

THE WHOLE STORY

From Genesis to Revelation

Genesis 50

Introduction:

Joseph was truly Jacob's son, and Jacob's influence on his life was profound. Joseph was one of 12 sons that became the patriarchs of the nation promised to Abraham. Like Jacob, Joseph's character was challenged early in his life because of the brokenness in his family. In fact, it was Jacob's favoritism that led to the troubles Joseph had with his brothers. Like Jacob, God worked intimately in Joseph's life to produce faith and trust in God's promises.

This Week's Main Focus: Jesus is the truer and better Joseph.

Joseph's story (Genesis 37-50) is an incredible one. He rose to become a powerful person in a large kingdom (Egypt) after being sold into slavery *and* being falsely accused and forgotten in prison. The writer of Genesis makes a point throughout Joseph's story to show that God was "with" him, in the best and worst of all these experiences. The God presence in his life was apparent. Joseph saved thousands of people from starvation, and brought restoration to his family through forgiveness.

Joseph is seen as one of the most heroic figures in the Old Testament. His life even resembles Christ's story in many ways. However, there is something very important to see about his story: **Joseph is not the hero of Genesis, God is.** God's presence is the reason for all Joseph's success. God put Joseph in that place to save the line of Abraham that would one day bring the Messiah. Genesis 49 tells us that this Messiah would come through Judah's family, not Joseph's. For as great as Joseph was, his role in God's story is to preserve Jesus' line.

As we conclude our time studying Genesis, here are four main lessons that we learned that will help us read and understand the rest of the Bible:

1. God is the hero of the Old Testament, not any one person.
2. God's promise to bless the world through Abraham's seed, the Messiah, is the most important storyline of the Bible.
3. God's choosing is not based on merit, worth, ability or potential.
4. No matter how important anyone is, they are only a secondary character in God's story to save a people for himself.

Sermon Response Question:

1) Over the last few weeks, we've had a missions conference, men's conference, several SJI classes, forums, and other special events. Which ones did you attend? What were some of things you've been learning through these events?

2) We covered a lot of chapters in the sermon this weekend. As you reflect on Joseph's life (from your "Whole Story" reading and from the sermon this weekend) what stands out to you?

Bible Study Questions: Read Genesis 50

3) About half of this important chapter in Scripture concerns burial rituals. Why are Jacob and Joseph's burials important?

4) Throughout Joseph's life, the writer of Genesis makes a point of saying that God's presence was with Joseph. What from chapter 50 shows evidence that God has had influence on Joseph's life?

5) What about Joseph's relationship with God gave him the moral and internal strength to forgive some pretty awful wrongs done to him?

6) What about Joseph's life points you to Jesus' life?

Group Application Questions:

7) The Bible tells us that God was "with Joseph" at every turn; in Christ God is with every Christian. How does knowing God will be with you in all circumstances begin to change the way you live your life?

8) Where do you not fully understand forgiveness in your life? Who is God commanding you to forgive?

Prayer:

Read Psalm 119:41-48.

- Praise God that his mercy and salvation has come to us through Jesus Christ.
- Confess ways that you have not trusted and remember God's word this week.
- Thank God that his word is both powerful and delightful in our lives.
- Ask God to make his word more clear to us this week as we read and study it.