

BEND, DON'T BREAK

STUDY GUIDE

A Churchwide Study on Joseph and Judah



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INTRODUCTION

All too often life feels out of control, and chaos appears to loom in every direction. From frustrations with political leaders to complications in family relationships, from struggles with finances to anxieties surrounding both physical and mental health, life can seem like a dark, endless tunnel, leaving you feeling paralyzed and powerless. When your life feels this dark and chaotic, when you have no ability to control your circumstances, do you break into pieces, utterly overwhelmed and helpless? What if you could bend instead of break? Together, let's take a look at how Joseph, a man who had every reason to break under the weight of his

circumstances, learned to bend through the faithfulness and provision of God. We will also focus on his brother Judah, whose story weaves through Joseph's and ultimately results in his placement in the lineage of Christ.

The account of Joseph's life is found in the second half of Genesis, written by Moses in approximately 1440-1400 BC. Each week, you'll see how Joseph's story is part of a much bigger story—God saving a broken family from starvation and making them into a nation that would bring forth His Son to save many.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

This 6-week study aligns with Pastor Jeff's messages each week, so the verses Jeff speaks from on Sunday will be the same ones you study that week. Since Jeff uses the New International Version (NIV) in his messages, this study also uses the NIV throughout (unless otherwise indicated).

Before you begin this study, take time to watch a video from thebibleproject.com (you can also find this video on YouTube) called The Book of Genesis: Part 2. This brief video will give you a solid foundation to start this journey.

Do not feel pressure to take notes or research during this reading time; simply read and let God's Word speak to you. Feel free to read a different translation each time (ESV, NASB, CSB, NLT, even The Message, all of which can be found for free on the YouVersion app or online). You can also listen to Genesis via audio recordings on YouVersion.

HOMEWORK

Complete each week's questions before meeting with your group. There are 8-12 questions per week; some questions are quicker to answer than others, and some weeks cover more ground in Genesis than others. To avoid cramming all the work in the day before, or even hours before, your group meets, try to spread out the study over several days, doing more questions on the days you have more time.

REPETITIVE READING

Aim to read through each week's selections from Genesis 3-5x a week. Repetitive reading is so effective in experiencing how God's Word is "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12). Oftentimes each reading provides new insight, additional details, etc. that might not have surfaced during one reading alone.

BIBLICAL GENRE: HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

We use the term “genre” to categorize literature, music, and art. For example, a movie could be classified as sci-fi, romance or action. Books fall into categories like fiction, nonfiction, biography, etc. Likewise, the Bible uses various genres to tell the big story of God—His rule and reign through creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration (the Bible’s **metanarrative**). The Biblical genres include historical narrative, law, poetry, wisdom literature, prophecy, parables, and epistles. All of these genres work together to help us understand God’s sovereignty and goodness throughout Scripture. The book of Genesis falls into the genre of historical narrative, which comprises a large portion of the Old Testament and also includes the four gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the book of Acts.

“Understanding the components of historical narrative is immensely important for several reasons. First, it makes up a huge part of our Bible. It is not good for us to ignore or avoid entire genres of our sacred Scriptures. Second, most of the historical narrative in the Bible has to do with the entire foundation of our faith; the story of God and Israel provides context and details to the rest of the Bible that would not otherwise make sense. For example, when we understand the rebellious history of Israel, we can then understand the words of the prophets urging Israel toward repentance. Likewise, when we understand the story of Adam and Eve in Eden and the fall of mankind, we are better equipped to understand the imagery and promise told to us at the end of Revelation wherein we receive a glimpse into Christ making all things new. We see God at work when we read historical narratives. We see Him telling us His divine story, thousands of years after the fact.”¹

Pay close attention to the plot when reading historical narrative. Each book of the Bible contains a plot, but remember that Scripture’s metanarrative

(creation, fall, redemption, restoration) provides the overarching context for all of the smaller narratives found in the Word.

“The story of Scripture falls into four major plot movements: creation, fall, redemption, and consummation [restoration]. Creation looks back to Genesis 1-2, when God created the universe and called it good. In the fall of Genesis 3, Adam and Eve sinned against God, and all of humanity became sinful through them and inherited the punishment for sin, which is death. Throughout the Bible, God is working to bring out redemption for His people, which is accomplished through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When Christ returns, He will bring about the [restoration] of His kingdom, when all that is lost will be restored, and God will dwell with His people again. Everything within Scripture fits within this grand narrative.”²

When you read the story of Cain and Abel, use the context of the fall from Genesis 3. When you study Jesus’ ministry in any of the gospels, notice how Jesus works to redeem hopeless people in hopeless circumstances.

So, as Joseph’s story unfolds in Genesis, look for the conflict or problem that arises in the text, the rising action (steps taken to solve the problem) to the climax (the moment of intensity where the outcome becomes clear) and the final resolution (how is the problem solved). Consider how Joseph’s story fits within the metanarrative of Scripture, which is a question you and your group will answer each week.

¹ Sarah Morrison and Kristin Schmucker. *The Bible Handbook* (Spring, TX: The Daily Grace Co, 2020), pg. 5.

² Ibid

Character development in biblical narrative differs from what modern, westernized readers are used to. The Bible does not usually offer comprehensive background about characters; instead, we learn more about characters through their actions as the story progresses. At times, a character's name might provide additional insight, but in general, the majority of what we learn is based on inference.

Be aware that Biblical characters and their actions do not automatically set an example for us to follow; only Jesus provides that perfect model. Some stories and their characters are simply descriptive, while some are prescriptive. Pray for discernment and ask questions of the text: Does Scripture condone or condemn the person's actions? Does the person's decisions and behaviors align with the commands of God's Word? Remember that God's people in Scripture mirror us — sinful people in desperate need of a Savior.

Setting of a historical narrative offers additional layers of understanding to the meaning and message of the story. Identifying the time and place in which a story occurs will lead you to additional insight. In Joseph's story, pay close attention to where scenes unfold, think about the associations of each location, and note how much time has passed between scenes. All of these details will enrich your study of Joseph, but even more so, you will see how God weaves details in order to show you His glory and ultimate plan for salvation through Jesus.

“The Bible is a sacred text given to us by God about God. He is the ultimate storyteller, the divine author of all the happenings of the metanarrative of Scripture. God has artfully woven together everything in the Bible, and He has used literary techniques that we understand to do so. Recognizing the Bible as divine, inspired literature enables us as readers to glean more from it than from any other written material ever given.”³

³. Ibid

GENESIS: BACKGROUND

The opening words to the book of Genesis speak loudly: “In the beginning, God...” Through the hand of Moses guided by the hand of God, this book tells of the creation of the heavens, the earth and all animals, plants, and mankind within it. God called it all good, but due to lies of the serpent and the unbelief of Adam and Eve, sin entered in and the world broke under its weight. That brokenness needed a solution. Even though God could have destroyed all that was marred by sin, He made a promise to His people: a Savior would come who would crush the serpent who deceived mankind. Naked and ashamed, Adam and Eve learned that sacrifice for sin is necessary as God provides an animal skin to clothe them, which points to the perfect, spotless sacrifice of Jesus as payment for our sin.

Genesis continues, and the problem of sin continues to wreak havoc through the stories of Cain and Abel, the flood, and the tower of Babel, and while the chaos persists, so does God’s faithfulness and provision. In Chapter 12, the narrative focuses on God’s relationship with Abraham and his family. God makes a covenant with Abraham to make him into a great nation, to give his descendants the Promised Land, and to bless all the nations of the world through Abraham’s offspring (Genesis 12, 15, and 17). God’s commitment to that covenant is a persistent theme throughout the Old and New Testaments.

A distinct family tree emerges from Abraham and forms the twelve tribes of Israel (see Appendix A). As we focus on the story Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob (whose name becomes Israel), look for God’s attributes, namely His sovereignty and faithfulness, throughout the plot movements, the characters, and the setting of this story. And most of all, consider how this smaller narrative of Joseph reflects the big story of God and His pursuit to redeem brokenness and restore us to Himself.

As a final note, and we say this gently, but firmly: *God’s Word is not about you.* As tempting as it is to open the Bible and look for a sign to make a

decision or a prescription for however you feel, we encourage you to study the Bible in order to know God more, not understand yourself better. Look for His promises, look for His character (see Appendix D for a helpful resource from Jen Wilkin). When you approach His Word with that mindset, prepare to be amazed: You’ll see His beauty and power and goodness, and you’ll also find that there is no end to the “depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God” (Romans 11:33). When you see Him, you will rightly see yourself, a sinner saved by amazing grace who can now find joy and contentment in relationship with Jesus.

As an additional resource on the book of Genesis, see Appendix C where you’ll find a visual breakdown of all the significant stories in this book, as well as other helpful facts.

If you aren’t sure if you are a Christian or you are ready to make that next step, see “How to Become a Christian” in Appendix E.

You can find additional resources for studying Genesis (and the Bible in general) in Appendix F.

WEEK 1: WHEN THINGS ARE GOING WELL

1. In Genesis 12:1, what does the Lord tell Abraham to do?
2. What promise does the Lord give Abraham in verse 2?
3. How does that promise apply to the church today?
4. How is Abraham related to Joseph? (Refer to the family tree in Appendix A.)

“The Abrahamic Covenant is really the beginnings of the formal revelation of the covenant of grace, of God’s decision to reach into humanity and specifically save people for Himself. It comes in the form of a promise to Abraham. Abraham, who’s the son of an idolater, did not know God. God takes the initiative with him, calls him into a relationship with Himself, and makes unilateral promises to Abraham. He promises that Abraham is going to be a great nation, that he is going to be given a land, a place to live, and that through Him, all of the nations will be blessed.”⁴

⁴ “What Is the Abrahamic Covenant?,” Christianity.com, Salem Web Network, www.christianity.com.

5. Let's establish some background to Joseph.
 - Take a moment to look at the provided map (Appendix B). According to Genesis 37:1, where do Jacob and his family live?
 - How old is Joseph (vs. 2)?
 - What work do Joseph and his brothers do?

6. Using the details from Genesis 37:2-4, describe Joseph's relationships with the following:
 - Jacob (also called Israel):

 - his brothers

7. What is Joseph's first dream?
 - How do his brother's respond?

 - Why do they have that reaction?

8. What is Joseph's second dream?
 - This time, Joseph tells his dream to his father and his brothers. Describe how each reacts to the dream.

 - Are those reactions fair? Why or why not?

9. How do you view Joseph at this point? Give reasons for your opinion.
"God used visions in the Old Testament to reveal His plan, to further His plan, and to put His people in places of influence."⁵

⁵ "How Did God Use Dreams and Visions in the Bible?" GotQuestions, Got Questions Ministries, www.gotquestions.org.

Let's shift gears and take a look at another of Jacob's sons, Judah. Read through Genesis 38:1-6.

10. Verse 1 begins by saying "At that time," which references the plot of the previous chapter. What had just happened at the end of Genesis 37? (And no worries, we will connect all these dots as we move through this study.) Why do you think Judah separated from his brothers?

11. Using Genesis 38:1-5, fill in the following blanks:

Judah is friends with _____, an Adullamite.

Judah sleeps with the unnamed daughter of _____ and has three sons with her: _____, _____, and _____.

Judah arranges marriage between his son _____ and _____.

12. At this point in both Joseph and Judah's stories, you may have noticed that neither mentions God or faith. Is that surprising to you? Why do you think Moses would include all of this plot line without acknowledging God?

13. Where do you see the Bible's **metanarrative** (see pg. 4) in this week's study?

"The beauty of Joseph's story is that in the midst of favoritism, jealousy and anger, God is working out His purposes. His covenant promises will prevail despite the sin and brokenness of the people to whom the promises were made. God is faithful. This story would have been much less tumultuous if everyone could have recognized at the time that while God does choose different people for different things, He is altogether good and doesn't show favoritism (Acts 10:34, Romans 2:11). I wish Jacob and the brothers could have known that Joseph's dreams would prove to be good news for them, that they were part of God's story, as well."⁶

⁶ Kelly Minter, *Finding God Faithful: A Study on the Life of Joseph* (Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2020), 26.

NOTES:

GENESIS 12:1-3, 37:1-11, 38:1-6 • 11

WEEK 2: WHEN BETRAYAL HAPPENS

1. Take a moment to read over Genesis 12:1-3 again. What is the theological term for this promise of God?
2. Read Genesis 37:12-17.
 - Where do Joseph's brothers initially pasture their father's flocks?
 - What does Israel (Jacob) ask Joseph to do?
 - How does Joseph eventually find his brothers? Where are they?
3. Read Genesis 37:18-24.
 - When Joseph's brothers see him coming from a distance, they decide to kill him. Why would they want to take such extreme action? (Think back to the dreams from last week).
 - What is their plan?
 - Which brother objects? How does he amend the plan? What does he ultimately want to do with Joseph?
4. This moment with Joseph being mistreated by his brothers, stripped of his robe, and thrown into a pit points to a much greater betrayal we see with Jesus in the gospels. Explain that connection.
5. What does the brothers' behavior reveal about the nature of jealousy and envy? Refer to James 3:14-17 for additional insight.
6. Read Genesis 37:25-28.
 - What does the fact that the brothers sit down to eat after throwing Joseph into a pit reveal about them?
 - Whom do they see coming from Gilead?

- What is Judah's new plan for Joseph? Explain his reasoning.
- Where is Joseph now headed?

7. Read Genesis 37:29-34.

- Verse 29 indicates that Reuben was not present when Judah and the other brothers sold Joseph. How does he respond to Joseph not being in the pit? Why do you think he has this response?
- How do the brothers use Joseph's robe to manipulate their father?
- How does Jacob respond?
- While Jacob mourns, what has become of Joseph?

Now let's shift our focus and continue with Judah's story in Genesis 38.

8. Read Genesis 38:7-11.

- As a review, identify the following:
 - Judah
 - Er
 - Tamar
- What becomes of Er, and why?
- Judah then gives Tamar to Onan. Why are Onan's actions considered "evil" to the Lord? How is Onan punished?
- What does Judah then do with Tamar?

9. Fear can often be the root cause of sinful reactions that can lead to devastating consequences.

- Where do you see fear with Joseph's brothers?
- Where do you see fear with Judah's storyline in Genesis 38?

- How can fear be righteous? What insight do the following verses offer?
 - Job 28:28
 - Psalms 115:11
 - Proverbs 3:7
 - Matthew 10:28

10. Looking at all of the ground covered this week, where do you see the Lord's hand?

11. Betrayal is deeply painful, but it can also be redeemed. If you're willing, share with your group an experience you've had with betrayal, either directly or indirectly. What did that experience teach you about God?

12. Where do you see the Bible's **metanarrative** in this week's study?

"..If Jacob's twelve sons — if those twelve tribes, through whom the Savior of the world was to come — if they were destroyed, especially the tribe of Judah, God's plan for this creation would fail. What we call the story of Joseph (Genesis 37–50 — almost a third of the book) is the story of how God does not let that happen. No, actually, it's more provocative than that: it's the story of how God himself brings his own people into the life-threatening danger of extinction, all the while planning their unimaginable rescue. He brings his own promise to the brink of failure, only to show that he has been in charge all along, planning a God-exalting deliverance."⁷

⁷ John Piper, "Does God Intent Evil for Our God? Providential Peril for Joseph, Jesus and You." Sermon, Bible Study Fellowship Leadership Summit (June 14, 2020).

14 • GENESIS 37:12-36, 38:7-11

NOTES:

WEEK 3: WHEN LIES BECOME TRUTH

1. Take a moment to read over Genesis 12:1-3 again. What is the theological term for this promise of God?
2. Read Genesis 39:1-6.
 - Where is Joseph now and for whom does he work? Using Genesis 15:14-14, how might this location be linked to the prophecy God gave Abraham?
 - Record the first five words of verse 2 below.
 - Using verses 2-6, provide details that confirm God's favor on Joseph.
3. Recall that prior to these verses, we have not seen Joseph's story mention God or any "good works" for God. Bearing that in mind, what can we then conclude about God's blessing on Joseph?

"In our western culture, we tend to think of God's blessing and our suffering as mutually exclusive. We think of blessing as all the good things happening in the middle of all the good times. But in Joseph's story, we discover something that challenges our mindset, even as believers: Certain blessings can only come in the midst of our suffering. In Egypt, Joseph was wishing in power and position. He had found favor with his master, and his work was prospering. Still, all these blessings fell upon Joseph in a land far away from his family and in a culture that didn't worship his God. The blessings were abounding in the midst of his suffering."⁸

4. Read Genesis 39:7-11.
 - Because of his handsome appearance, Potiphar's wife wants to sleep with Joseph, but he refuses. Explain his reasoning below (vs. 8-9).
 - In verse 9, Joseph notes that betraying his master would be "wicked" and a "sin" against God. Remember, Joseph's story precedes Moses and God giving the 10 Commandments. Why do you think Joseph knew that such behavior would be wrong?
 - Day after day, Potiphar's wife persistently and lustfully pursues Joseph, and Joseph refuses. Using verse 10, note how he responded to her constant advances.

⁸ Kelly Minter, *Finding God Faithful: A Study on the Life of Joseph* (Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2020), 34.

5. Look up the verses below and describe the nature of sin and the Enemy's intentions with it.
 - Genesis 4:7

 - 1 Peter 5:8-9

 - James 1:14-15

 - James 4:7

6. How can we fight temptation to sin? List out some practical strategies, maybe even including a personal example of how God has helped you overcome a particular temptation.

7. Genesis 39:12-18.
 - Summarize what happens between Potiphar's wife and Joseph in verse 12-13.

 - How does Potiphar's wife lie to the men of her household and her husband? What is her motivation to lie?

 - Consider Joseph's state of mind at this point in the story. What kind of emotions and thoughts do you think he is having?

8. Genesis 39:19-23.
 - How does Potiphar respond to his wife's account? What does he do with Joseph?

 - What words do we see again in verse 21 and verse 23?

 - In verses 21-23, how do we see God's continued blessing on Joseph?

“But God was with him, and all his guidance in Joseph's life was according to the dictates of steadfast love, and Joseph knew that, and Joseph feasted on that whether in prison, the palace, or Potiphar's house. This was Joseph's secret of success; what he held onto when everything else in life fell apart.”⁹

⁹ J.D. Greear, “Surely Goodness and Mercy Will Follow Me // Psalm 23 and Joseph.” Sermon, Goodness in the Middle, Raleigh, NC, May 16, 2022.

9. Using Appendix D, what characteristics of God have you seen in this week's study? Specify which verses support each characteristic.

10. For anyone who has placed faith in Jesus, the same favor given to Joseph has been given to us (1 Peter 2:9)—The Lord is WITH us. What difference would it make if you really believed that?

Let's now take a look at the conclusion of Judah and Tamar's account in Genesis 38.

11. Read Genesis 38:12-30.

- Verse 12 indicates a significant amount of time has passed. Consider Tamar during that period, remembering what Judah had promised to her. How might she be feeling? Also bear in mind the culture of the time and the roles to which women were limited.
- What is Tamar's plan once she learns that her father-in-law is in town?
- How does Tamar ensure Judah will be correctly identified?
- What is Judah's initial response to Tamar's pregnancy?
- After realizing he is the father, why does Judah now call Tamar "more righteous" than he is? Keep in mind verses 11 and 14.

12. What parallels can you find between Joseph and Tamar's stories?

13. Where do you see the Bible's **metanarrative** in this week's study?

The account of Judah and Tamar occurs during Joseph's time in Egypt. Judah will cross paths with Joseph again, and we will consider how this unfolding of events with Tamar impacted Judah later in Genesis.

18 • GENESIS 38:12-30, 39

NOTES:

WEEK 4: WHEN GOD WANTS YOU TO WAIT

1. Recall God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. Consider the amount of time between that promise and where we are in Joseph's story. What does this tell you about how God views time versus how we view time?
2. Read Genesis 40:1-8.
"If we look at this part of the story through a human lens, we will only see an abandoned Joseph whose obedience and faithfulness has gotten him nowhere but in a prison. But if we see the story line through the lens of God's purposes, it's at the lowest point of his life that Joseph meets people from the apex of Egyptian society. In simpler terms, sometimes the Lord has to take us lower to orchestrate His bringing us to future heights. Will you trust Him where He has you?"¹⁰
 - Who has now joined Joseph in prison? Of what are they guilty?
 - Both of his fellow prisoners have dreams one night, resulting in what reaction? (vs. 6)
 - Note Joseph's question in verse 7.
 - What does his asking that question reveal about Joseph?
 - How can noticing another's circumstances benefit both the other person and ourselves? Why do you think God designed us that way?
 - In verse 8, Joseph makes a bold statement: "Do not interpretations belong to God?" Where do you think that boldness comes from (think about the repeated phrase from Genesis 39)? What do you think Joseph has concluded about the dreams he had in Genesis 37?
3. Read Genesis 40:9-15, and let's take a look at the chief cupbearer's dream.
 - Describe his dream:
 - What is Joseph's interpretation of his dream?
 - What request does Joseph make of the cupbearer in verse 14?
 - Joseph's reveals some of his mental state in verse 15. How would you describe how he feels?

¹⁰ Kelly Minter, *Finding God Faithful: A Study on the Life of Joseph* (Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2020), 47.

4. Read Genesis 40:16-23.

- Why did the chief baker then share his dream with Joseph?
- Describe his dream:
- How does Joseph interpret his dream?
 - Obviously, his explanation would not be welcome information for the baker. And, as played out in verses 20-22, we see Joseph's interpretation was indeed accurate. To what extent are we accountable to speaking the truth of God? What difference does it make? Consider that there are other people who heard Joseph's interpretations and then saw the outcomes come to pass.
- Verse 23 is hard to read because we, like Joseph, want his current circumstances to change. Yet they didn't. Not yet.
 - Why do you think God allowed Joseph to continue in prison, falsely accused and punished?
 - How do we as Christ followers persevere in seemingly unchangeable, unfair circumstances? What do the following verses suggest?
 - Psalm 130:5
 - Proverbs 3:5
 - Isaiah 41:10
 - 1 Peter 5:6-7

5. Genesis 41:1-13.

- According to verse 1, how long has Joseph been in prison following the chief cupbearer's release?
- Pharaoh has two vivid dreams. Provide details below about what Pharaoh sees and what happens with what he sees (refer to verses 2-7).

DREAM #1

DREAM #2

- How does Pharaoh respond to his dreams, both in thought and action?
- At an opportune time, the chief cupbearer conveniently remembers Joseph. Why do you think he remembers Joseph now? Regardless of his motivation, what does the timing of this moment remind you about God? (Think about His attributes from Appendix D.)

6. Read Genesis 41:14-36.

- So Joseph is pulled out of the pit and then cleans up and changes clothes in order to be presentable to Pharaoh (just think about the smell many years in prison would produce). Before Pharaoh tells him why he's been summoned, what kinds of thoughts and feelings do you think Joseph would be having?
- In verses 15-16, Pharaoh asks for Joseph's interpretation of the dreams. Note how Joseph responds with drawing a clear line between what he (Joseph) is able to do and what God is able to do.
 - Why is this distinction necessary to make?
 - Look up 2 Corinthians 4:4-6. How do Paul's words resemble Joseph's response to Pharaoh?
 - Have you ever had such an opportunity to proclaim God's power and sovereignty? Describe your experience below.
- How does Joseph interpret each dream? Provide details below (refer to verses 25-32).

DREAM #1

DREAM #2

- According to verse 34-36, what plan does Joseph suggest to Pharaoh? Where does his wisdom come from?

7. Read Genesis 41:37-56.

- What association does Pharaoh make with Joseph in verse 38-39? How is that connection an encouragement to Joseph? To you?

“Pharaoh had the smartest and most educated people at his disposal with all his kingdom’s resources, yet it was the Hebrew slave Joseph who had the one thing no one else in Egypt had—the Spirit of the Living God!”¹¹

- Using verses 40-45, list the ways that Pharaoh honors Joseph.
- In verse 46, we read that Joseph is now 30 years old. How many years have passed since his brother sold him into slavery? (Refer to Week 1 & Genesis 37.)
- How does Joseph strategically manage the grain supply in the seven plentiful years? Consider also the Egyptians’ response to his leadership—how do you think they would have regarded him and his directives? Remember that Joseph is a foreigner, a former slave and prisoner, who is now basically second in command to Pharaoh.
- In verse 50-52, we learn details about Joseph’s growing family.
 - What are his sons’ names, and what does each name mean?
 - How can Joseph make such bold statements about God with those names?
 - Do you relate to either of the name’s meanings? In other words, can you think of something that you’ve walked through where you can now see how God has redeemed it? Describe your experience below, and if possible, share with your group.

¹¹: Kelly Minter, *Finding God Faithful: A Study on the Life of Joseph* (Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2020), 70.

8. Consider the impact of the fulfillment of Pharaoh's dreams (the years of plenty and the years of famine) on each of the following:
- Pharaoh

 - Egypt

 - Joseph
9. Where in your life right now are you waiting, perhaps suffering in that waiting? Where do you need assurance of God's plan, His sovereignty and goodness? Write a prayer below asking Him to meet you right in the middle of those circumstances.
10. Where do you see the Bible's **metanarrative** in this week's study?

Verse 57 reveals that the famine consuming Egypt is not limited to just Egypt, reminding us of Joseph's family in Canaan. Next week, we will see how this thread continues.

NOTES:

WEEK 5: WHEN GOD PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY

1. Read Genesis 42:1-13.

- Why does Jacob send his sons to Egypt? Whom does he not send? Why?
- What is significant about the scene in verse 6?
- Why do Joseph's brothers not recognize him?
- Though he recognizes them, Joseph treats his brothers as strangers and speaks to them harshly (vs. 7). He then proceeds to call them spies (vs. 9) who only want to see the decimation of Egypt's land (vs. 9).
 - How do his brothers respond to Joseph?
 - What do you think is Joseph's motive with this treatment of his brothers?
 - How might Joseph have reacted to the brothers' closing statement in verse 13?

2. Read Genesis 42:14-38.

- In verse 15, Joseph proposes a test of their story. What is his plan?
- After three days in prison together, Joseph proposes a revised plan.
 - How is this plan different from the first?
 - What does Joseph send with them? Why is that significant?
- What causes Joseph to weep in verse 24? Why would that be so emotional for him?
- In verse 21 and 28, we gain insight into the brothers' sense of justice and fairness. How do they view their situation?

- After the brothers return to Canaan and explain what happened in Egypt, Jacob and his sons are afraid after emptying their sacks.
 - Why are they afraid?
 - How does Jacob specifically feel in verse 36?
 - What is Reuben's response to his father? What are your thoughts about that response, considering his role in Genesis 37:21-22?
 - What is Jacob's decision in verse 38?
3. Of course, we know what Jacob does not—that Joseph is alive, as is Simeon. Though Jacob carries the promise given to Abraham in Genesis 12, he only sees that all these things are against him (vs. 36), and that perspective leads to despair and hopelessness. Jacob's story echoes our own: Too often we allow our circumstances to speak louder than God's Word to us.
- Write out Romans 8:28 below.

- How does that promise encourage you today?

4. Genesis 43.

The journey from Egypt to Canaan is about ten days, and each of the ten brothers returned with a sack full of grain, at minimum. While we do not know the specific amount of time that has passed since their return to Canaan, we can assume it's been at least 50 days (vs. 10). Remember that Simeon is still in prison in Egypt, and Joseph is awaiting their return with Benjamin (the other son of Rachel). The continued severity of the famine leads Jacob to send his sons to buy food again. Judah reminds Jacob (Israel) that they cannot return without Benjamin.

- How does Jacob respond to that reminder? (vs. 6)
- What does Judah propose in verse 8-9?

- How has Judah changed since Genesis 37 (initially wanting to kill Joseph and then selling him into slavery) and Genesis 38 (Tamar)? Why?

- What does Jacob instruct the brothers to do in verses 11-14?

- When Joseph sees the brothers and Benjamin with them, what does he do? How do the brother's respond?

- Look at verse 23.
 - What do the steward's words reveal about his time serving Joseph?

 - What does that tell us about the impact of our faith on others?

- After asking about the welfare of his father and the identity of his brother Benjamin (whom he already recognizes), Joseph excuses himself, overcome with emotion. Why would he respond this way?

- 5. Grace is when you are given what you do not deserve. The amount of grace Joseph shows towards his brothers at this meal is astounding.
 - Why do you think Joseph treats them with such kindness?

 - Think of a time when you've experienced the lavish grace of God, perhaps directly from His Word or through the actions of another believer. How did that impact you?

 - Who is a person in your life to whom you could show grace? Pray about that opportunity to reflect Jesus. What steps could you take?

6. Read Genesis 44.

- In verses 1-2, what does Joseph command his steward to do? Who is given the silver cup?
- How does Joseph use the cup to test his brothers? Why do you think he tests them in this way?
- How do the brothers respond to the steward's accusation (vs. 9)? Upon seeing who has the cup, what do the brothers do (vs. 13-14)? Why?
- Now before Joseph, Judah shows similar leadership as he did previously to his father. What can you conclude about Judah from his words to Joseph in verses 16-34? What has become more important to Judah than the self-serving, fearful Judah of Genesis 37 and 38?

“Judah’s confessional statement took place thousands of years before the cross of Christ and the unique indwelling of the Holy Spirit (not to mention before the Mosaic Law). Still, in Judah’s response, we sense God’s conviction. Deep within our hearts we know our sin must be paid for and our guilt dealt with. Sometimes we try to make up for our sins by doing a bunch of good things in hopes of erasing the bad things, but the stains are still there. We try to numb our guilt through behaviors and activities that help us escape, but all these vain attempts just multiply our shame. Or, we try to build a worldview that either doesn’t acknowledge sin or celebrates it, yet we’re still left with the consequences. Humanity has tried to handle sin in countless ways, but only One has ever been able—and ever will be able—to forgive sin, to relieve guilt, and to wash away shame.”¹²

7. Remember that the family line of Judah is where Jesus is found, not the line of Joseph. What does that reveal to you about God and His favor, His plan, His heart?

- What encouragement does that give you in spite of your failings and missteps?

8. Where do you see the Bible’s **metanarrative** in this week’s study?

¹¹ Kelly Minter, *Finding God Faithful: A Study on the Life of Joseph* (Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2020), 117.

NOTES:

WEEK 6: WHEN GOD PROVIDES HEALING

1. Read Genesis 45.

- Who is in the room when Joseph reveals his true identity?
- What is his brothers' response?
- Looking at all the details in verses 4-8, note how Joseph speaks to his brothers. What is Joseph's understanding of why he has been in Egypt? How do you think he reached that conclusion? What impact would Joseph's explanation have on his brothers?
- What instructions does he give to his brothers regarding their father Jacob?
- How did Pharaoh respond to the news of Joseph's brothers?
- Describe Jacob's reaction to finding out Joseph is still alive.

2. Consider Joseph's conclusion about the purpose of his time in Egypt (vs. 5 and vs. 8). Can you think of a time when you have understood, even in part, God's purposes for something painful you have endured? What conclusion(s) did you reach? What do those conclusions tell you about who God is? (re: Appendix D)

3. Read Genesis 46.

- Remember that the Abrahamic covenant was made in regards to the people of God flourishing the land of Canaan. Yet, here is Jacob, leaving that very land for Egypt.
 - What kinds of thoughts and feelings might Jacob have been experiencing?
 - How does God care for Jacob in verses 2-4? What does God promise him?

Additional facts: As detailed in verses 8-27, Jacob brings quite the caravan to Egypt, culminating with a total of nearly 75 descendants in Egypt (see Acts 7:14 and a study Bible for explanation of the number). Over the years to come, the number of Jacob's descendants in Egypt multiplies exponentially (hence a different Pharaoh in the book of Exodus feeling deeply threatened by the Israelites). By the time they left Egypt, there were approximately "600,000 men on foot, besides women and children" (Exodus 12:37).

- Who leads the way to Goshen?
 - How does Joseph respond to seeing his father? How does Jacob respond to Joseph?
5. Read Genesis 47.
- Despite Joseph's status, we see humility in his deference to Pharaoh as he promptly reports about his family's arrival in Goshen. Joseph presents five of his brothers (remember how he primed them in Genesis 46:33-34). How does Pharaoh respond to them?
 - Even with his strategic management and preparation, now after two years (and five more to go), Joseph faces additional challenges with the severity of the famine. Using verses 13-25, describe the problems facing the Egyptians and how Joseph responds to each.
 - How long did Jacob live in Egypt? Why do you think he requests his bones not be buried in Egypt? (See Genesis 50:4-14 for what becomes of that request).
5. Read Genesis 49. In verses 1-27, we see Jacob's final words to each of his sons. While each are significant and worthy of study, we will focus on what Jacob says to Judah and Joseph.
- Look at verses 8-12. What kinds of qualities does Jacob attribute to Judah?
 - Verse 10 is one of many moments in the Old Testament that point toward Jesus. How do the following verses from the New Testament confirm "the scepter will not depart from Judah"?
 - Matthew 1:2-3
 - Revelation 5:5

“The most magnificent thing about the Lion of the tribe of Judah in his fulfillment of Jacob’s prophecy is that he lays claim on the obedience of all the peoples of the world not by exploiting our guilt and crushing us with it into submission, but by bearing our guilt and freeing us to love him and praise him and obey with joy forever. The Lion of Judah is the Lamb who was slain.”¹³

- In Jacob’s blessing to Joseph, Jacob uses metaphors to describe Joseph and the challenges that he has faced. In verses 24-25, to whom does Jacob credit for both Joseph’s survival and flourishing? How is that different from the Jacob we observed in Genesis 42? (see Week 5)

6. Read Genesis 50:15-21.

- After Jacob died, Joseph and his brothers fulfilled Jacob’s wish of being buried in Canaan. Upon their return to Egypt, the brothers are fearful of Joseph retaliating now that their father is dead. What do plan do they devise? What does this tell you about the brothers?

- How does Joseph respond to them?

- What do the following verses reveal about God? (Re: Appendix D)

Genesis 50:19

“But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God?”

Genesis 50:20

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

¹³ John Piper, “The Sale of Joseph and the Son of God.” Sermon, Minneapolis, MN, September 9, 2007.

7. Because the Bible truly is one big story, the fingerprints of the gospel—the good news of Jesus’s death and resurrection—are all over the Old Testament. How do you see the gospel reflected in Genesis 50:20?
8. What encouragement can you take from Genesis 50:20 today?
9. Where do you see the Bible’s **metanarrative** in the conclusion of our study?

“Did you hear the echoes of Jesus’ story all through this? One day, many years into the future, another Savior would come and walk the same path Joseph walked. He would be betrayed by his brothers; and then lied about and falsely condemned. Of course, unlike Joseph, Jesus wasn’t just sold into slavery; he was put to death; but like Joseph, he would be raised from that pit to sit onto the highest throne of the land, and like Joseph, instead of exacting vengeance from that throne, he would use his exalted position to forgive and save his brothers. And, like Joseph, he would weep tears of joy when we were reconciled to him.

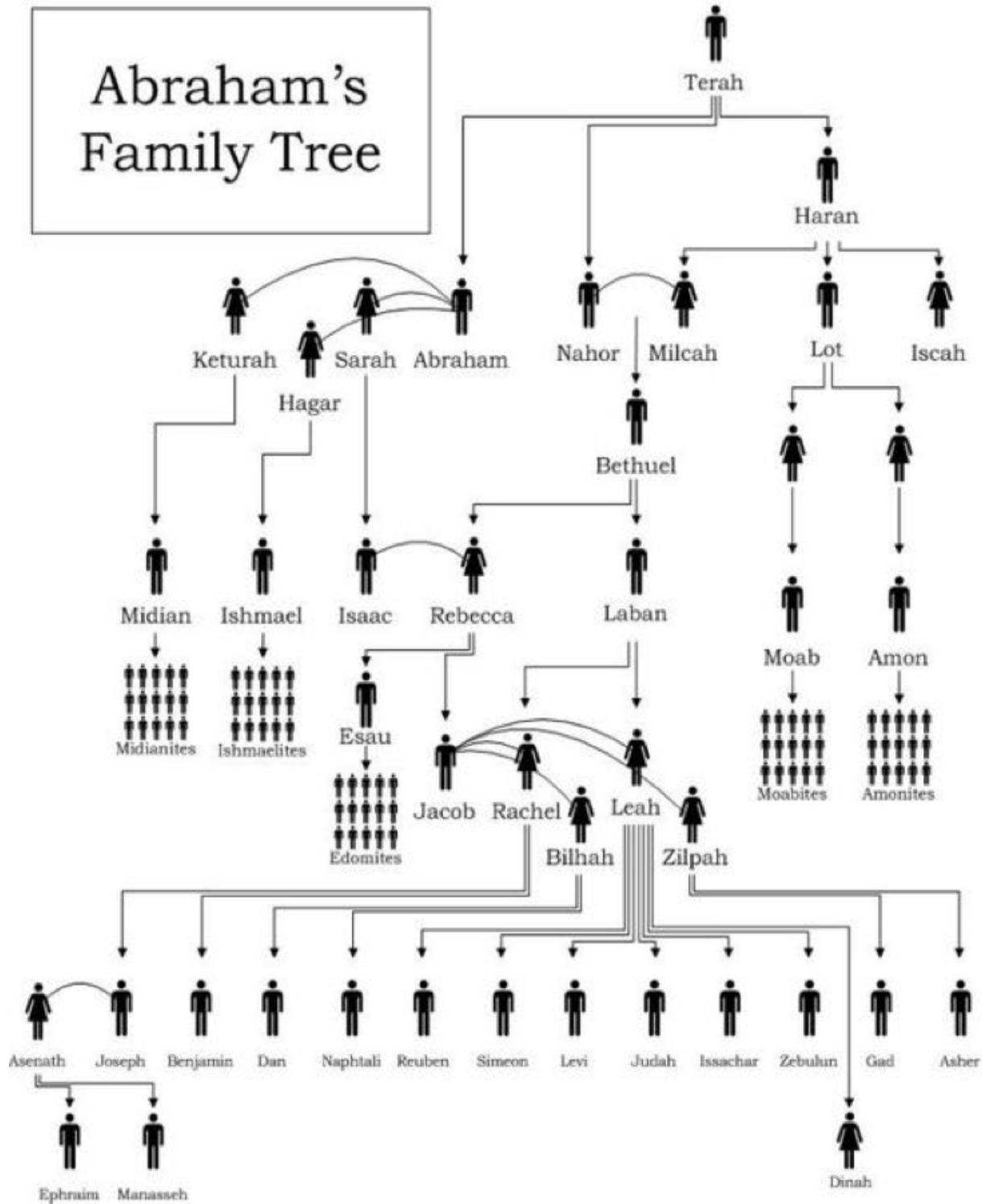
Jesus is the whole point of this story, as he is every story in the Bible. The main point of the Joseph story is not to amaze you with Joseph’s incredible faith; nor is to try and say that regardless of what bad things have happened to you, as long as you avoid the aggressive cougars in your life you’ll be President of the USA one day.

The whole point is to show you that in all things God is fully in control of history, working out his perfect plan to put Jesus on the throne, and to save and glorify the church through his resurrection.”¹⁴

¹⁴ J.D. Greear, “God Is With Me (Joseph).” Sermon, The Whole Story: From Genesis to Revelation, Raleigh, NC, March 6, 2016.

NOTES:

APPENDIX A



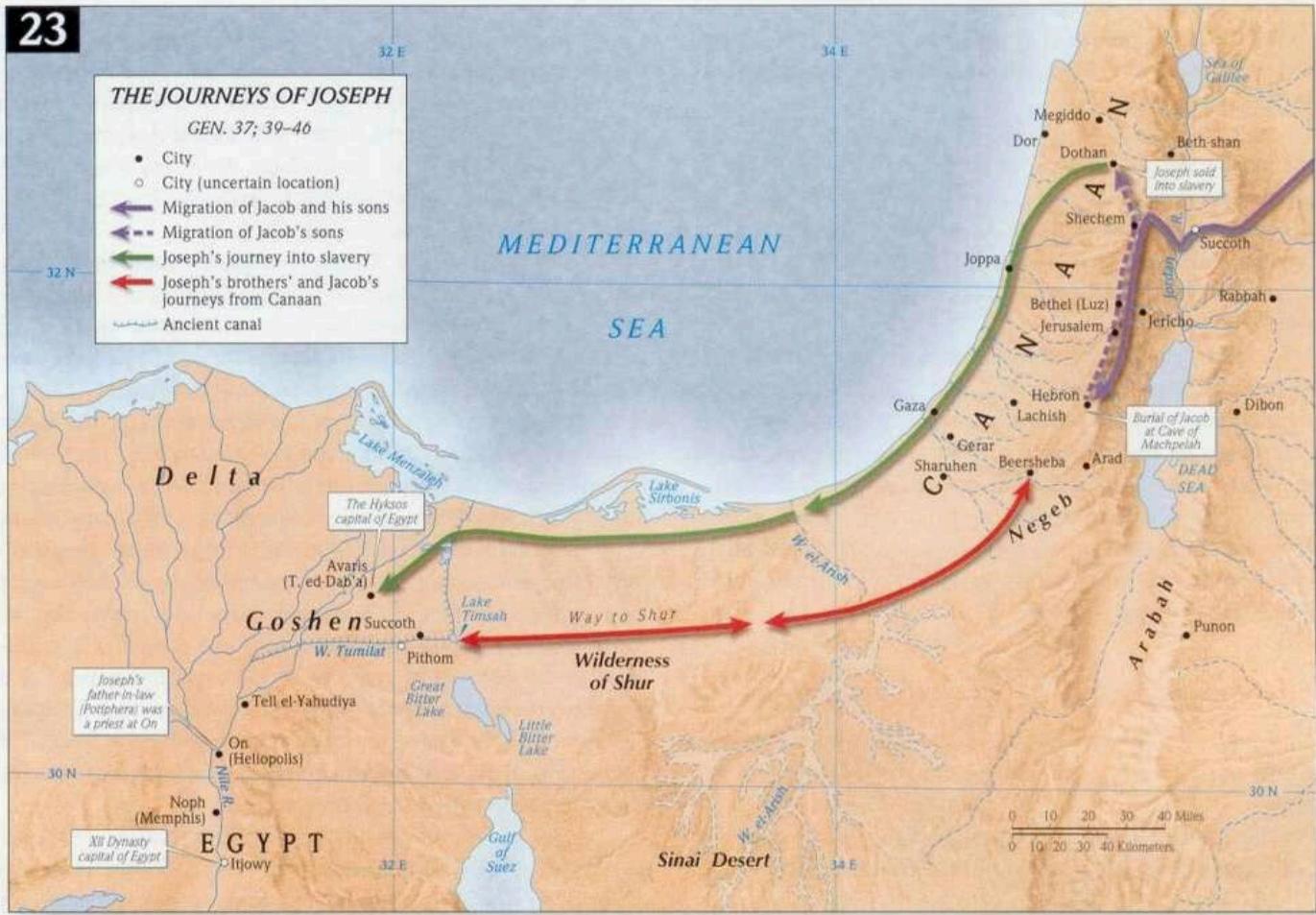
<https://ihavenogreaterjoy.wordpress.com>

APPENDIX B

23

THE JOURNEYS OF JOSEPH
 GEN. 37; 39-46

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Migration of Jacob and his sons
- - - Migration of Jacob's sons
- Joseph's journey into slavery
- Joseph's brothers' and Jacob's journeys from Canaan
- Ancient canal

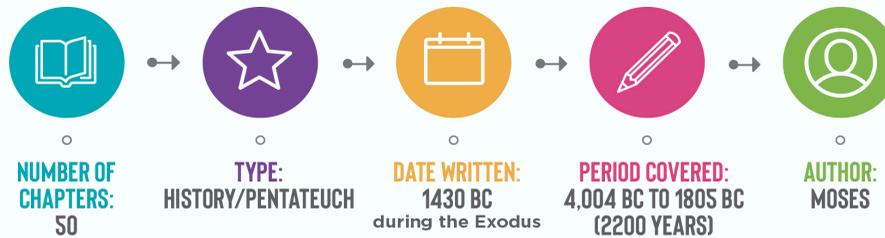


APPENDIX C

GENESIS | 01 OT



Genesis is not only the first Bible book, but also the longest, covering a period of over 2,000 years. Hence it contains many foundational Bible stories including Creation, the Fall of Man, and those involving Father Abraham and four generations of his founding family. It is also the first book of the Pentateuch, the five first books of the Bible, all written by Moses.



BREAKDOWNS

● = Classic Bible Stories

✓ BOOK/CHAPTER/VERSES	SUBJECT
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1	Creation Story Days 1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 2:1-3	Creation Story Day 7
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 2:4-25	Adam and Eve Before the Fall
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 3	Fall of Adam and Eve
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 4:1-24	Cain Kills Abel
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 4:25-26	Birth of Seth, Adam's third Son
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 5	Genealogy, Adam to Noah
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 6:1-8	Existence of the Nephilim
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 6-9	Noah on the Ark
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 10:1-32	Genealogy, Noah's three Sons
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 11:1-9	Tower of Babel
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 11:10-26	Genealogy, Shem to Abraham
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 11:27-32	Introduction to Abraham
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 12:1-9	God Calls Abram
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 12:10-20	Abram tells a Half-Truth in Egypt
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 13	Abram and Lot Split God's Promise
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 14:1-17	Abram Rescues Lot
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 14:18-24	Melchizedek, the only Priest King
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 15	God Promises Abram Blessings
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 16:1-16	Abram and Hagar have Ishmael
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 17:1-8	Abram Renamed Abraham
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 17:9-14	Circumcision Introduced
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 17:15-16	Sarai Renamed Sarah
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 17:17-22	Isaac is a Promise from God
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 17:23-25	Circumcision Instituted
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 18:1-15	Abraham Sees the Lord
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 18:16-33	Abraham Intercedes for Sodom
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 19:1-29	Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 19:30-38	Lot Seduced by His Own Daughters
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 20	Abraham Tells the Half-Truth Again
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 21:1-7	Birth of Isaac
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 21:8-21	Hagar and Ishmael Receive God's Blessing
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 21:22-34	Abraham and Abimelech Agree
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 22	Abraham Tries to Sacrifice Isaac
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 23	Death of Sarah
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 24	Rebekah is Found as Wife for Isaac
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 25:1-4	Abraham's Wife Keturah Genealogy
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 25:5-11	Abraham's Death
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 25:12-18	The Descendants of Ishmael
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 25:19-26	Birth of Esau and Jacob
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 25:27-31	Esau Sells his Birthright
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 26:1-11	Isaac Tells the Same Half-Truth His Father Told
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 26:12-25	Isaac Moves Due to Prosperity

✓ BOOK/CHAPTER/VERSES	SUBJECT
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 26:26-33	Isaac's Covenant with Philistines
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 26:34-25	Esau's Wives
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 27	Jacob Steals Esau's Blessing
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 28:1-9	Jacob Obeys Isaac's Marriage Wishes
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 28:10-22	Jacob's Ladder Dream
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 29:1-30	Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 29:31-35	Leah has children
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 30:1-24	Jacob has More Children with Servants
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 30:25-43	Jacob Deceives His Father-in-Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 31:1-55	Jacob Flees His Father-in-Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 32:1-21	Jacob Prepares to Meet Esau
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 32:22-32	Jacob's Name Changed to Israel
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 33	Jacob Meets Esau
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 34:1-31	Jacob's Daughter Dinah is Attacked
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 35:16-19	Rachel Dies in Childbirth
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 35:23-29	Genealogy: Jacob's Sons
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 36	Genealogy: Esau's Sons
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 37:1-11	Joseph's Dreams
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 37:12-36	Joseph's Brothers Sell Him Into Slavery
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 38	The Whole Family is Treacherous
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 39:1-23	Joseph is Sexually Harassed & Jailed
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 40	Joseph Interprets Two Dreams
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 41:1-40	Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 41:41-56	Joseph Succeeds as Head of Egypt
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 42	Joseph's Brothers Travel to Egypt
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 43	A Second Trip to Egypt
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 44	Joseph Ensnares His Brothers
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 45	Joseph Reveals His Identity
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 46	The Tribe Moves to Egypt
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 47:1-11	Joseph Provides Well for His Family
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 47:13-31	Joseph Helps Many Survive the Famine
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 48	Jacob Blesses Ephraim & Manasseh
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 49:1-28	Jacob Blesses Each of His Sons
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 49:29-33	Death of Jacob
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 50	Deaths of Jacob and Joseph

Most Popular Verses

✓ BOOK/CHAPTER/VERSES	RANK
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1:1-2	Genesis Rank: 1, Overall: 7
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1:26-27	Genesis Rank: 2, Overall: 16
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 3:15	Genesis Rank: 3, Overall: 86
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 12:1	Genesis Rank: 6, Overall: 125

APPENDIX D: ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Attentive: God hears and responds to the needs of His children.

Compassionate: God cares for His children and acts on their behalf.

Creator: God made everything. He is uncreated.

Deliverer: God rescues and saves His children.

Eternal: God is not limited by and exists outside of time.

Faithful: God always keeps His promises.

Generous: God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

Glorious: God displays His greatness and worth.

Good: God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

Holy: God is perfect, pure and without sin.

Incomprehensible: God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

Infinite: God has no limits in His person or on His power.

Immutable/ Unchanging: God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Jealous: God will not share His glory with another. All glory rightfully belongs to Him.

Just: God is fair in all His actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

Loving: God feels and displays infinite unconditional affection toward His children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response or merit.

Merciful: God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

Omnipotent/ Almighty: God holds all power. Nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

Omnipresent: God is fully present everywhere.

Omniscient: God knows everything, past, present and future, all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

Patient/Long-suffering: God is untiring and bears with His children.

Provider: God meets the needs of His children.

Refuge: God is place of safety and protection for His children.

Righteous: God is always good and right.

Self-existent: God depends on nothing and no one to give Him life or existence.

APPENDIX D: ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Self-existent: God depends on nothing and no one to give Him life or existence.

Self-sufficient: God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

Sovereign: God does everything according to His plan and pleasure. He controls all things.

Transcendent: God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

Truthful: Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

Wrathful: God hates all unrighteousness.

Wise: God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

Worthy: God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

APPENDIX E: HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

Through His death on the cross and the power of the resurrection, Jesus offers salvation to any who would come to Him, declare Him as King, and enjoy relationship with Him now and for all eternity. If you have not yet made the decision to follow Jesus but would like to, the Bible tells you all you need to know.

Acknowledge Your Sin

In truth, we can't completely know and understand the gravity and consequences of our sin, but trying to acknowledge sin as best we can is an essential first step in following Jesus.

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." **Romans 3:10-12**

Because God is perfect and holy, sin cannot come in to His presence. And so, our sin prevents us from entering the kingdom of God. We have nothing to show God that would merit His acceptance of us. Recognizing this means we understand we are spiritually bankrupt.

Look to the Cross

Once we understand our spiritual bankruptcy, we can then see the amazing grace of Christ's gift to us through his death and resurrection.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." **2 Corinthians 5:21**

In order to make you right with God, Christ took your sin and all the punishment your sin deserves on Himself. The cross alone makes you able to stand in God's presence because Christ's perfection has now been given to you. God offers to see you through the lens of Christ, and so you are invited to be part of God's Kingdom.

Confess Your Sin and Trust Christ Has Forgiven You

A gift that is never opened is not truly a gift. The gift of Christ's work on the cross for you must be received. To receive the forgiveness of sins and a right relationship with God which will lead to eternity in Heaven with Him, confess your sin to God, telling Him that you need the saving work of Christ.

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." **Romans 10:9**

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." **1 John 1:9**

APPENDIX E: HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

Begin Walking in Your New Identity in Christ

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” **Ephesians 2:4-10**

Because of the cross and resurrection, you are loved by God. He has given you His approval. You are joined with Christ, and you are created for good works. All that the King has, He now shares with you.

Follow Jesus

To experience the fullness of relationship with Christ, become a lifelong student of the Bible. When you confess your sins and place trust in Christ, the Bible tells us that God Himself—the Holy Spirit—comes to live inside you (Romans 8:9-17; Galatians 4:6). As you study the Bible, the Holy Spirit will guide you into understanding what it says and empower you to obey what it says.

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” John 16:13

Commit to Community

If you have trusted Jesus for salvation, please share your decision with your group leader or another Christian friend. God has designed His people to be the body of Christ—to reflect the Savior to a world that is lost and hurting and to encourage other Christians to persevere in faith through all of life’s seasons. The local church is one of His primary tools to grow our pursuit of Him and continually realize His pursuit of us. Join in the life and mission of the church to learn and cultivate His kingdom’s culture. Following Christ’s example, ask to be baptized as a public expression of your faith.

APPENDIX F

Websites

bible.org

bibleproject.com

biblestudytools.com

desiringgod.com (esp. the “Look at the Book” section)

thegospelcoalition.org (search “Genesis” in the Resource Library)

gotquestions.org

Messages / Articles

“God Is With Me (Joseph)” Sermon by J.D. Greear, The Summit Church (March 6, 2016)

“Surely Goodness and Mercy Will Follow Me // Psalm 23 & Joseph.” Sermon by J.D. Greear, The Summit Church (May 16, 2022)

“The Sale of Joseph and the Son of God” Sermon by John Piper, Bethlehem Baptist Church (September 9, 2007)

“What the Joseph Story is Really About,” Article by Samuel Emadi, The Gospel Coalition (August 2, 2017)

Books / Studies

Finding God Faithful, Kelly Minter (Lifeway)

From Prisoner to Prince: The Joseph Story in Biblical Theology, Samuel Emadi (IVP Academic)

God of Covenant: A Study of Genesis 12-50, Jen Wilkin (Lifeway)

Great Lives: Joseph: A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness, Charles Swindoll (Thomas Nelson)

The Promised One: Seeing Jesus in Genesis, Nancy Guthrie (Crossway)

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