



The Greatest Act of Faith

Community Group Study Guide: Genesis 48 – Week of August 6, 2023

1. The Greatest Act of Faith is Sharing the Faith

Here, while his life comes to a close, Jacob tells his son and his grandsons about the Lord. He tells them what God almighty had done, and how God revealed himself to Jacob. Furthermore, Jacob relays the blessing of the Lord to the next generation. He tells them of how God promised that the line of Jacob was to be fruitful and multiple, and inherit the promised land. Jacob essentially adopts Joseph's sons as his own, and puts them in the positions of Reuben and Simeon. Now, Ephraim and Manasseh will receive the blessing from Jacob. This act of adoption, and the imputation of blessing on sons that are not his, is a shadow of our relationship with God. We, as Christians, have been blessed by the Lord in a manner that we were underserving of. God chose to adopt us, bless us, and give us the standing of sons out of His grace to us. This was made possible because of our older brother Jesus. Unlike Reuben or Simeon, Jesus lived perfectly. Still, Jesus humbly submitted Himself to the will of the Father, took our sinful punishment, and we through faith receive the grace of God's blessing that Jesus rightfully earned.

2. Share the Faith by Sharing Your Faith

The blessing Jacob gives to the sons of Joseph was personal. During the blessing, Jacob speaks of his testimony. He tells of how there was evil in his past, and how through the intervention of Christ, he has been redeemed. In this moment, Jacob pleads with the Lord to likewise bless the boys in the same way the Lord had blessed him. Sharing how the Lord has worked in your life can be a powerful witness.

3. Salvation is by Grace Through Faith

We see a reminder that salvation comes only from the grace of God through faith. While it was traditionally the oldest that would receive the blessing, here we see that Jacob blesses the youngest. We are blessed not because of anything we are or do, but because of God's grace.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

Death is a reminder that our time is finite, and that we ought to pursue the purposes given to us by God. We have been blessed to be a blessing, and there is no greater blessing than the sharing of the faith. Sharing is both a blessing for others, but also grows our faith.

Heart

God has shown His grace to us in saving us from our sins. We can all reflect on how we were once sinners, and see how specifically Christ given us new life. God has given us each unique stories of His grace, so that we might share the faith by sharing how He has personally saved us.

Hands

Take every opportunity to bless others by sharing the faith that you have been given

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members Meeting
September 10 @ 1pm

Read Genesis 48

1. How should Christian's view death? How can our perspective be a valuable tool for evangelism?
2. **Read Ecclesiastes 7:1-4** What is the meaning of this text? How does it change the way we look at our lives and the decisions that we make?
3. **Read Psalms 103:11-12** How do we reconcile the fact that God has removed our transgressions, and yet we still have the consequences of those sin in our lives? How should we respond to this? What scripture should we preach to our hearts?
4. What do you find as the biggest obstacle to sharing your faith? In what ways do we need to correct our thinking, and therefore overcome those obstacles?
5. **Read Deuteronomy 7:7-9 and 1 Corinthians 1:27-29** What do these verse reveal about how God chooses those who He will belong to Him? How does it change the way you view your own salvation?
6. How do we see the Gospel story played out in Genesis 48? How does Jacobs wrestling with an angel and the crossing of his hands reflect the Gospel?