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Genesis 48  
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### **Discussion Questions:**

Do you remember a time when God first appeared to you or revealed Himself to you? Can you share that experience? How can you pass down that kind of legacy? If not, how do you wish God would reveal Himself to you?

Why do you think Jacob recounts the Lord's promises, but not his problems? What can we learn from that example?

Think how long it took for Jacob to see his grandkids from Joseph. What do you think he felt? How would your relationship with God be impacted by that? How does it help us to remember God is playing the long game?

Jacob began his blessing with praise. What can you praise God for right now? If you can, share a few thoughts that are specific and personal.

What are your thoughts on God blessing the younger? Remember, He also does bless the older. ;) What does this teach us about God?

What can you take away to apply to your life from this chapter?

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Last week we say how Joseph was reunited with his father and brought before the Pharaoh.

He was 130, and we were told he lived another 17 years.  
Jacob/Israel made Joseph swear he would bury him in Canaan.

**The next 2 chapters deal with Israel's last days.**

Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, "Indeed your father *is* sick"; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. **2** And Jacob was told, "Look, your son Joseph is coming to you"; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed.

These are the words of the last great patriarch of the nation.  
From here his line would split out into his sons.

Abraham to Isaac to Jacob are the three patriarchs.  
And the final words of Jacob are significant.

**3** Then Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, **4** and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you *as an everlasting possession.*'"

Jacob ends his life with the beginning of his journey with the Lord.

**When God appeared to me...**

...This is such a powerful phrase and an important moment.

Can you remember the time when God appeared to you?  
Can you remember the first time you heard God speak to you or when He led you distinctly in your life?

The interesting thing to me is both what Jacob remembers and what he doesn't.

**Jacob remembers God appeared, God blessed him, and God's promises.**

He remembers the promise of being fruitful and multiplying, becoming a multitude and being given the land.

**But he doesn't remember** the fact that he was on the run because his brother wanted to kill him or that **he was sleeping on a rock** in the middle of nowhere.

Genesis 28:16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know *it*." 17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome *is* this place! This *is* none other than the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven!"

**What a joy to see thru the lens of the Lord's faithfulness...  
...Not your own failures.**

**Do not just see the cup as half full or half empty...  
...but see that God is who holds the cup and fills it.**

5 And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, *are* mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

**Jacob says Joseph's sons are his.**  
They are not grandsons but sons.

Why would he say this?  
There was clear forethought, but not a clear explanation.

It probably involves the fact that Joseph receives a double blessing over Reuben and Simeon.

## **Joseph in a sense becomes like a patriarch with 2 tribes.**

Reuben had slept with Bilhah, his father's concubine.  
Simeon was the one who with Levi killed the Canaanites.

Some believe that Jacob is actually replacing Reuben and Simeon because of their failure...don't think so.

**6** Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance. **7** But as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when *there* was but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

Jacob recounts the death of Joseph's mother, Rachel.  
In the place where Rachel was buried, Christ would be born.  
Here was great loss that would become great gain.

**8** Then Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who *are* these?"  
**9** Joseph said to his father, "They *are* my sons, whom God has given me **in this place.**"

I love this statement...God brings blessings in His time.  
...And every place can be a place of blessing.

**In this place...at this time...what has God given you?**  
Recognize His blessings.

And he said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them." **10** 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. **11** And Israel said to

Joseph, “I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!”

This is such a sweet moment! Can you feel the emotion here? Israel didn't think he would even see Joseph again and now he sees his grandkids!

Is there something you think is impossible that God wants to show you above and beyond what you could ask or think to ask?

What area of life does God want to show up and show off in?

**>> It may take longer than you think, but remember...**

**...God is in the long game.**

**12** So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth. **13** And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought *them* near him. **14** 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. **15** 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,  
**16** 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.”

**Notice how Israel begins with God.**

He begins with who God is and how he is connected with God.  
What God has done and how God has helped him.

**Worship and thanksgiving are great ways to enter into God's presence.**

**17** 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. **18** And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this *one is* the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."

**19** 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."

**This was a man that heard from God.**

He was speaking prophetically for the Lord.

This is actually what happened with Jacob and Esau.

**But instead of trickery of a blind father, it was by the grace of a blind father.**

Jacob had tricked his father Isaac.

And now, Jacob chooses to bless the younger.

Jacob was the younger who was blessed.

**God often chooses the least, the weak, the foolish.**

It was Isaac not Ishmael who was blessed...

...Going back to Abraham...

...God chose one old childless man to make a nation.

**God chooses unlikely people...**

**... to do unlikely things by His grace.**

The first are last and the last are first.

I Cor 1:26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many [n]noble, *are called*. 27But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28and the [m]base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

And Ephraim would become a greater nation.

**20** So he blessed them that day, saying, “By you Israel will bless, saying, ‘May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!’ ” And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

**21** Then Israel said to Joseph, “Behold, I am dying, but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers. **22** Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow.”

The word for "portion" is “Shechem”, the city itself, and all the adjacent country, came to the lot of Ephraim,

Shechem is where Joseph’s bones will be buried in Joshua’s day:

“And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.” (Josh 24:32)

“Then he [Jesus] come to...Sychar [Shechem], near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.” (John 4:5)”

God gives good gifts to unlikely and undeserving people like us for His purpose and by His grace.