



A Study in  
*Genesis*  
*Part Two*

Compiled by Pastor Warren Jones Sr.

## Studies in Genesis Part 2

As we reflect on Part one of our '**Studies in Genesis**' series, we saw God adjust His focus from His created order in the universe to a Garden in Eden where He would place the apex and heart of His creation, the first man Adam, and His wife Eve. We read that our 1<sup>st</sup> parents had been evicted from Eden after failing to comply with God's only restriction, tumbling the world into chaos and sin. Noah and his family have been spared from God's judgement on a sin filled world with a flood, the earth is repopulated, and people have been disseminated throughout the earth.

Part 2 in our **Studies in Genesis** series picks up with Abram, Sarai and their offspring. Although sin remains rampant, God calls Abram out of the land of Ur, enters into an unconditional covenant with him, and His plan for all ages begins to unfold.

Abram or **Abraham**, though not perfect, will exemplify complete trust and obedience to God through a sacrificial act of faith. In this moving illustration we see a shadow of what our Heavenly father would later perform in giving His only son Jesus to pay for our redemption on the cross at Calvary, thereby re-opening our access to Eden, a place we call Heaven. Let's dig in, enjoy and be blessed.

**Pastor W. Jones**

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Gen. 12:1-3, 7-9; 15:1-7, 16:3-16 NLT

**Discussion Starter** – What would make leaving your home, your relatives, and the neighborhood you grew up in difficult? What would make it easy?

### **Blessed by God**

#### **Gen. 12:1-3, 7-9**

1 The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. 3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

#### **Discussion Question 1:**

What motivated Abram to leave his homeland?

## **More Promises and Worship to The Lord**

<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." And Abram built an altar there and dedicated it to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> After that, Abram traveled south and set up camp in the hill country, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There he built another altar and dedicated it to the Lord, and he worshiped the Lord. <sup>9</sup> Then Abram continued traveling south by stages toward the Negev.

### **Discussion Question 2:**

How has your Christian walk developed, relative to the time you have invested in prayer, study of His Word and fellowship with other saints?

## **The Lord's Covenant Promise to Abram**

### **Genesis 15:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Sometime later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram replied, "O Sovereign Lord, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. <sup>3</sup> You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir."

### **Discussion Question 3:**

Do you believe parents today see a connection between material prosperity and future generations of offspring?

## **The Faith of Abraham**

<sup>4</sup>Then the Lord said to him, “No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.” <sup>5</sup>Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!” <sup>6</sup>And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith. <sup>7</sup>Then the Lord told him, “I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land as your possession.”

### **Discussion Question 4:**

Have you ever trusted the Lord for anything without understanding “HOW” He would provide or perform it?

## **Birth of Ishmael**

### **Gen. 16:3-4**

<sup>3</sup>So Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.) <sup>4</sup>So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt.

### **Discussion Question 5:**

What just happened?

### **Gen. 16:5-6**

<sup>5</sup>Then Sarai said to Abram, “This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she’s pregnant she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who’s wrong—you or me!” <sup>6</sup> Abram replied, “Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit.” Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.

### **Discussion Question 6:**

What is your take on Abraham's response to Sarai?

### **Well of The Living One**

### **Gen. 16:7-16**

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. <sup>8</sup>The angel said to her, “Hagar, Sarai’s servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?” “I’m running away from my mistress, Sarai,” she replied. <sup>9</sup>The angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority.” <sup>10</sup>Then he added, “I will give you more descendants than you can count.” <sup>11</sup>And the angel also said, “You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means ‘God hears’), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress. <sup>12</sup>This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives.”

<sup>13</sup> Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, "You are the God who sees me."<sup>[a]</sup> She also said, "Have I truly seen the One who sees me?" <sup>14</sup> So that well was named Beer-lahai-roi (which means "well of the Living One who sees me"). It can still be found between Kadesh and Bered. <sup>15</sup> So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael. <sup>16</sup> Abram was eighty-six years old when Ishmael was born.

### **Apply the Text**

God called Abram out from an idolatrous nation where he was comfortable and settled, to a life of wandering in Canaan, never settling. Hebrews says Abraham "looked for a city whose maker and builder is God." God is amazing as he likewise called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. How we thank Him for making us a part of His great family.

### **Memory Verse**

<sup>5</sup> Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!" <sup>6</sup> And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith. **Gen. 15:5-6**



Gen. 21:1-21

**Discussion Starter** – In eastern cultures firstborn males were expected to grow to be wise and strong family leaders, to be responsible to handle the family business, and provide and protect the family. Discuss how both male and female roles in today's American culture have become so confused and distorted.

**Isaac is Born**

1 The Lord kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised. 2 She became pregnant, and she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age. This happened at just the time God had said it would. 3 And Abraham named their son Isaac.

**Discussion Question 1:**

Bible names reflected God (or gods). How do we choose names today and how else do they differ?

**Let's Celebrate With Laughter**

4 Eight days after Isaac was born, Abraham circumcised him as God had commanded. 5 Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. 6 And Sarah declared, "God has brought me laughter. All who hear about this will laugh with me. 7 Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse a baby? Yet I have given

Abraham a son in his old age!" 8 When Isaac grew up and was about to be weaned, Abraham prepared a huge feast to celebrate the occasion.

### **Discussion Question 2:**

Why do you think that so many have lost sense of the value of life?

### **The Party's Over**

9 But Sarah saw Ishmael—the son of Abraham and her Egyptian servant Hagar—making fun of her son, Isaac. 10 So she turned to Abraham and demanded, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son. He is not going to share the inheritance with my son, Isaac. I won't have it!" 11 This upset Abraham very much because Ishmael was his son. 12 But God told Abraham, "Do not be upset over the boy and your servant. Do whatever Sarah tells you, for Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.

### **Discussion Question 3:**

Why do you think that God stayed out of this family's dysfunction?

### **Painful Consequences of Dysfunction**

13 But I will also make a nation of the descendants of Hagar's son because he is your son, too." 14 So Abraham got up early the next morning, prepared food and a container of water, and strapped them on Hagar's shoulders. Then he sent her away with their son,

and she wandered aimlessly in the wilderness of Beersheba. 15 When the water was gone, she put the boy in the shade of a bush. 16 Then she went and sat down by herself about a hundred yard away. "I don't want to watch the boy die," she said, as she burst into tears.

#### **Discussion Question 4:**

Why didn't Abraham take a stand to keep his firstborn in the camp?

#### **God sees Your Tears**

17 But God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, "Hagar, what's wrong? Do not be afraid! God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. 18 Go to him and comfort him, for I will make a great nation from his descendants." 19 Then God opened Hagar's eyes, and she saw a well full of water. She quickly filled her water container and gave the boy a drink. 20 And God was with the boy as he grew up in the wilderness. He became a skillful archer, 21 and he settled in the wilderness of Paran. His mother arranged for him to marry a woman from the land of Egypt.

#### **Apply the Text**

In an extraordinary move by God, Abram is singled out to begin a process to make a people special to His heart. In spite of man's persistent dysfunction, God's grace always seems to shine through.

Despite our circumstances, mistakes and mishaps, how marvelous it is to experience God's presence, patience, and love in our lives.

### **Memory Verse**

12 But God told Abraham, "Do not be upset over the boy and your servant. Do whatever Sarah tells you, for Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted. **Gen. 21:12**

Gen. 22:1-19

**Discussion Starter** – Discuss why God allows tests to come in a Christian's life without warning.

### Testing Time

#### **Gen. 22:1-19 NKJV**

1 Sometime later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am." 2 "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

#### **Discussion Question 1:**

What happens to faith when it's not tested?

### The Journey Ahead

3 The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 "Stay here

with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy (young lad) and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back."

### **Discussion Question 2:**

What do you think may have transpired between verses 2 and 3?

### **Worship Him**

<sup>6</sup> So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, <sup>7</sup> Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together. <sup>9</sup> When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood.

### **Discussion Question 3:**

Why does it seem that Isaac was so compliant to allow his father to do this?

### **God Is Our Provider**

<sup>10</sup> And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. <sup>11</sup> At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"

<sup>12</sup> “Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.” <sup>13</sup> Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

#### **Discussion Question 4:**

Besides the testing of Abraham, why else was Isaac spared?

#### **Obedience Leads to Blessing**

<sup>14</sup> Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means “the Lord will provide”). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.” <sup>15</sup> Then the angel of the Lord called again to Abraham from heaven. <sup>16</sup> “This is what the Lord says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that <sup>17</sup> I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. <sup>18</sup> And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.” <sup>19</sup> Then they returned to the servants and traveled back to Beersheba, where Abraham continued to live.

### **Apply the Text**

How important our faith and obedience to God is in this Christian life. Equally vital is that God uses the challenges of life to test our faith and will to obey Him, producing maturity of faith, endurance and great reward.

### **Memory Verse**

<sup>12</sup> “Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.” **Gen. 22:12**



Gen. 25:21-34; Gen. 27:1-10, 18-24, 29

**Discussion Starter** – How can a lack of spiritual foundation impact family dynamics and lead to dysfunction?

**Gen. 25:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. <sup>22</sup> But the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If *all is well*, why *am I like this?*” So she went to inquire of the Lord. <sup>23</sup> And the Lord said to her: “Two nations *are* in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.”

**Discussion Question 1:**

How valuable is it for both husband and wife to have a prayer life?

**Discussion Question 2:**

How does the will of God play into the way our prayers are answered? (**Gen. 21:12** – “In Isaac shall your seed be called.”)

**Twins Are Born**

<sup>24</sup> So when her days were fulfilled *for her* to give birth, indeed *there* were twins in her womb. <sup>25</sup> And the first came out red. *He* was like a

hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau. <sup>26</sup> Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. <sup>27</sup> So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents. <sup>28</sup> And Isaac loved Esau because he ate *of his* game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

### **Discussion Question 3:**

Does preferring one child mean not loving the other children? Explain.

### **A Thoughtless Decision**

<sup>29</sup> Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. <sup>30</sup> And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red *stew*, for I *am* weary." Therefore his name was called **Edom**. <sup>31</sup> But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day." <sup>32</sup> And Esau said, "Look, I *am* about to die; so what *is* this birthright to me?" <sup>33</sup> Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup> And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau Despised *his* birthright.

### **Discussion Question 4:**

When should children be given the responsibility to manage the family business or estate?

### **Discussion Question 5:**

Describe elements of a Christian's Birthright.

### **Family Deception**

#### **Gen. 27:1-10, 18-24, 29**

1 One day when Isaac was old and turning blind, he called for Esau, his older son, and said, "My son. "Yes, Father?" Esau replied.<sup>2</sup> "I am an old man now," Isaac said, "and I don't know when I may die. <sup>3</sup>Take your bow and a quiver full of arrows and go out into the open country to hunt some wild game for me. <sup>4</sup>Prepare my favorite dish and bring it here for me to eat. Then I will pronounce the blessing that belongs to you, my firstborn son, before I die." <sup>5</sup>But Rebekah overheard\_what Isaac had said to his son Esau. So when Esau left to hunt for the wild game, <sup>6</sup>she said to her son Jacob, "Listen. I overheard your father say to Esau, <sup>7</sup> 'Bring me some wild game and prepare me a delicious meal. Then I will bless you in the Lord's presence before I die.' <sup>8</sup>Now, my son, listen to me. Do exactly as I tell you. <sup>9</sup>Go out to the flocks and bring me two fine young goats. I'll use them to prepare your father's favorite dish. <sup>10</sup>Then take the food to your father so he can eat it and bless you before he dies."

### **Discussion Question 6:**

What is the lesson Rebekah is teaching the son "She loves"?

### **Discussion Question 7:**

Was Rebecca responding to God's admonition when she was pregnant with the twins, or was she just being deceitful?

### **Isaac Blesses Jacob**

<sup>18</sup> So Jacob took the food to his father. "My father?" he said. "Yes, my son," Isaac answered. "Who are you—Esau or Jacob?" <sup>19</sup> Jacob replied, "It's Esau, your firstborn son. I've done as you told me. Here is the wild game. Now sit up and eat it so you can give me your blessing." <sup>20</sup> Isaac asked, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" "The LORD your God put it in my path!" Jacob replied. <sup>21</sup> Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come closer so I can touch you and make sure that you really are Esau." <sup>22</sup> So Jacob went closer to his father, and Isaac touched him. "The voice is Jacob's, but the hands are Esau's," Isaac said. <sup>23</sup> But he did not recognize Jacob, because Jacob's hands felt hairy just like Esau's. So Isaac prepared to bless Jacob. <sup>24</sup> "But are you really my son Esau?" he asked. "Yes, I am," Jacob replied.

<sup>29</sup> May many nations become your servants, and may they bow down to you. May you be the master over your brothers and may your mother's sons bow down to you. All who curse you will be cursed, and all who bless you will be blessed."

### **Discussion Question 8:**

Why do you think God chose Jacob over Esau?

### **Apply the Text**

Jacob and Esau exhibited differences in character, values and approaches to life. Although both sons had a selfish streak, Jacob seemed to recognize that his place and position in the future had more value. We are blessed to know that we have a present calling to establish a future legacy of hope for new life in Heaven, prepared and waiting for us.

### **Memory Verse**

<sup>29</sup> May many nations become your servants, and may they bow down to you. May you be the master over your brothers and may your mother's sons bow down to you. All who curse you will be cursed, and all who bless you will be blessed." **Gen. 27:29**

Gen. 28:10-17, 32:1-2, 23-31

**Discussion Starter** – At the Family Homeless Shelter in Riverside last year, we met a Christian couple and their children who had traveled from Venezuela through 12 countries to get to the U.S., one of the children being born in Chile, South America. Speak to the blessing of being born in a free country and never needing to leave to find peace, protection, provision and prosperity.

## **Stairway To Heaven**

### **Genesis 28:10-17**

<sup>10</sup>Meanwhile, Jacob left Beersheba and traveled toward Haran. <sup>11</sup>At sundown he arrived at a good place to set up camp and stopped there for the night. Jacob found a stone to rest his head against and lay down to sleep. <sup>12</sup>As he slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from the earth up to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down the stairway.

### **Discussion Question 1:**

Speak to the contrast of a rock for a pillow and the sight of a stairway access to Heaven.

## **God's Out-Standing Promises**

<sup>13</sup>At the top of the stairway stood the Lord, and he said, "I am the Lord, the God of your grandfather Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on belongs to you. I am giving it to you and your descendants. <sup>14</sup>Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth! They will spread out in all directions—to the west and the east, to the north and the south. And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. <sup>15</sup>What's more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I have promised you."

### **Discussion Question 2:**

Why was God so good to such a scoundrel as Jacob?

## **An Awesome Awareness of God**

<sup>16</sup>Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I wasn't even aware of it!" <sup>17</sup>But he was also afraid and said, "What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!"

### **Discussion Question 3:**

How does it make you feel when the Lord is in your midst?

## **Angels Confirm God's Presence**

### **Gen. 32:1-2, 23-31**

1 As Jacob started on his way again, angels of God came to meet him. 2 When Jacob saw them, he exclaimed, "This is God's camp!" So he named the place Mahanaim. 2 During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two servant wives, and his eleven sons and crossed the Jabbok River with them.

### **Discussion Question 4:**

How would an angelic experience change your view of God?

## **A Fight of Faith**

23 After taking them to the other side, he sent over all his possessions 24 This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. 25 When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. 26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!" But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." 27 "What is your name?" the man asked. He replied, "Jacob." 28 "Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won." 29 "Please tell me your



name," Jacob said. "Why do you want to know my name?" the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there.

### **Discussion Question 5:**

Why does God commend Jacob for fighting?

<sup>30</sup> Jacob named the place Peniel (which means "face of God"), for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared." <sup>31</sup> The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip.

### **Apply the Text**

Jacob's experience's with God are so notable that they have been the subject of artwork and song. Experiencing the reality of God's presence is much more personal and life changing than our imaginations can conceive. Our God is awesome and real and as Jacob discovered we can know Him, live, and be spared from destruction.

### **Memory Verse**

<sup>15</sup> What's more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I have promised you."

**Gen. 28:15**

Gen. 39:1-23

**Discussion Starter** –In Abraham Lincoln’s 2<sup>nd</sup> inaugural speech he states, “The Almighty has his own purposes.” Not knowing God’s purposes in the midst of struggles or crises, how do we maintain our trust in God?

### **The Lord Was With Joseph**

1 When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup>Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. <sup>4</sup>This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned.

### **Discussion Question 1:**

How should a Christian’s work ethic differ from that of a non-believer?

## **Joseph In Charge**

<sup>5</sup> From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. <sup>6</sup> So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing except what kind of food to eat!

### **Discussion Question 2:**

How has God blessed your household since you've known Him?

## **When Trust is Threatened**

<sup>7</sup> Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, <sup>7</sup> and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded. <sup>8</sup> But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. <sup>9</sup> No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God." <sup>10</sup> She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible.

### **Discussion Question 3:**

Why do we sometimes concern ourselves more with our behavior before men than our behavior before God?

### **Run Joseph Run!**

<sup>11</sup> One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work. <sup>12</sup> She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house. <sup>13</sup> When she saw that she was holding his cloak and he had fled, <sup>14</sup> she called out to her servants. Soon all the men came running. "Look!" she said. "My husband has brought this Hebrew slave here to make fools of us! He came into my room to rape me, but I screamed. <sup>15</sup> When he heard me scream, he ran outside and got away, but he left his cloak behind with me." <sup>16</sup> She kept the cloak with her until her husband came home. <sup>17</sup> Then she told him her story. "That Hebrew slave you've brought into our house tried to come in and fool around with me," she said. <sup>18</sup> "But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his cloak with me!" <sup>19</sup> Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her.

### **Discussion Question 4:**

How would you handle condemnation for a false accusation?

## **The Lord's Faithful Fellowship**

<sup>20</sup> So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. <sup>21</sup> But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. <sup>22</sup> Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. <sup>23</sup> The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.

### **Discussion Question 5:**

Describe a situation where it took you years to realize that God was involved, working things out.

### **Apply the Text**

Just as Joseph lived a life of integrity under trying circumstances, we never giving up hope. We can be confident that God has a plan of deliverance for each trial we encounter and a future filled with promise.

### **Memory Verse**

<sup>23</sup> The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. **The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed. Gen. 39:23**

Gen. 41:1, 8-27, 45-47, 50-52, 55-57; 45:1-8

**Discussion Starter** - Describe a time of struggle when you weren't sure that God noticed or cared what you were going through.

## **Genesis 41**

### **Failure and Providence**

1 Two full years later, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing on the bank of the Nile River.

8 The next morning Pharaoh was very disturbed by the dreams. So he called for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. When Pharaoh told them his dreams, not one of them could tell him what they meant. 9 Finally, the king's chief cup-bearer spoke up. "Today I have been reminded of my failure," he told Pharaoh. 10 "Some time ago, you were angry with the chief baker and me, and you imprisoned us in the palace of the captain of the guard. 11 One night the chief baker and I each had a dream, and each dream had its own meaning. 12 There was a young Hebrew man with us in the prison who was a slave of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he told us what each of our dreams meant. 13 And everything happened just as he had predicted. I was restored to my position as cup-bearer, and the chief baker was executed and

impaled on a pole." <sup>14</sup> Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh.

### **Discussion Question 1:**

After two years the cupbearer remembered his promise to Joseph. Why couldn't God have reminded him sooner?

### **Only God Can Do That**

<sup>15</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it." <sup>16</sup> "It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied. "But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."

### **Discussion Question 2:**

How would you describe Joseph's approach to the Pharaoh?

<sup>17</sup> So Pharaoh told Joseph his dream. "In my dream," he said, "I was standing on the bank of the Nile River, <sup>18</sup> and I saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass. <sup>19</sup> But then I saw seven sick-looking cows, scrawny and thin, come up after them. I've never seen such sorry-looking animals in all the land of Egypt. <sup>20</sup> These thin, scrawny cows ate the seven fat cows. <sup>21</sup> But afterward you wouldn't have known it, for they were still as thin and scrawny as before! Then I woke up. <sup>22</sup> "In my dream I also

saw seven heads of grain, full and beautiful, growing on a single stalk. <sup>23</sup> Then seven more heads of grain appeared, but these were blighted, shriveled, and withered by the east wind. <sup>24</sup> And the shriveled heads swallowed the seven healthy heads. I told these dreams to the magicians, but no one could tell me what they mean."

### **Discussion Question 3:**

Why are the secret things that belong to God restricted to a select few and not everyone?

### **Promotion Comes from God**

<sup>25</sup> Joseph responded, "Both of Pharaoh's dreams mean the same thing. God is telling Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do. <sup>26</sup> The seven healthy cows and the seven healthy heads of grain both represent seven years of prosperity. <sup>27</sup> The seven thin, scrawny cows that came up later and the seven thin heads of grain, withered by the east wind, represent seven years of famine.

### **Discussion Question 4:**

Why does God tend to use us to speak to the world rather than do it directly himself?



<sup>45</sup> And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-Paaneah. And he gave him as a wife Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On. So Joseph went out over *all* the land of Egypt. <sup>46</sup> Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went throughout all the land of Egypt. <sup>47</sup> Now in the seven plentiful years the ground brought forth abundantly.

<sup>50</sup> And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him. <sup>51</sup> Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house." <sup>52</sup> And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

### **Discussion Question 5:**

Give examples in scripture where someone was treated better by outsiders than their own family.

### **The People Need Bread to Live**

<sup>55</sup> So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do." <sup>56</sup> The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of

Egypt. <sup>57</sup> So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy *grain*, because the famine was severe in all lands.

## **God Sent Me Here**

### **Gen. 45:1-8**

1 Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, "Out, all of you!" So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. <sup>2</sup> Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace. <sup>3</sup> "I am Joseph!" he said to his brothers. "Is my father still alive?" But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them. <sup>4</sup> "Please, come closer," he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. <sup>5</sup> But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. <sup>6</sup> This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. <sup>7</sup> God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.

### **Discussion Question 6:**

When do you think that Joseph became aware of his role of preserving his family?

### **Apply the Text**

**Jeremiah 29:11** says “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” When we understand that our Father loves us, it doesn’t make trials fun but we know they work out for our good and His glory.

### **Memory Verse**

<sup>51</sup> Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: “For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father’s house.” <sup>52</sup> And the name of the second he called Ephraim: “For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.” **Gen. 41:51-52**

Gen. 45:1-8, 19-20, 25-28; 46:1-5, 47:27-31, 48:8-11, 14-19, 49:25-26

**Discussion Starter** – Describe how Joseph's life in many ways parallels the life of Jesus.

## **Genesis 45**

### **Joseph Is Alive!**

<sup>19</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Take wagons from the land of Egypt to carry your little children and your wives and bring your father here. <sup>20</sup> Don't worry about your personal belongings, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

<sup>25</sup> And they left Egypt and returned to their father, Jacob, in the land of Canaan. <sup>26</sup> "Joseph is still alive!" they told him. "And he is governor of all the land of Egypt!" Jacob was stunned at the news—he couldn't believe it. <sup>27</sup> But when they repeated to Jacob everything Joseph had told them, and when he saw the wagons Joseph had sent to carry him, their father's spirits revived. <sup>28</sup> Then Jacob exclaimed, "It must be true! My son Joseph is alive! I must go and see him before I die."

### **Discussion Question 1:**

How may the relationship between Joseph and Pharaoh have changed over time?

### **The Making of a Nation**

#### **Gen. 46**

So Jacob set out for Egypt with all his possessions. And when he came to Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father, Isaac. <sup>2</sup> During the night God spoke to him in a vision. “Jacob! Jacob!” he called. “Here I am,” Jacob replied. <sup>3</sup> “I am God, the God of your father,” the voice said. “Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make your family into a great nation. <sup>4</sup> I will go with you down to Egypt, and I will bring you back again. You will die in Egypt, but Joseph will be with you to close your eyes.”

<sup>29</sup> Joseph prepared his chariot and traveled to Goshen to meet his father, Jacob. When Joseph arrived, he embraced his father and wept, holding him for a long time. <sup>30</sup> Finally, Jacob said to Joseph, “Now I am ready to die, since I have seen your face again and know you are still alive.”

### **Discussion Question 2:**

Favoritism caused the previous family dysfunction and Joseph's enslavement. How may these character traits have changed over the years?

## **Now I'm Ready To Die**

### **Gen. 47:27-31**

<sup>27</sup> So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly. <sup>28</sup> And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the length of Jacob's life was one hundred and forty-seven years. <sup>29</sup> When the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Now if I have found favor in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt, <sup>30</sup> but let me lie with my fathers; you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place." And he said, "I will do as you have said." <sup>31</sup> Then he said, "Swear to me." And he swore to him. So Israel bowed himself on the head of the bed.

### **Discussion Question 3:**

Why does it matter where a person is buried?

## **More To the Legacy**

### **Gen. 48**

<sup>8</sup> Then Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who are these?" <sup>9</sup> Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me in

this *place*." And he said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them. <sup>10</sup> Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so *that* he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. <sup>11</sup> And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!"

### **Double Blessing**

<sup>14</sup> Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid *it* on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn. <sup>15</sup> And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers, Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day, <sup>16</sup> The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, And the name of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac; And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." <sup>17</sup> Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. <sup>18</sup> And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this *one* is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head." <sup>19</sup> But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also

shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.”

#### **Discussion Question 4:**

With 13 children, how did Joseph receive the double portion?

#### **Remember My Bones**

##### **Gen. 49:25-26**

<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath, and he said, “When God comes to help you and lead you back, you must take my bones with you.” <sup>26</sup> So Joseph died at the age of 110. The Egyptians embalmed him, and his body was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

#### **Apply the Text**

Nearly 2000 years have passed since Adam was created and so much has transpired since the fall in the Garden of Eden. It wasn't easy for our spiritual forefathers so we don't expect absolute ease today. We are simply grateful to the Lord for His promises which are always fulfilled and always for our good.

#### **Memory Verse**

<sup>3</sup> “I am God, the God of your father,” the voice said. “Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make your family into a great nation. **Gen. 46:3**





C H R I S T I A N M I N I S T R I E S

