

GENE

THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING

S I S

J O S

GOD HAS A PLAN

E P H



**BROOKSIDE
CHURCH**

SESSION 10

JOS
EPH



CAL & COURTNEY HERRMANN

Cal and Courtney met doing missions work, and share a passion to stay in overseas missions long-term. But as a young couple with a baby due this year, their plan to move to the Dominican Republic in the Spring has them understandably uneasy. "But something God keeps reminding us of is His provision and that he's not called us to be comfortable." So they are keeping their hands open, trusting God, and taking leaps of faith. "God is calling us into something beautiful AND scary, but seeing God come through time and time again builds our faith!"

SESSION #10

(QUESTIONS WRITTEN BY TIM HODGES)

READ GENESIS 48:1-49:33

It always seems easiest to see God's providence and His plan by looking in the rear-view mirror. And yet Jacob and Joseph show trust in God's future providence, evidenced in the many blessings and forward-looking statements in these chapters (e.g. 48:15-17, 21-22; 49:1-28). This teaches us that God isn't only working in our past and present; God also has a plan for the future. He is faithful to His promises. This should lead to a forward-looking legacy, and a perspective of hope and trust.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Genesis 48 is focused on Jacob's blessing of his grandsons Ephraim and Manasseh. While tradition would have the right hand blessing the firstborn, Jacob intentionally blesses Ephraim (the younger son). From earlier stories in the book of Genesis, what are some other examples of the younger son having preference over the older?

2. In Genesis 48: 17-18, Joseph tries to correct his father's apparent confused mistake. What is the irony of this action? (Hint: See the birth orders of both Jacob and Joseph in Genesis. For Jacob, scan Genesis 25:24-25 and 27:1-41. For Joseph, see Genesis 37:1-3.)

3. What does Jacob blessing the younger son over the older son (which would have been the traditional approach) say about how God chooses who to use in His story?

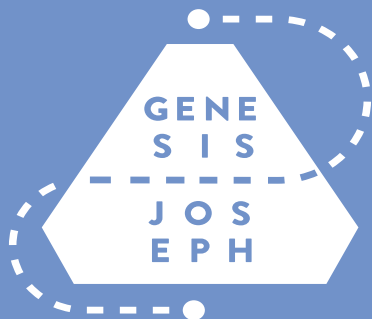
4. What is the meaning of Genesis 49:10? What famous person would come from the tribe of Judah? (Hint: See Matthew 1:1-3.)

5. Scan the passage and summarize how these chapters are “forward looking.” What is the significance of this?

6. How do Jacob’s words convey trust in God’s plan and His promises? (See Genesis 12:1-3 for a quick refresher on God’s promises.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God's plan does not always align with human tradition. In what ways has God used you, even though you might not have been the obvious choice? What does this teach you about God's gracious working?
2. Genesis 48:15 is the first biblical reference to God as a shepherd. At the end of his life, Jacob reflects not on how faithful he was to God, but how faithful God was to him. What are some examples of how God has been faithful to you?
3. Jacob's blessing of his grandsons was obviously meaningful for Joseph, as it signified carrying on a legacy of faith. What is the faith story in your family? Are you continuing a legacy of faith or starting a new story? What can you do to intentionally cultivate a legacy of faith as you look ahead?
4. In Genesis 49:18, Jacob pauses his prophecies about his sons to briefly ask for God's help. When is the last time you paused in the midst of an important work to ask for God's help? How might you make that a more regular occurrence?
5. These chapters are very forward-looking — looking ahead to God's plan. Do you believe God has a plan for the future? How can this cultivate hope and trust?
6. What else stood out to you from the sermon on this passage, or what other questions or take-aways do you have that haven't already been brought up? Discuss them now as a group.



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