

LifeGroup Study Sheet

Nov 10th – Living the Dream – Genesis 47-49

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Have you ever used the phrase “God bless you” to someone who has no idea what it means? What do you mean when you say that phrase? We use the phrases “God bless America, God bless this food, God bless our Troops” What does all of that ultimately mean from God's perspective?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Genesis 47-48:4. In this part of the story we see God's blessings through His Provisions and Promises! Pastor Jeff focused on several ways God provided blessings through provisions. How has God provided for you? Take time to write down how the Lord has provided for you in these ways, either currently or in the past: Job/Work (47:3), Skills (47:6), Food (47:12), Discernment (47:25).

In the later part of this passage, we see how God continues to provide for the people of Israel, even in Egypt and during a famine. In **Genesis 47:27** we see the people of Israel flourishing in a time where Egypt was struggling. God holds onto his promise to always provide for Israel. How can you remember Christ's promises to you in the middle of a “dry” season or “famine”? How does Jesus remind us of his promises in **Matthew 6:31-34**?

Question 2: Read Genesis 48:5-21. In this part of the story, we see the incredible blessings of God working out His Plan. Jacob blesses both of Joseph's sons that were born in Egypt, all of whom Jacob thought he would never see! The amazing part of this story is God welcomes into the family of God, two Egyptian born sons, into the promises of God. These sons will be treated equally in the family of Israel just as Reuben and Simeon are! How does this picture show you the story of “Grace” found in the Gospel? How does this foreshadow what is fully realized in Christ?

Read **Romans 1:16 and 11:11-13.**

Question 3: Read Genesis 49:1-28. This is a tremendous account of Jacob passing along his inheritance and prophetic blessings onto his sons. These 12 sons would eventually become the 12 tribes of Israel. In these blessings/prophecies show us that the way these 12 sons lived their lives, would eventually affect those who came after them. How do these things that Jacob sees from the past, current and future character of his sons

warn us about the people we are becoming? How should Jacob's warnings to his sons about their spiritual weaknesses give us a similar warning about the weaknesses in our own lives? Moses clearly thought making sure this conversation from Jacob to his sons was important enough to record in the Scriptures. How is it warning you today? Out of the character of these 12 sons, which are you currently most like? How is God trying to shape you?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?

“The Blessing of God” (4 Blessings of God)

1. The Blessing of God's provision (Gen. 47:1-25)

How has God provided for you?

- Job (47:3)
- Skills (47:6)
- Food (47:12)
- **Discernment (47:25)**

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2. The Blessing of God’s promises (Gen. 47:26-Gen. 48:4)

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3. The Blessing of God’s plan (Gen. 48:5-21)
4. The Blessing of God’s presence (Gen. 49:1-28)

“The Blessing of God” (Genesis 47-49)

What does it mean to be blessed by God?

“To experience the full impact of God’s presence
in our lives now and for all eternity”

“It is a spiritual state of joy filled contentment
that regardless of my circumstances

“The Blessing of God” (Genesis 47-49)

What does it mean to be blessed by God?

1. God’s blessing is based on God’s grace, not man’s goodness.
2. God’s blessing is more about His relationship than His rewards.
3. God’s blessing does not mean we are exempt from suffering.
4. **God’s blessing cannot be measured by the world’s standard.**