

# Read through the Bible

Genesis  
Week 6



*Monday, November Eighteenth*

When families sit down for their Thanksgiving dinners next week, many of them will sit in a specific order around the table. For example, a grandparent may sit at the head of the table, adult siblings might sit next to one another, and the young ones will likely find themselves sitting at “the kid’s table.” In today’s passage, Joseph’s brothers are seated in a very specific order.

*Read:* Genesis 43:1-34

*Reflect:* Use the passage to work through these questions

- What did Judah guarantee his father? (see verses 7-10)
- How did Joseph’s brothers try to resolve the issue with the silver they had found in their bags? (see verses 18-22)
- Why were Joseph’s brothers astonished? (see verse 33)

Consider how bizarre this experience must have been. Nobody besides the brothers knew their birth order, and yet, they were all seated by the royal attendants in exactly this order! What are the odds of that?! While the brothers might have thought this was incredible happenstance, we – the readers – know that this was all orchestrated by Joseph.

- What was different about Benjamin’s portion of food? (see verse 34)

Long ago, the brothers became jealous of Joseph’s favor with Jacob, and thus, sold him into slavery. Now, years later, it appears that Joseph decided to test them by giving Benjamin (the youngest brother) a much larger portion of food than everyone else. How would they react? Had they changed after all these years? Our passage today suggests that, perhaps, they had.

*Respond:* Apply what you’ve learned in prayer and action

Joseph still had to decide whether or not to make himself known to his brothers. What is something that you are still deciding? How might you bring that decision to God for guidance?

## Tuesday, November Nineteenth

Suppose you have extended family over to your house for dinner. Before the meal is served, some of the kids are running around the house chasing each other when, all of a sudden, one of them brushes up against a side table and breaks one of your precious lamps. You now have a decision to make: do you punish the child, or do you show her or him mercy? In today's passage, Joseph has a decision to make when his brothers beg for mercy.

*Read:* Genesis 44:1-34

*Reflect:* Use the passage to work through these questions

- What did Joseph try and do? (see verses 1-5)
- How did Joseph's brothers respond? (see verses 6-9)
- Why was the discovery of the cup (vv. 11-13) so tragic given Judah's promise to his father in 43:8-9?

In chapter 43, Judah made a promise to Jacob that no harm would come to Benjamin. But now, Benjamin was to be made a slave for allegedly stealing Joseph's cup. How would Judah be able to go back and face his father without his youngest brother?

- How did Judah try and resolve this challenging situation? (see verses 30-34)

Was this what Joseph wanted? For his brothers to plead with him for mercy? Whether he expected this plea or not, Joseph now had an important decision to make. Would he do to his brothers what they had done to him, or would he do something different and show them mercy? This is the climax of Joseph's story, and we will find out the answer in tomorrow's passage. Stay tuned!

*Respond:* Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Think of somebody who has begged you for mercy. How did you respond? Why did you respond in the way that you did? In light of the mercy that God has shown to us through His Son, consider how you might show mercy to someone in a current or future situation.

## Wednesday, November Twentieth

Remember that TV show, *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*? After taking houses in disarray and remodeling them for families in need, the end of each episode would have a "grand reveal" moment when the workers would move a big bus parked in front of the home so the family could see their new house for the first time. In today's passage, Joseph has his own "grand reveal" moment.

*Read:* Genesis 45:1-28

*Reflect:* Use the passage to work through these questions

- How did Joseph respond to Judah's plea? (see verses 1-2)
- How did Joseph explain to his brothers why their action of selling him into slavery had actually turned out to be a good thing? (see verses 4-8)

When Joseph was sold into slavery years ago, he had no idea that he would end up becoming the person in charge of Egypt. But now, having reflected on everything that had happened, Joseph realized that God had worked through a bad situation to bring about some important changes in his own life and in the lives of so many people. In this sense, Joseph was no longer angry at his brothers because he now understood that it was God who had sent him to Egypt (v. 8) so that he might help save countless lives during the famine (v. 5). As Christians, this point is not lost on us – much like Joseph, Jesus was sent into the world in order to save countless lives by reconciling us to our God. Because of Jesus' death and sacrifice on the cross, we have become new creations in Him!

- How did Joseph demonstrate that he was willing to reconcile with his brothers? (see verses 14-15)
- How did Jacob respond to his sons' news? (see verses 25-28)

*Respond:* Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

How has God worked through a bad situation to bring about some important changes in your own life? Take some time today to thank God for His continued presence in your life.

## Thursday, November Twenty-First

Over the past few years, some people have given their friends and family members DNA test kits for Christmas. The idea is not only to learn about your family's ancestry, but also to possibly connect you with living family members that you may not have even known about. Since the inception of these kits, many people around the United States have been able to locate and connect with relatives they have not seen in a long time or have never met before. In today's passage, Joseph and Jacob reunite after a long time apart.

*Read:* Genesis 46:1-34

*Reflect:* Use the passage to work through these questions

- How did God reassure Jacob as he set out for Egypt? (see verses 2-4)

Take a look back at what took place in Genesis 28:10-17. At that time, when Jacob was about to leave the area that would eventually become the Promised Land, God appeared to him in a dream. Now, 40 years later, as Jacob was about to leave the area of the Promised Land again, God appeared to him in another dream. The things that God said in these verses (vv. 2-4) will serve as the main storyline for the book of Exodus.

- How does the account in verses 8-25 indicate how much Jacob's family had already grown?
- How did Joseph and Jacob react upon seeing each other for the first time in many years? (see verses 29-30)
- Why did Joseph give his brothers specific instructions? (see verses 31-34)

Back then, many Egyptians considered sheep to unclean, and thus, detested shepherds.

*Respond:* Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

If you are not used to reading the Bible on a consistent basis, consider how regularly reading God's Word might help to reassure you of His presence and promises for you.

## Friday, November Twenty-Second

Recently, Pastor Paul talked about how we can welcome people and demonstrate hospitality to them. This practice is often easiest when those people are kind and courteous to us. But how much harder is it to be hospitable to those who are hurtful and cruel to us? In today's passage, Joseph continues to be confronted with opportunities to show hospitality to his brothers who had once mistreated him and had sold him into slavery.

*Read:* Genesis 47:1-31

*Reflect:* Use the passage to work through these questions

- How did Joseph take care of his father, brothers, and their families? (see verses 11-12)

Joseph treated his family very well even after his brothers had repeatedly mistreated him. Joseph's example is a great reminder of what Paul says in Romans 12:14 – "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."

- How did Joseph work to resolve the issue of the famine? (see verses 13-17)
- How did much of the land in Egypt come to belong to Pharaoh? (see verses 18-26)
- What request did Jacob make of Joseph? (see verses 28-30)

Jacob did not want to be buried in Egypt. Instead, he wanted to be buried in the land promised to his ancestors. In this way, Jacob demonstrated that he understood the importance of the covenant that God had made with his grandfather, Abraham.

*Respond:* Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Consider Joseph's hospitality to his brothers and Paul's words in Romans 12:14 from above. The next time somebody persecutes you, reflect upon how you might bless them in response. If somebody is currently giving you a hard time, ask God to provide a way for you to bless them today.

## Saturday, November Twenty-Third

When people near death, they often take the remaining time they have to pass on important messages to their family members.

Sometimes, these messages center on what the person is leaving behind (property, belongings, items of sentimental value, etc.). Other times, they are simply looking to communicate their love to their family members, especially if they feel they had failed to adequately do so in the past. In today's passage, Jacob passes on an important message to Joseph as he nears his death.

*Read:* Genesis 48:1-49:33

*Reflect:* Use the passage to work through these questions

- What important information did Jacob share with Joseph? (see 48:3-4)

Jacob knew of the covenant that God had made with his grandfather, Abraham, but now he wanted his son, Joseph, to know as well.

- What mistake did Jacob make, and how did Joseph try to correct it? (see 48:13-18)
- Skim through 49:2-27. How did Jacob's blessings amongst his sons differ?
- Before he died, where did Jacob say he wanted to be buried? (see 49:29-32)

Jacob wanted to be buried next to his grandparents, his parents, and his one wife, Leah. As Jacob's final wish, Joseph and his brothers would work to ensure that this was accomplished.

*Respond:* Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

In today's passage, Jacob verbally passed on the promises of God to Joseph. Consider the young people in your life (children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc.). In what ways have you verbally passed on the promises of God to them? If not, how might you do so?

## Sunday, November Twenty-Fourth

Today, we come to the end of the book of Genesis. While we have reached the end of these particular stories (Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and more), the larger story of God as Creator and Redeemer continues on. In fact, all of these events that you have read over these past six weeks all point us to the ultimate event in history – the coming of Jesus into the world to accomplish the promises of God to His people.

*Read:* Genesis 42:1-38

*Reflect:* Use the passage to work through these questions

- Did Jacob's sons fulfill his final wish? (see verses 12-13)
- Now that Jacob was dead, what was Joseph's brothers' concern? (see verse 15)
- How did Joseph respond? (see verses 16-21)
- How did Joseph pass on the message of God's covenant to his brothers? (see verses 24-25)

*Respond:* Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

As you complete this journey through Genesis, think about what has been going on in your life over these past six weeks. What are you thankful for? What are you still concerned about? In what ways have you grown? Take some time to pray through these things with your Creator and Redeemer.

*Well, that's the end of the book of Genesis! I pray your time in God's Word has filled you with newfound perspective as you made your way through this account of God as Creator and Redeemer! It has truly been a pleasure reading along with you. Have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas, and I'll be back in time for Lent with our next book of the Bible...Mark. – Pastor Chris*

Questions? Comments? Contact Pastor Chris at [chris.futch@oursaviorfl.org](mailto:chris.futch@oursaviorfl.org) or (727) 344-2684.