

I. SERMON SLIDES

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Scripture Reading

When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?" Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." And he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them." Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. And Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also." Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn). And he blessed Joseph and said,

"The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. And Joseph said to his father, "Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head." But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations." So he blessed them that day, saying,

"By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, 'God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.'" Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.

(Genesis 48:8-20, ESV)

Slide (Sermon Title)

Headstones

Genesis 48:8-20

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Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. (Hebrews 11:1-2, ESV)

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By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. (Hebrews 11:21, ESV)

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ROAD MAP

1. **Jacob's Blessing**
2. **Jacob's Worship**
3. **Jacob's Posture**

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Jacob Blesses

And he blessed Joseph and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." (Genesis 48:15-16, ESV)

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Observation 1

“The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked...”

Observation 2

“...the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day...”

Observation 3

“... the angel who has redeemed me from all evil...”

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Jacob Worships

“By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.” (Hebrews 11:21, ESV)

...in gratitude.

...by testimony.

Slide

Jacob's Posture

“By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff.” (Hebrews 11:21, ESV)

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And Joseph said to his father, “Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head.” But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude[d] of nations.” So he blessed them that day, saying, “By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, ‘God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.’” Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh. (Genesis 48:18-20, ESV)

Benediction

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:1-10, ESV)

II. COMMUNITY GROUP RESOURCES

DISCUSS | FAITH

How would you describe faith? Is it different than hope, confidence, trust, etc.? Why or why not?

READ | HEBREWS 11:1, 21

At first glance, where do you see Jacob's *faith* on display in Hebrews 11:21?

READ | GENESIS 48:8-20

Now having read through the text that Hebrews 11:21 speaks of, what other observations do you have about Jacob's faith?

DISCUSS | BLESSING

What observations do you have about Jacob's blessing over Ephraim and Manassah? What do you notice about the wording, the way he speaks about his relationship with God, etc.?

DISCUSS | WORSHIP

How do you see Jacob worshiping throughout Genesis 48? Share your observations with the group.

(There are two types of worship on display in Gen. 48 - Gratitude & Testimony)

What role does gratitude play in your worship to the Lord? What about your testimony?

Why do you think we've moved away from the practice of sharing our testimony with others? How can this be used as both a form of evangelism and worship?

(Consider spending a few minutes of each meeting time over the next few weeks sharing a 5-minute testimony with the group. Assign someone to share next week, then rinse and repeat.)

DISCUSS | JACOB'S POSTURE

Why do you think Jacob has his staff with him in bed?

Do you think this is the same staff he mentions in Genesis 32:10?

Do you have any physical Ebenezer stones (reminders) in your life of God's faithfulness? Share with the group.

What do we learn about Jacob's posture towards Egypt and Canaan? Why do you think he is so concerned about being buried in the promised land?

DISCUSS | THE CROSSING OF HANDS

Why do you think Jacob crossed his hands? (He wanted to, God told him to, he thought it would be funny...)

How do you feel about Joseph's reaction to his father in verse 18?

What can we learn about God's grace from this passage?

How have you experienced an unexpected crossing of hands in your own life? (Salvation, sanctification, unexpected blessings, etc.)

PRAY | GIVE THANKS

Spend some time in prayer, giving thanks to God for the journey that has led to this moment. Worship him with gratitude and testimony. Ask him for a posture of pilgrimage, to always be prepared for the journey into the promise!

RESOURCE | [Click here](#) for more information about the Angel of the Lord.