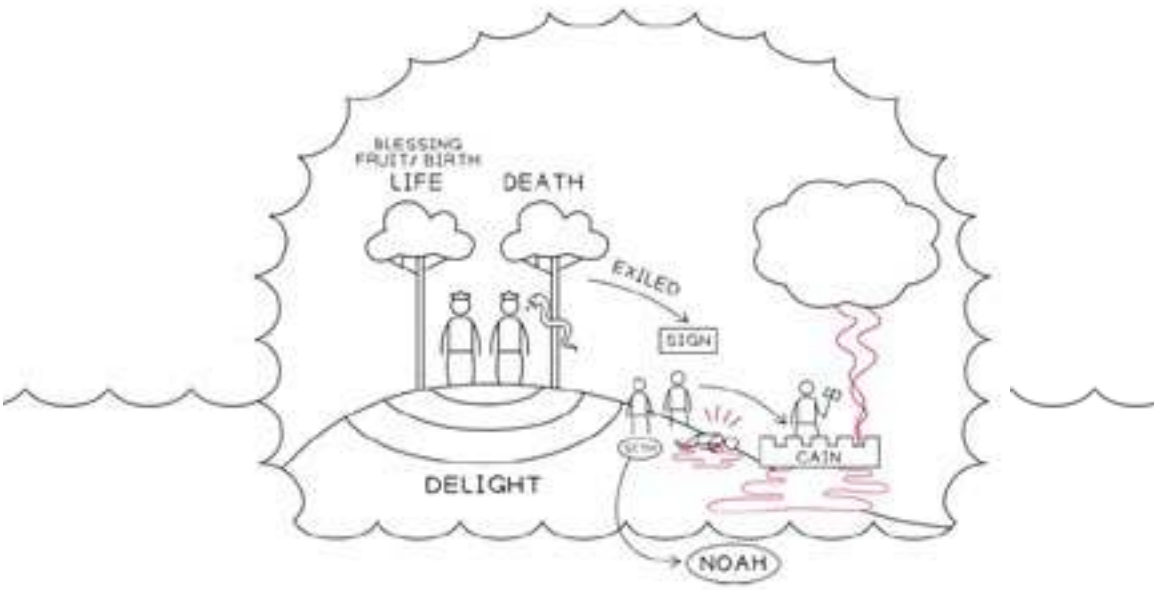
Resources
cckc.church/genesis2/

session 1

# Introduction

*Genesis* 12-50

# *Genesis 1–11 Visualized*

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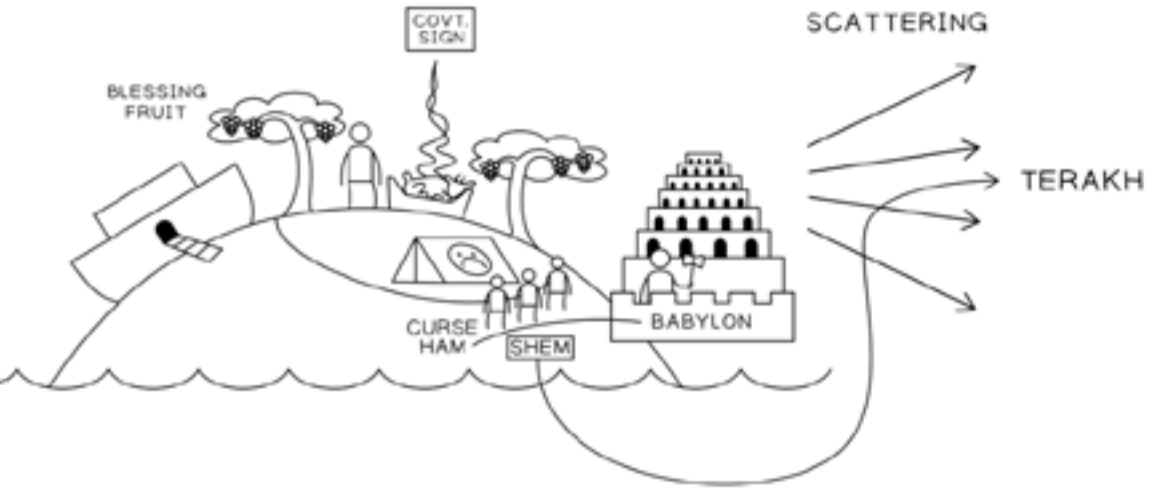


*Illustration created by Tim Mackie for BibleProject Classroom: Abraham (2021)*

notes

session 2

# ABRAHAM | The Land

*Genesis 12-14*

# day 1 :: Genesis 11:27–12:9

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

*"A man was identified in the ancient world as a member of his father's household. When the head of the household died, his heir assumed that title and its responsibilities. It is also identified with ancestral lands and property. By leaving his father's household, Abram was thus giving up his inheritance and his right to family property." **

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing the main conflict(s), dilemma, or event(s) happening in the text.

**SETTING** | Abram's journey took him from Haran (11:31) to the Negev (12:9), a journey of about 600 miles! Identify these locations on the map. What do you think it would have been like to move so far from home in the ancient world?

**CHARACTERIZATION**

Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abram | Sarai | Lot |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | *How is the language of God's desire to bless connected to Genesis 1?*

In what ways do you see Abram and Sarai as a new Adam and Eve?

What is surprising about God promising the land to Abram's "offspring" at this stage in his story?

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Genesis 12:7
*stepbible.org*

Go to ***stepbible.org*** and look up "offspring" in verse 7. Note how prominent this word is in the book of Genesis. Compare this word to what you see in Genesis 3:15 and 9:9.

**APPLICATION** | Memorize and meditate on Genesis 12:1–3.

Where may God be telling you to "go"? What may God be telling you to leave in order to follow his lead?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 2 :: Genesis 12:10–20

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing the main conflict(s), dilemma, or event(s) in the text.

**SETTING** | This story takes place in Egypt. What role will Egypt play in the remainder of Genesis? What role will it play in Exodus? What role did it play in Jesus' childhood?

**CHARACTERIZATION**

Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abram | Sarai | Pharaoh |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | How does Abram's response to this situation contrast with God's design for marital relationships (Genesis 2)?

*How do Abram's actions threaten the promise God made to him in vv. 1–3?*

*Do the punishments on Pharaoh's household seem fair to you? Why or why not?*

**APPLICATION** | How might fear tempt us to use others for our own benefit?

Do you recall a time when God clearly showed his faithfulness to you even though you had been unfaithful?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 3 :: Genesis 13

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing the main conflict(s), dilemma, or event(s) in the text.

**SETTING** | Note the locations mentioned in the text on the map.

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abram | Lot |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | *How is the dilemma faced by Abram similar to the one in yesterday's homework? Contrast his solution in this passage.*

What earlier promises to Abram does God reinforce and clarify? What is Abram's response?

When did we last see an altar built to the Lord in Genesis? What is the significance of these altars?

**APPLICATION** | When has the Lord graciously allowed you to be content with a seemingly lesser portion?

Look ahead to what happens to Lot's adopted hometown in chapter 19. Have you noticed a time when you initially thought you had missed out but realized God had saved you from a bad situation?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 4 :: Genesis 14

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing the main conflict(s), dilemma, or event(s) in the text.

**SETTING** | Where did the battle between the kings who came from the north and the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, and Bela/Zoar take place? Why might this area be worth fighting for (Genesis 13:10)?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abram | Lot |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | How is the dilemma faced by Abram similar to the ones in earlier chapters? Contrast his solution in this passage.

Write down everything you are told about Melchizedek in this chapter.

*Look at Hebrews 7. What are the ways Melchizedek points to Jesus?*

**APPLICATION** | Can you recall a time the Lord gave you courage to put your own comfort and safety on the line for the sake of another?

Has the Lord ever convicted you to not take something you "deserved" because it would somehow dishonor him?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is your high priest "according to the order of Melchizedek" (Hebrews 7:17)?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 5 :: Genesis 12–14

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Blessing & Curse

Watch the BibleProject video ***Blessing and Curse (bibleproject.com)***.
*How would you summarize the biblical meaning of blessing?*

OVERview

Continue memorizing and meditating on Genesis 12:1–3. How is God's blessing of Abram intended to go beyond Abram? How is this related to his original purpose for his creation?

How are you the recipient of Abram's blessing? How is God now blessing you? Who is he calling you to bless in response?

What aspect of humanity did you most resonate with this week? What aspect of God's big story stood out the most to you this week? What aspect of God's character stood out the most to you this week?

Read Acts 3:24–26 and write a brief prayer thanking God for your inclusion in the blessing.

notes

notes

session 3

# ABRAHAM
## The Seed: *Covenant*

*Genesis 15-17*

# day 1 :: Genesis 15

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing the main conflict(s), dilemma, or event(s) in the text.

*What does God promise?*

*What is required of Abram?*

How is the covenant ratified?

**SETTING** | What were the boundaries of the land God promised to Abram in v. 18? Identify these rivers on the map (the Brook of Egypt is likely one of the rivers on the eastern border of Egypt).

## CHARACTERIZATION

Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abram | Abram's offspring |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | What is Paul's argument in Romans 4:1–8 about understanding the truth of Genesis 15:6?

Similarly, what is his point in Galatians 3:1–18?

**APPLICATION** | *What does it mean that we are children of Abraham?*

*How is faith credited as righteousness? Write a brief and simple explanation of this truth.*

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 2 :: Genesis 16

*"Slave women or bonds-women were considered both property and legal extensions of their mistress. As a result it would be possible for Saraia to have Hagar perform a variety of household tasks as well as to use her as a surrogate for her own barren womb." **

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing the main conflict(s), dilemma, or event(s) happening in the text.

Who is the "angel of the Lord"?

What does Hagar name God and why?

What does God name her son and why? (Look up "Ishmael" at stepbible.com to note the meaning of his name.)

**SETTING** | Notice where Hagar was from originally. She met the Lord on the way to Shur (v. 7). Where do you think she was headed?

## CHARACTERIZATION

Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses

| God | Abram | Sarai | Hagar | The angel of the Lord |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | Compare Genesis 16:6 with Exodus 1:11. What do you notice?

*What is God's posture toward the poor and oppressed throughout Scripture (see Deuteronomy 24:14; Psalm 72:12–14; Proverbs 14:31; Luke 4:18)?*

**APPLICATION** | When have you taken matters into your own hands because you were tired of waiting on God? Was anyone else hurt in the process?

Who is vulnerable in your circle (workplace, neighborhood, family, etc.)? Who is vulnerable in our broader cultural context?

How might the Lord be calling you to protect or provide for the oppressed or vulnerable?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 3 :: Genesis 17:1–16

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing the main conflict(s), dilemma, or event(s) in the text.

Note what God promises to do and what Abram is required to do.

What was to be the sign of this covenant? Why do you suppose God chose this as the sign?

*Why did the Lord change Abram and Sarai's names? What is the importance of Sarai's inclusion?*

**SETTING** | What land was promised to Abram and his future offspring in v. 8? Identify this land on the map.

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abram | Sarah | Offspring |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | Compare the description of the covenant event in this chapter with the event in 15:9–21. Note the similarities and differences.

*Read Romans 4:9–12. Why is it significant that God's oath came prior to Abraham's oath?*

## APPLICATION

How does the Lord's blessing regarding Sarah go far beyond her heart's desire?

Have you ever experienced God's blessing to exceed what you had asked or imagined?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 4 :: Genesis 17:17–27

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing the main conflict(s), dilemma, or event(s) in the text.

**SETTING** | Notice what God promises regarding Ishmael in v. 20. Now look ahead to Genesis 25:17–18 and locate Ishmael's land on the map. Why do you think he would have settled in that area?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abraham | Sarah | Ishmael |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | According to Jeremiah 9:25–26, was circumcision intended to only be a physical sign?

Circumcision became the source of much debate in the early church. While Paul addressed the issue in Acts 15, the controversy followed him throughout his ministry. Read Romans 2:25–29 and summarize Paul's argument.

Now read Colossians 2:11–12. What has now superseded circumcision in the new covenant?

**APPLICATION** | Has God's way of working ever struck you as mystifying? Why do you think God chooses to work in ways that seem counterintuitive to us?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 5 :: Genesis 15–17

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The Covenants

Watch the BibleProject video ***The Covenants in the Bible Theme (bibleproject.com).***
*What is the purpose of God's covenants in the Bible?*

Continue memorizing and meditating on Genesis 12:1–3.
Write it out three times and refer to it often.

What aspect of humanity did you most resonate with this week?

What aspect of God's big story stood out the most to you this week? What aspect of God's character stood out the most to you this week?

Read John 19:28–30 and meditate on the following statement from Jen Wilkin:

*Abraham placed his faith in the God of 'I will,'*
*and it was credited to him as righteousness.*
*You and I place our faith in the God of 'it is finished.'*

Why can we trust God and lean into his promises each day?

OVERview

notes

notes

session 4

# ABRAHAM
## The Seed: *Deliverance*

*Genesis 18-20*

# day 1 :: Genesis 18:1–15

*"Hospitality customs required that all strangers who approached a dwelling were to be offered the opportunity to rest, refresh themselves and eat a meal. This was done to transform potential enemies into at least temporary friends." **

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

Compare and contrast what Abraham says he will do for the visitors (vv. 4–5) to what he actually does (vv. 6–8). How do you account for this difference?

*Who appears to be the main target for this visit? Why?*

**SETTING** | Locate Mamre on the map. Recall this setting, the oaks of Mamre, from earlier in Genesis, and note the details of this place (see Genesis 13:18 and 14:13). Now read Genesis 23:17–20 and note its future significance.

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abraham | Sarah | The visitors |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | *The idea of hospitality is woven into the fabric of the gospel. Why is hospitality so important? Look up these passages and note your observations:*

Deuteronomy 10:17–21

Matthew 25:35–40

Luke 14:12–14

Hebrews 13:2

**APPLICATION** | What does hospitality mean to you? Is hospitality a practice you embrace? Why or why not? What is one small step you could take this week toward developing a posture of hospitality? How might opening your home and/or heart to others deepen your relationship with the Lord?

What are you wrestling with today that you think may be too hard for God? Has God ever done a work in your life that was "laughable"?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 2 :: Genesis 18:16–33

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

*What does Abraham know about God that gives him the confidence to intercede repeatedly on behalf of the city? What assurances does God give him?*

**SETTING** | Locate Sodom and Gomorrah on the map. Recall how this area was described in Genesis 13:10–13. Why had Lot chosen to live in this area? Contrast that to its current state.

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abraham |
| --- | --- |
| | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | Abraham's prayer is the first example of intercessory prayer in Scripture. Now note Jesus' intercessory prayers and what he prays on behalf of others in Luke 23:34, John 17:20, and Hebrews 7:25. Who else intercedes for us according to Romans 8:26–27?

**APPLICATION** | How does an awareness of Jesus' and the Holy Spirit's work of intercession on your behalf shape how and why you might intercede for others? What about God's character might give you the confidence to boldly intercede?

When have you been the recipient of intercessory prayer, and what has that experience been like for you?

What might motivate you to intercede for others more regularly?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 3 :: Genesis 19

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read Genesis 19. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

**SETTING** | According to vv. 17–21, where did the angels want Lot to flee to and where did he want to go? According to v. 30, where did he end up? Why do you think he may have been afraid in Zoar?

**CHARACTERIZATION**

Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abraham | The angels | Lot |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

| The men of Sodom | Lot's sons-in-law | Lot's wife | Lot's daughters |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | *What prompted God to send his angels to investigate Sodom and Gomorrah (18:20–21, 19:13)? In addition to this passage, look up Ezekiel 16:49–50 to determine what the outcry was about.*

According to vv. 16 and 29, on what basis did the Lord spare Lot and his daughters?

Look at Exodus 3:7–9 to see another outcry that God responded to with a great deliverance.

**APPLICATION** | When have you cried out to God asking for deliverance? Where is hope found in these situations?

Why do you think Lot was so reluctant to receive deliverance? Was there a time in your life when you found it hard to receive the deliverance that the Lord was offering you?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 4 :: Genesis 20

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

*How do Abraham's actions endanger God's promise to him?*

**SETTING** | Locate Gerar on the map. What territory is close to Gerar? Why do you think Abraham might have moved at this point?

**CHARACTERIZATION**

Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abraham | Sarah | Abimelech |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | Look back at Genesis 12:10–20 and note the similarities and differences between this occasion and the previous one when Abraham lied about Sarah being his wife.

While Abraham was commended for his faith (15:6), he obviously wavered at times. However, God's faithfulness never wavers. Watch the BibleProject video ***Character of God: Faithful (bibleproject.com)***

*Make note of what stands out to you about the description of the Hebrew word for faithfulness (emet) and the steadfast trustworthy manner that God's faithfulness endures throughout the biblical story.*

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Character of God: Faithful

**APPLICATION** | Have you suffered like Sarah as a result of another's sinful patterns? How does God's faithfulness encourage you in that struggle?

Why would Abraham intercede on behalf of the person he brought trouble upon? How might this example encourage us even when we have really messed up a relationship?

What questions do you have about this passage?

## day 5 :: Genesis 18–20

OVERview

Review Genesis 12:1–3. What aspect of this verse stands out to you this week?

What aspect of humanity did you most resonate with this week?

What aspect of God's big story stood out the most to you this week? What aspect of God's character stood out the most to you this week?

What is one application point that you will commit to start practicing?

Read Psalm 111 aloud and praise God for his unwavering faithfulness.

notes

notes

session 5

# ISAAC & REBEKAH

*Genesis 21-25:18*

# day 1 :: Genesis 21

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

**SETTING** | Locate the wilderness of Beer-sheba on the map. Why do you think Hagar was headed in that direction?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abraham | Sarah | Abimelech |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | How does Sarah's laugh (v. 6) compare to her laugh in 18:9–15?

*What is significant about the wilderness in Hagar's story (see Genesis 16:7)?*

*What does God's promise to make Ishmael into a "great nation" remind you of? Given the emphasis on the offspring of Abraham and Sarah, do you find God's attitude and action toward Ishmael to be surprising? Why or why not?*

**APPLICATION** | Where do you see God's faithfulness in these stories?

Consider the desperation Hagar was feeling before God met her in the wilderness. Have you ever had a "wilderness moment" like this?

Meditate for a moment on the name that Abraham gives to God at the end of chapter 21. How is this name significant?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 2 :: Genesis 22:1–19

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

**SETTING** | Locate Mount Moriah on the map. Then read 2 Chronicles 3:1. What is the significance of this location in the rest of the biblical story?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abraham | Isaac |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | Read Hebrews 11:17–19. How does it make sense of Abraham's obedience in Genesis 21?

*Watch the BibleProject video "The Test" and write down a few reflections.*

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The Test

*How does this story point to the role of sacrifice and substitution in the rest of the biblical story?*

**APPLICATION** | When has God asked you to sacrifice something dear to you? How was his faithfulness subsequently revealed?

prayer

Note the name that Abraham gives to the place of sacrifice, and write a short prayer to the God who provides.

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 3 :: Genesis 22:20–23:20

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

*"Burial practices vary in the ancient Near East. Nomadic groups often practiced secondary burial–transporting the skeletal remains to a traditional site long after death. Burial chambers were used by village cultures. These could be natural or hand-carved tombs. Most often these tombs were used by several generations." **

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

Why do you think Abraham insists on paying for the field (23:13)?

**SETTING** | Abraham spent much of his time in the Promised Land in the region of Hebron (13:18, 14:13, 18:1, 23:2). Locate it on the map.

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abraham | Ephron |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | What do you think is the purpose of the brief genealogy at the end of chapter 22?

*How does the purchase of the field in chapter 23 relate to God's promise to give Abram the land of Canaan (13:14–17; 15:18–20; 17:8)? How does the size of this plot of land compare to what God had promised him?*

**APPLICATION** | Read Hebrews 11:8–16, focusing especially on vv. 13–16. In what ways do you see yourself like Abraham and Sarah, still waiting on God's promises to be fulfilled?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 4 :: Genesis 24

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

**SETTING** | Locate the region of Aram-naharaim on the map.

**CHARACTERIZATION**

Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Abraham | Abraham's servant | Rebekah | Laban |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | This is one of several stories in the Old Testament when a man and a woman meet at a well, eventually leading to a marriage (see Genesis 29:1–12, Exodus 2:16–21). How do these stories relate to Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4?

**APPLICATION** | Why do you think Abraham was so certain of the success of the mission (v. 7)?

*What is the relationship between God's will and human choices in this story?*

How do you see God working in this story? How does this comfort or challenge you today?

What questions do you have about this passage?

## day 5 :: Genesis 21–25:18

OVERview

Read Genesis 25:1–18. What do you think is the purpose of these three brief sections in the larger context of the book of Genesis?

Continue to memorize Genesis 12:1–3.

What aspect of humanity did you most resonate with this week?

What aspect of God's big story stood out the most to you this week? What aspect of God's character stood out the most to you this week?

Read Hebrews 11:17–19. How might God be calling you to exercise radical faith? What barriers do you anticipate, and how might you overcome them?

notes

notes

session 6

# JACOB & ESAU

*Genesis 25:19-28:22*

# day 1 :: Genesis 25:19–34

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read Genesis 25:19–34. What stands out to you?

*"The birthright concerned only the material inheritance from the parents. The inheritance was divided into the number of sons plus one. The eldest son then received a double share. This was a customary practice throughout the ancient Near East." **

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

How does the first section (vv. 19–26) foreshadow what will happen in the second section (vv.27–34)?

In what way does v. 28 foreshadow problems to come?

*What is a birthright, and why is it important to Jacob?*

**SETTING** | Locate the region of Aram-naharaim on the map.

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Isaac | Rebekah | Jacob | Esau |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | Where else in the Bible have you seen the theme of childlessness? Why do you think there are so many of these similar stories? How does the miraculous birth of Jesus relate to this theme?

*How was Isaac and Rebekah's response to their childlessness (v.21) different from Isaac's parents' response to the same situation?*

Consider the previous sibling rivalries between Cain/Abel and Isaac/Ishmael. How does this story compare and contrast to those?

Read Hebrews 12:16–17. What does it say about Esau's character?

**APPLICATION** | Have you been tempted to pass up something that God has for you to gain immediate satisfaction? What could you do to help address that temptation in the moment?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 2 :: Genesis 26

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

*Where do you see echoes of the Abraham story in this chapter?*

Why do you think it was a problem that Esau married Canaanite women?

**SETTING** | This chapter contains three more stories about wells (vv. 12–22, 25, 32–33). Why do you think wells were so important in ancient Israel?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Isaac | Abimelech |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | *What do you think is the purpose of retelling Isaac's story in a way that has so many similarities to Abraham's story?*

Read Genesis 12:1–3. *How do you see this passage being fulfilled in Isaac's life?*

**APPLICATION** | What emotion causes Isaac to repeat Abraham's sin of lying to the king about his wife? Do you find this emotion in your life? Write a prayer of confession to God about this.

prayer

Imagine yourself in a situation when you are tempted to act unfaithfully because of fear. What would it look like to act in faith instead?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 3 :: Genesis 27

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

Note the ways in which each of Isaac's five senses are engaged in this chapter.

*What is the blessing that Jacob and Esau vie for in this chapter, and why is it so important?*

*Think back to God's words to Rebekah in 25:23. Do you think that had any effect on her actions in chapter 27?*

**SETTING** | What indication is there that a significant amount of time has passed since the stories in chapter 26?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Isaac | Rebekah | Jacob | Esau |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | What effect has Isaac and Rebekah's favoritism (Genesis 25:27–28) had on their family? Can you think of any other stories in the Bible when favoritism leads to familial strife?

What role has deception played in Abraham's family line? Think back to God's promise in Genesis 3:15. Whose offspring ("seed") does Jacob's behavior resemble?

*Watch the BibleProject video "The Last Will Be First" and write down a few reflections.*

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The Last Will Be First

**APPLICATION** | Remember that this is the family that God had chosen to bring blessing to the nations (Genesis 22:18). What does it say about God that he chose people who behave like this toward one another?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 4 :: Genesis 28

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

**SETTING** | *Locate Haran on the map. Note that Jacob's journey to Haran is a reversal of his grandfather Abraham's journey to Canaan (Genesis 12:4–8). Why do you think God chose this moment to reveal himself to Jacob?*

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Isaac | Jacob | Esau |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | Compare Jacob's response to God's promise (vv. 20–22) to Abraham's responses earlier in Genesis. How would you characterize Jacob's faith at this point in the story?

*What is the function or purpose of the stairway in Genesis 28? Read John 1:49–51. How does Jesus relate himself to this story? What is Jesus claiming about himself?*

**APPLICATION** | Do you ever feel that God is absent from your life? How does this passage remind you that he is with you, even if you don't always sense it?

Jacob used deception to get the birthright and blessing. How does God intend to bring blessing to Jacob? How does this truth affect the way you think about attaining God's approval and blessing?

*Do you think Jacob is still trying to control his situation with his conditional vow in vv. 20–22? Are there ways you need to let go of your attempts to control God?*

What questions do you have about this passage?

## day 5 :: Genesis 25:19–28:22

OVERview

Continue to memorize Genesis 12:1–3.

What aspect of humanity did you most resonate with this week?

What aspect of God's big story stood out the most to you this week? What aspect of God's character stood out the most to you this week?

Read Psalm 24 and write a prayer of response to the King of Glory.

notes

notes

session 7

# JACOB & LABAN

*Genesis 29-33*

# day 1 :: Genesis 29:1–30

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

How do you see God's promise to Jacob to "be with you and watch over you" (28:15) fulfilled in this passage?

**SETTING** | How does this meeting at a well parallel the story in Genesis 24? What are a few similarities and differences?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Jacob | Rachel | Leah | Laban |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | How does the theme of deception continue in this passage?

How does the theme of favoritism continue in this passage?

**APPLICATION** | *How would you respond to someone who read this passage and claimed that the Bible supports polygamy?*

Have you ever been betrayed or deceived by another person? Have you ever betrayed or deceived someone? Why is deception counter to the ways of God?

Has favoritism (either on your part or the part of another) wreaked havoc in relationships in your life? Why is favoritism so toxic in family life?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 2 :: Genesis 29:31–30:24

*"Mandrakes resemble the human figure and have narcotic and purgative properties, which explains its medicinal use. Its shape and pungent fragrance may be the origin of its use in fertility rites and as an aphrodisiac." **

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

*Look at what Leah says as she names each of her first four children (vv. 31–35). What has changed for Leah by the time her fourth son is born?*

*Look at Rachel's expressions after her servant Bilhah gave birth to Dan and Naphtali (vv. 3–8). What do her comments reveal about relationships in this family?*

Look at Leah's and Rachel's comments after the next five children are born. How do you see their rivalry continue?

**SETTING** | How much time would you guess has passed between the beginning and end of this passage?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Jacob | Rachel | Leah |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | *How do you see themes repeated from earlier passages in Genesis?*

**APPLICATION** | Have you ever experienced the longing to be loved by another family member? If so, what was that experience like for you?

Ask God to show you any hint of favoritism or rivalry in your life. If something comes to mind, confess it to him and write a few ideas or steps that you can take to address it in your life.

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 3 :: Genesis 30:25–31:55

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

*Why do you think Jacob's plot to increase his flock succeeded?*

In what ways do you see the conflict between Jacob and Laban coming to a climax?

**SETTING** | Trace Jacob's journey from Haran to Gilead on the map. How close was he to his homeland when Laban caught up to him?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Jacob | Rachel | Laban |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | Recall what you have learned about covenants in Genesis. Compare and contrast the covenant between Jacob and Laban with some of the earlier covenants.

**APPLICATION** | *Why do you think Rachel stole her father's household gods? Where do you see the same impulse or motivation in your own life?*

Has God ever used someone in your life who struggles with a similar character flaw (like Laban and Jacob) to wake you up to your own sinful attitudes? Why might this method be especially effective?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 4 :: Genesis 32–33

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

How do you think Jacob was feeling about his reunion with his brother Esau (Genesis 27:41)?

What is the purpose of Jacob sending gifts to Esau ahead of his arrival? Why did he send his family in groups in the order that he did (33:1–3)?

**SETTING** | Why do you think Jacob sent his family across the stream but stayed behind by himself at night (32:22–24)?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Jacob | Esau |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | *How does Jacob's prayer in 32:9–12 compare to the prayer following his previous encounter with the angels at Bethel in 28:18–22?*

*In Hebrew, the name Israel sounds like "struggles with God." In what ways is Jacob's new name appropriate? How will the meaning of the name Israel be appropriate for the people who descend from Jacob?*

*Compare Esau's action in 33:4 to the father's action in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:20). What similarities exist between the story of Jacob and Esau and the parable of the prodigal son?*

**APPLICATION** | Consider Jacob's situation in this chapter. As far as he knows, he is stuck between a furious father-in-law on one side and a brother who wants to kill him on the other. In his desperation, he wrestles with God. Have you ever experienced anything like this? How did you respond to God? How did he respond to you?

Reread 32:9–12. Think about a situation in your life that seems hopeless or desperate. In the space below, write a short prayer to God about it.

prayer

What questions do you have about this passage?

## day 5 :: Genesis 29–33

OVERview

Continue to memorize Genesis 12:1–3.

What aspect of humanity did you most resonate with this week?

What aspect of God's big story stood out the most to you this week? What aspect of God's character stood out the most to you this week?

Reread everything you wrote in the Characterization section about Jacob over the last two weeks. What kind of person is he? How have you seen him change throughout these narratives? Why did God stay committed to him? How does this give you comfort and hope?

notes

notes

session 8

# JACOB'S CHILDREN

*Genesis 34-38*

# day 1 :: Genesis 34

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. This passage includes a disturbing story for both ancient and modern audiences. Do any details or dialogue in particular stand out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

Who does the passage say spoke out and was most aggrieved by the rape of Dinah? Was their grief righteous or unrighteous?

**SETTING** | Locate Shechem on the map, then look back to Genesis 12:6–7. What occurred here earlier? How does this earlier occurrence compare/contrast with Hamor and Shechem's entreaty to the men of the city in 34:21–23?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Dinah | Shechem | Jacob | Levi & Simeon |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | What was the significance of circumcision for Abraham and all his descendants (see Genesis 17:10–14)? Do you think Jacob's sons embraced this meaning when they required the men of Shechem to undergo the ritual?

*Name all the instances of deception in this passage.*

Look ahead to Genesis 49:5–7. What does God have to say through Jacob's end-of-life blessing about Simeon and Levi's actions in this passage?

**APPLICATION** | Has an unrighteous situation caused you grief? How did you respond?

Reread verses 30–31. How do you think Jacob and his sons should have responded to the violation of Dinah?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 2 :: Genesis 35–36

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. *Why do you think the chapter about Esau's lineage is here?*

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

Which details in chapter 35 echo something you've seen in Genesis before?

**SETTING** | God calls Jacob to fulfill his long-delayed vow to return to Bethel (see 28:18–22). This Hebrew name translates as "the house of God." Who else traveled through Shechem to Bethel, setting up altars to Yahweh in these places (see 12:6–8)?

**CHARACTERIZATION**

Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Jacob | Rachel |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | What promises and commands are reissued in chapter 35?

*Genesis 35:22 includes a brief note about Reuben sleeping with one of his wives. Look ahead to Genesis 49:3–4. What does this act cost him and why?*

**APPLICATION** | Do you have any unfulfilled promises to the Lord or others? What do you need to do to rectify those lapses?

How has God been faithful to his promises to you even when you have lacked faithfulness and obedience?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 3 :: Genesis 37

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

*What do you see as the root of the brothers' hatred for Joseph? Do you think Joseph is deserving of his brothers' hatred? Why or why not?*

**SETTING** | Imagine yourself as Joseph in the pit. Write a few phrases about how you would react.

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Jacob | Joseph | Reuben | Judah |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | Where does deception show up again in this story?

Who is usually the giver of dreams in Scripture (see Genesis 20:3; 28:12; 31:24)? What does this reveal about God's relationship with Joseph?

**APPLICATION** | *How does the behavior of Jacob's children differ when they are not around their father? Is your behavior consistent regardless of who is with you? If not, why not?*

Where have you struggled with jealousy when you see someone else succeed?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 4 :: Genesis 38

*"One remedy for the disruption of inheritance caused by the premature death of a man before he had produced an heir was the custom of levirate marriage. As outlined in Genesis 38, the dead man's brother was required to impregnate the widow so that his brother's name would be passed on to the child born of this obligatory act. The law is detailed in Deuteronomy 25:5-10." **

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

Why do you think Tamar requested these particular items, and what might it mean that Judah abandons them?

Notice that this story of Judah interrupts the Joseph narrative. Why do you think that might be?

**SETTING** | What are all the ways that Judah has left his family and God's promises in this story?

**CHARACTERIZATION**

Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Judah | Tamar | Judah's oldest two sons |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | *The concept of levirate marriage (kinsmen raising up offspring for a childless dead brother's widow) was common at this time and later codified in Israel's law (Deuteronomy 25:5–10). Why might this have been a protective practice for a young widow? Why does Judah conclude that Tamar is more righteous than he?*

Read Ruth 4:18–22 and Matthew 1:3,16. What came about from Tamar's persistence?

**APPLICATION** | We often hold others to the highest moral standards but excuse our own bad behavior. Why is that a human tendency? Ask God to show you where you have a double standard.

How was this story a turning point in Judah's life? Do you have a significant turning point in your life?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 5 :: Genesis 34–38

OVERview

Review your memorization of Genesis 12:1–3.

What aspect of humanity did you most resonate with this week?

What aspect of God's big story stood out the most to you this week? What aspect of God's character stood out the most to you this week?

Review your answers this week concerning the righteousness/unrighteousness of God's chosen family. Name several places you see God's forbearance and mercy at work in these chapters.

Read Psalm 51.
Write your own short prayer of gratitude for God's mercy and patience with you.

notes

notes

session 9

# THE RISE OF JOSEPH

*Genesis 39-45*

# day 1 :: Genesis 39

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read Genesis 39. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

What similarities do you notice between Joseph's work for Potiphar and his work for the prison warden? What reason does the text give for Joseph's success?

**SETTING** | *Imagine you've been stripped of your identity, culture, family, and been forced to serve in a foreign culture and language. How would you respond? Where would you find strength in the midst of that situation?*

**CHARACTERIZATION**

Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Joseph | Potiphar | Potiphar's wife |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | Where do you see God carrying out the promise of Genesis 12:3 in this passage? List every verse in this passage that notes God's presence or favor given to Joseph.

*To what other characters in Genesis has God given a test of obedience or temptation? In what ways does Joseph's response compare or contrast?*

**APPLICATION** | Do you sense God working in the midst of your successes and failures? How much credit do you tend to give him when you find favor with others?

How does Joseph's story teach us we should respond to changing circumstances?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 2 :: Genesis 40–41

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

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Genesis 40
*stepbible.org*

**SETTING** | Look up Genesis 40 at ***stepbible.org***, click on the word ***dungeon*** in v. 15, then click the "70x" in the word analysis panel (at the right) for ***bor***. Scan through the uses of this word in Genesis and also the Psalms and Isaiah.

Where do you see echoes of this word in chapters you've already read in Genesis?

Who does God use to pull Joseph from the ***bor*** (41:14)?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Joseph | Cupbearer | Baker | Pharaoh |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | Read Psalm 105:7–22. Who does the psalmist say is responsible for all the events in Joseph's life so far?

*What is your reaction to the way that God is characterized in Psalm 105:16–17?*

What other Jewish exile interpreted dreams for a foreign king hundreds of years after Joseph? What parallels do you see between his life and Joseph's?

*"Dreams in the ancient world were thought to offer information from the divine realm and were therefore taken very seriously. Some dreams, given to prophets and kings, were considered a means of divine revelation." **

**APPLICATION** | Notice how much time has passed between chapters 40 and 41 (see 41:1). Have you ever endured a period of waiting on God? What was that like? What did you learn?

Think of an area of current discouragement. Where have you seen God's faithfulness in the midst of it? How are you being called to be faithful? Write a short note reminding yourself of how God sees you and will remain faithful.

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 3 :: Genesis 42–43:14

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

*Why do you think Jacob kept Benjamin home when he sent the 10 brothers to Egypt? Why do you think Joseph insisted that his brothers bring Benjamin to him?*

*Why do you think Joseph imprisoned Simeon? Why did he put the silver back in his brothers' bags?*

**SETTING** | Imagine how the 17-year-old Hebrew boy Joseph has changed after all this time in Egypt. What cultural influences might have contributed to his brothers' failure to recognize him?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Joseph | Jacob | Reuben | Judah |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | *Compare Reuben's pledge to his father in 42:37–38 to Judah's pledge to his father in 43:8–14. Why do you think Jacob might have rejected Reuben but given in to Judah?*

How does the theme of testing play out in this narrative?

**APPLICATION** | Why do you think it is important for us to acknowledge our guilt?

Has God ever dealt with your guilt in a gracious manner? Have you ever envisioned him weeping as Joseph did when you finally acknowledged your sin against him? Write a brief prayer of gratitude, thanking God for his mercy and kindness.

prayer

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 4 :: Genesis 43:15–45:28

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

*Why do you think Joseph plotted to test the brothers yet again (44:2)?*

What is the temptation the steward offers the brothers when he reveals the stolen silver cup (44:10), and that Joseph offers again when the brothers return to his house (44:17)?

**SETTING** | Imagine what the brothers were feeling as they traveled the short distance back to Egypt after the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. Write down a few things they might have been feeling or saying to one another.

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Joseph | Joseph's steward | Judah |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | Who tore their clothes in Genesis 37? Who tears their clothes in Genesis 44:13? What is different in this story about Benjamin's brush with enslavement and Joseph's enslavement?

Read Luke 15:11–24. What similarities do you see between the parable and this story?

**APPLICATION** | Name a time when God changed your heart regarding a situation, relationship, or particular sin. Do you remember a feeling of freedom, release, or joy following that heart change? How would you describe it?

## prayer

Can you think of a challenging situation or estranged relationship you are tempted to give up on because you don't see anything changing? Write a brief prayer thanking God for his faithfulness and asking him to continue working on heart-change for all the people involved.

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 5 :: Genesis 39–45

OVERview

Continue to review your memorization of Genesis 12:1–3.

Reread Genesis 45:4–8. What was the guiding principle for Joseph that allowed him to forgive his brothers for the evil they perpetrated against him? Is there anyone you need to forgive, whose evil/selfish actions God has used for good, to shape and form you?

What aspect of humanity did you most resonate with this week?

What aspect of God's big story stood out the most to you this week? What aspect of God's character stood out the most to you this week?

notes

notes

session 10

# JACOB GOES TO EGYPT

*Genesis 46-50*

# day 1 :: Genesis 46:1–47:12

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

**SETTING** | *Find Beer-sheba (Genesis 46:5) on the map. What boundary does this town represent both physically and spiritually for Jacob?*

**CHARACTERIZATION**

Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Jacob | Judah | Joseph | Pharaoh |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | What thoughts do you think might have been swirling in Jacob's mind as he stopped to worship and rest in Beer-sheba (compare with Genesis 23–24; 26:1–3; 28:10–15)?

Why do you think the biblical author stops to list the 70 persons of Jacob's household as they arrive in Egypt?

*Think back on Jacob's life since his birth in chapter 25. How has his character and his faith in God changed over time?*

**APPLICATION** | As you think about the character arc of Jacob, are there any ways in which you can relate to him? How so?

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 2 :: Genesis 47:13–48:22

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

**SETTING** | Why would a famine have been a more significant disruption of life in the ancient world than in the United States today?

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Joseph | The Egyptian people | Jacob |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | What similarities and differences do you see between Jacob's blessing of Joseph's sons and Isaac's intent to bless his sons (Genesis 25:23; 27:1–40)?

Read Hebrews 11:21. What does the author of Hebrews note about Jacob's blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh?

Contrast Jacob's rough start but faithful finish to other biblical characters who started faithfully but didn't finish well.

**APPLICATION** | How might you pass on trust in God's yet-to-be-fulfilled promises to younger generations? Take a moment to pray and write down any ideas that come to mind.

What questions do you have about this passage?

prayer

# day 3 :: Genesis 49

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

**SETTING** | *Why do you think it was so important to Jacob that he be buried with his ancestors?*

**CHARACTERIZATION**
Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Jacob |
| --- | --- |
| | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | In what ways do you continue to see the "first will be last" theme in this passage?

*Look back at Genesis 34:25 and 35:22. How do the blessings of Reuben, Simeon, and Levi reflect their earlier actions?*

*Read Revelation 5:5–10. How does Jesus fulfill Jacob's blessing on Judah as well as God's promise in Genesis 12:3?*

**APPLICATION** | Write a short prayer asking God for the courage and wisdom to leave a legacy of faith to your descendants and circle of influence.

prayer

What questions do you have about this passage?

# day 4 :: Genesis 50

**OBSERVATIONS** | Read the passage. What stands out to you?

*"Embalming involved removing the internal organs and placing of the body in embalming fluids for forty days. The idea behind this is based on the Egyptian belief that the body had to be preserved as a repository for the soul after death. The bodies of Jacob and Joseph are embalmed, and while this may have been done to soothe the feelings of the Egyptians, it also served the purpose of preserving their bodies for later burial in Canaan." **

**PLOT** | Write 1–2 sentences summarizing what is happening in the text.

Why do you think Pharaoh invested so much into mourning for Jacob?

**SETTING** | *In Genesis 15 and 17, God promised Abraham blessings, land, and descendants. How have each of these begun to be fulfilled?*

**CHARACTERIZATION**

Write a few words or phrases that describe the following characters in these verses.

| God | Joseph | Pharaoh | Joseph's brothers |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS AND THEMES** | How are Joseph's words in v. 20 also true of the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus?

*Read Hebrews 11:13–16. How is the believer's situation today similar to the longing for the promised land experienced by the main characters in Genesis?*

Read Hebrews 11:22. Why do you think the author of Hebrews mentions these final words of faith from Joseph?

**APPLICATION** | In what ways do you feel as though you are sojourning far from home? Write a short prayer asking God to be faithful to bring you into his promised land.

prayer

What questions do you have about this passage?

*Reflect on your memorized verses from Genesis 12. How has its meaning grown richer for you over the course of this study?*

What aspect of humanity did you most resonate with this week?

What aspect of God's big story stood out the most to you this week? What aspect of God's character stood out the most to you this week?

OVERview

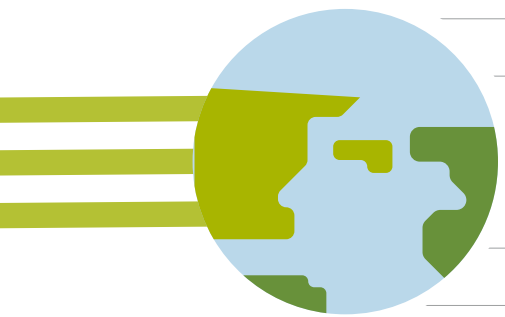
Watch the BibleProject video on Genesis 12–50 as a summary of this study.

cckc.church/genesis2/

Genesis 12–50

Reflect on this study, going back to God's call of Abraham in Genesis 12. How has God used broken people and their frequently wicked actions to bring about his purposes?

notes



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