



March Theme

We are family!

Monthly Memory Verse

"Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!" [Psalm 144:15b](#)

Monthly Challenge Verse

"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- [Genesis 12:3](#)

March 19 - Life Application

God gives us parents and grandparents to guide us.

(Genesis 48)

Parents: *This month, we are learning about God's perfect family, and how He protected and cared for them through His Providence. We also see that He blesses us in many ways – through His plan for our families, and by blessing us through parents and grandparents. **This week, we learned that Jacob blessed Joseph's sons and told them of God's promises for their family.** After listening to the sermon, take some time during the week to have great conversations with your kids. Read **page 116** (The End of an Era) together in The Action Bible, and use **Genesis 48** in your Bible for reference.*

1. Joseph's family lived in the land of Goshen for many years. In **Genesis 48**, why did Joseph go to see his father? (Jacob, named Israel by God, was very ill.) Who did Joseph take with him? (His sons: Manasseh and Ephraim.)
2. Read **verses 2-6**. What did Jacob promise Joseph? (That his two sons would always be part of the family God had promised Jacob, and that they and Joseph's other children would inherit the blessings God had given the family. They would become a part of the 12 tribes of Israel when they go into the Promised Land.)
3. In **verses 8-16**, Jacob asked Joseph to bring his sons to him so that he could bless them. Read **verse 14**. What did Jacob do that was confusing to Joseph? (He crossed his hands and put his right hand on Ephraim's head and his left hand on Manasseh's head as he blessed them.)
4. What seemed wrong to Joseph? (The older, first-born son was supposed to gain the birthright, but in crossing his hands and putting his right hand on Ephraim's head, Jacob gave the birthright and leadership to the younger son. But, he also promised that Manasseh would multiply and become a great people.) **Why do you think Jacob gave the birthright to the younger son?** (Because he saw in the future that God would give Ephraim a greater influence and blessing on the nation of Israel than would Manasseh.)
5. Jacob was the father of Joseph and the grandfather of Ephraim and Manasseh. His blessing was very important to them. And, the history and legacy of Jacob's life was very important to them and to all of his family. **Are parents and grandparents important to us now? Why?**

How can parents and grandparents leave a legacy for their kids and grandkids?

- Share your testimony with your kids and grandkids
- Love your spouse before them...and let your kids and grandkids see and hear it
- Regularly give physical affection to your kids and grandkids
- Let your kids and grandkids see you worship
- Pray out loud for your kids and grandkids
- Dads/husbands, lead your home well (someone has to lead)
- Have a plan: wills, inheritances, where to be buried, etc.
- Verbally bless them, asking God to reveal to you their future and hope

FAMILY CHALLENGE

1. **Create a family memory book, box, or folder.** Regularly, record the stories and testimonies of parents and grandparents for their children to treasure and share with their families. Include cards, letters, and pictures. At least once a year, on a birthday or a special occasion, read through some of these special memories and enjoy together.
2. **Ask your kids:** What are some of your favorite memories of us? Of your grandparents?
3. **Ask:** How would you like to be remembered by your children and grandchildren?
4. Have your children **write a thank you note** to their grandparents for their role in their lives and the legacy they have left for them. For instance, honesty, righteousness, godly character, kindness, caring, even fun memories. You may also want to do this!

PRAYER

Father God: Thank You for our parents and grandparents. Thank You for giving them to us to love us, keep us safe, teach us, and give us a legacy. Thank You for their lives and their examples in our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen