

CGYG & LIFE Bible Study – Genesis 46:1 – 48:22

Read Genesis 46:1-34

1. Why did Jacob stop and offer sacrifices to 'the God of his father Isaac' at Beersheba? (cf. 26:1-2, 28:10-13)

2. Why do you think God chose to grow Israel into a great nation (v.3) in the land of Egypt, rather than in the land of Canaan? (you might consider Genesis 15:12-16; also, contrast Gen. 34:13-23 with 43:32 and 46:31-34)

3. In what ways do we see God's faithfulness to Jacob in this chapter?

Read Genesis 47:1-31

1. Why did Joseph tell his family to tell Pharaoh that they were shepherds?

2. Why did Joseph seek Pharaoh's permission for his brothers to settle in Goshen, despite his position of power?

3. What do we see of Joseph's character in his dealings with the Egyptian people in v.13-26?

4. Why did Jacob request not to be buried in Egypt? How did this request demonstrate his faith? (cf. Heb. 11:21)

Read Genesis 48:1-22

1. What was Jacob doing by reckoning Joseph's sons to be his own? (v. 5 cf. Deut. 21:15-17 with 1 Chron. 5:1-2)
2. What are some ways that Jacob's blessing of Ephraim & Manasseh was similar or different from Isaac's blessing of Jacob & Esau (Gen. 27)?
3. Why did Jacob bless Ephraim over Manasseh, even though Manasseh was older? (cf. Hebrews 11:21)
4. What does Jacob's blessing tell us about his relationship with God (v.15-22)? Reflecting on your own walk with God, can you identify with Jacob's descriptions of God in v. 15-16? Why or why not?
5. Looking back on Jacob's life, what lessons in faith can you learn and apply to your own life?

Aliens and Strangers

Now approaching the end of his life, Jacob reaches the pinnacle of faith in his life, as by faith he blesses Joseph's sons and worships as he leans on the top of his staff (Heb. 11:21). In doing so, he gives glory to God, whom he acknowledges has been his shepherd all his life and has delivered him from all harm. Though Jacob began as a deceiver, God in His grace chose him and guided him all the days of his life, shaping him by the hardships and trials he faced.

Jacob's life serves as an example and an encouragement to us who continue to walk by faith today. In his life, we see the mercy of God in choosing to save sinners through faith. At the same time, we see how God faithfully guides and preserves those whom He calls, even as He chastens and disciplines them for their good. Though the trials of life at times obscured Jacob's view of God's hand in his life, he persevered in faith and was thus enabled to look to a greater hope beyond the grave, even as he neared death. In the same way, though we may not always immediately perceive God's hand in the circumstances of our lives, we have assurance through His Word that the faithful Shepherd who called us is always with us, to lead and guide us. And so, let us persevere in the faith as Jacob did, holding fast to the hope to which we were called. Spend some time this evening reflecting on and sharing how God has been faithful in your life. In light of His faithfulness, commit yourself to continuing to run with perseverance – to the finish – the course He's marked out for you.