



# *In the Beginning God*

— PART 2 —

***Rooted Women's Bible Study***  
*A study in Genesis*



*In the Beginning God*  
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*Part 2*

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## *Foreword*

Have you ever thought about how amazing it is that the God of the universe, the One who breathed entire galaxies into existence, the God who out of the dust of the ground formed and fashioned humans into His image and likeness has written a book and preserved it to this day so that you and I might open its pages and begin to discover Him as He has revealed Himself?

From “In the beginning God...” to “Amen, Come, Lord Jesus...” page after page reveals God and His unfolding plan of redemption for a world that has been plunged into darkness. And you and I are invited by its Divine Author to open its pages and begin a journey of discovery!

The Bible is unlike any other book written. “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man [and woman] of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Because of its Divine Author we can have confidence that it is the unchanging truth of a God who loves us and calls us to Himself. We can trust the word that is spoken to be good and right and true and we can gladly place ourselves under its authority.

So let us embrace the journey of discovering the God of the Bible as He reveals Himself to us through His written Word!

### ABOUT ROOTED WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Even though I was raised in the church and had a solid knowledge of the Bible, I was still living in spiritual darkness. In 2010 God miraculously and graciously awakened me out of this darkness and brought me into His marvelous light. He began to grow in my heart a hunger to know Him and I began to study the Bible with earnestness under the teaching of Jen Wilkin, a women's Bible study teacher from Texas.

For the first time the Bible became a living book and I began to understand the gospel. I began to grow to know God through consistent and faithful study of His Word. And knowing Him began to change me. A longing began to grow in my heart

for other women to know my God through His Word. And thus began the Rooted Women's Bible Study (RWBS).

### ABOUT OUR PROCESS

Because it was through Jen's ministry that I was discipled in the study of Scripture, I use the same process in RWBS that she uses in her classes. If you would like to read more about the process, I highly recommend her book: **Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts & Our Minds.**

While the Bible is made up of two parts, the Old and New Testaments with a total of 66 separate books written over hundreds of years, it is woven together and is one book with one story to tell. Just as in any other piece of literature that is read, we want to read the Bible within its context and with care.

What I mean is this: The Bible, while it is ultimately written by a Divine Author, was also written by men chosen by God to bring us His Word. 2 Peter 1:21 says "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." So the Bible was written by a specific person, to a specific people, at a specific time, and for a specific purpose. Some of its books are historic narratives, some are poetry, some are prophetic books and others are letters. And to fully comprehend what the author is trying to communicate, we need to try to understand as much as possible the historical and cultural context of what we are reading so that we can understand what it has to say to us.

Another part of the process of our Bible study is to read repetitively. So often as we are reading, we don't really digest what we are reading. This study guide is written in such a way to help us slow down, read repetitively and begin to digest the words that are on the page. Our goal by reading repetitively is to move through three critical stages of understanding: comprehension, interpretation and application.

1. **COMPREHENSION** – Reading comprehension is asking the question, *"What does the text say?"* This is not always an easy thing to do. Sometimes in order to help us comprehend what the text says we will look up words in the dictionary, observe the setting that is described and make a list, or re-write passages of Scripture in our own words.

2. **INTERPRETATION** – Once we know what the text says, we ask the question, *“What does the text mean?”* Now I want to point out that we are not asking the question, “What does it mean to me?” The meaning of the text is determined by the original author and discovered by the reader.
3. **APPLICATION** – Once we know what the text says and discover what it means, then we are ready to finally ask the question, *“How should this change me?”*

“The Bible does tell us who we are and what we should do, but it does so through the lens of who God is. The knowledge of God and the knowledge of self always go hand in hand” (Jen Wilkin, Women of the Word). We need to see ourselves in light of who God is. To do this we approach our study through a God-centered perspective by asking these questions:

- What does this passage teach me about God?
- How does this aspect of God’s character change my view of myself?
- What should I do in response?

These are extremely challenging questions to answer but they are important questions. In your workbooks I have these questions at the end of each lesson. You may struggle each week to answer those questions, but I do want you to try. I want you to wrestle with these questions in your thoughts and think them through and do your best to answer them.

### **WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

In conclusion I have some words of encouragement that I want to give you before we start this journey...

1. **HAVE FUN** – Enjoy yourself. Delight yourself in God’s Word. In Jeremiah 15:16 the prophet Jeremiah says, “When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God of Heaven’s Armies” (NLT). Isn’t that a great encouragement to us?? Bible study is serious work.

It's hard work. But don't ever forget that these words are words that are meant to be our joy and our heart's delight!

2. **DON'T STRESS** – You can't have fun if you are stressed! This format of Bible study may be new to you and you may find the questions difficult or annoying or even unanswerable. I don't want you to stress about the homework! I'm a "Type A" personality. I have the propensity that if I don't answer all the questions in a workbook, or if they are not correct, I will have a personal crisis. I've had to learn to get over that. The point of many of these questions is to get you to think about what you are reading. I want to get both your mind and heart engaged in the Bible and wrestling with what you are reading. Don't stress if you can't figure out the answers. Don't stress about whether your answers are right or wrong. Study. Read. Wrestle. Discuss. Learn. Have fun. But DON'T stress!

3. **STORE UP TREASURE** – When we approach the study of God's Word with a God-centered perspective and seek to faithfully read it within its context over a period of time, we are storing up treasure in our hearts. There are days when this may not feel beneficial. We may not get the sense of comfort we are looking for, or we may not have an "aha" moment of deep spiritual insight. However, faithfully reading and faithfully studying is faithfully abiding in the Word and there will be fruit. You are storing up treasure in your heart for the day when you will need it. I have found that there are seasons of life that we experience darkness and the Holy Spirit will take some of this cumulative treasure that you have been storing up, and will bring it to your memory to bring healing and comfort to your soul. So be encouraged to faithfully study and treasure up God's Word in your heart.

Thank you for joining me on this journey in Bible Study! I am praying that this study will be a source of encouragement and discovery and that through your labor to study well, your knowledge and love for the God who wrote this book will widen and deepen! May we together grow to be more like Christ as we behold Him in Scripture!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cherie". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large, sweeping 'C' and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I am so thankful for the people that God has surrounded me with who encourage me in my walk with Him and spur me on in faithfulness.

- Kristi Wile, my friend, my sister, my co-laborer in Christ. You daily spur me on in my faith and obedience by encouraging and challenging me. I'm so grateful to have a friend like you.
- Rooted Women's Bible Study...I love your passion and commitment to study God's Word. It encourages me and inspires me in my walk with Jesus!
- Austin & Sarah, Levi & Eleanor and Colton & Jasmine...I have no greater joy than to see my children and grandchildren walking in the truth. What a gift from our gracious God you are!
- Keith, my husband, friend, my confidant, my theological sounding board, my #1 supporter and encourager. Getting to live life with you has been one of God's greatest acts of kindness to me. I love you with all my heart.

### **Resources Used in Writing & Teaching this Study:**

All Scripture references are in the ESV translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

ESV Study Bible

NIV Study Bible

NLT Study Bible

[www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)

[www.miriamwebster.org](http://www.miriamwebster.org)

Even Better than Eden: Nine Ways the Bible's Story Changes Everything About Your Story by Nancy Guthrie

Genesis: Beginning and Blessing by R. Kent Hughes

The New American Commentary: Genesis 1-11:26 Volume 1A by Kenneth A.

Mathews

The New American Commentary: Genesis 11:27-50:26, Volume 1B by Kenneth A.

Mathews



*“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
For you created all things,  
And by your will they existed and were created.”*

Revelation 4:11



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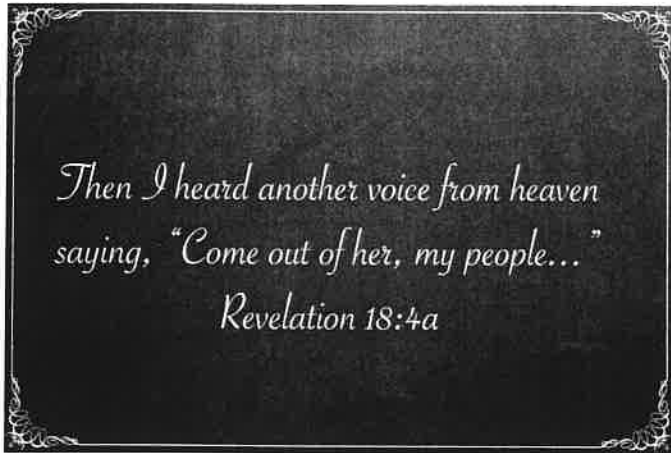
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*Week 1 ~ Introduction & Review*





## *Week 2:*

*Genesis 11:27-14:24*

*"The God Who Calls"*

Remember:

- Before you begin to study each day, spend time praying that the Holy Spirit will bring the Word of God to life as you study.
- An integral part of faithful Bible study is to let Scripture interpret Scripture. You will be putting this principle into practice throughout the study each time you look up passages of Scripture to help answer questions and understand the text.

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Read Genesis 11:27-14:24.

1. Our study begins with a familiar phrase. "Now these are the generations" gives us a clue that we are being introduced to a new section in the story. Read Genesis 11:27-32 and answer the following questions:

From which of Noah's sons did Terah descend? See Genesis 11:10-26 for your answer.

Who are Terah's sons?

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Underneath each of the names of Terah's sons write down the information given about each one of them.

2. What does the Scripture say about Sarai? Why are we told this?
3. Where does Terah and his family live? Highlight this city on the map below.

4. Look up Joshua 24:2-3. What added insight do we learn about Terah's family in this text?

What does this tell you about God? What does this tell you about those God calls?



5. Looking at the map again, trace the journey Terah took with his family as seen in our Genesis text.

Who traveled with Terah on this journey?

Where were they headed on this journey?

Where did they settle?



6. Read Genesis 12:1-9. What does the Lord call Abram from?

What does the Lord call Him to?

7. In verse 2, what does the Lord say He will do for Abram?

8. In verse 3, who else will be blessed? Why?

Who will be cursed? Why?



**Application: How is the Lord's call of Abram like the call of God to salvation?**

**Have you thought of your salvation in these terms before? Why or why not?**

9. Who travels with Abram on this part of the journey according to Genesis 12:4-9?

How old is Abram at this point in his life?

10. With a highlighter, trace Abram's journey from Ur to Haran on the map to the right.

From Haran, highlight where the Lord next appeared to him.

What did the Lord promise Abram at this location?

What did Abram do?

Where did Abram go next?

What did Abram do at this location? What added detail do we learn about Abram here that he did not do previously?

Where did Abram then journey toward?

11. Read Genesis 12:10-20. What happened that caused Abram to journey to Egypt?


What was it about Egypt that would be attractive to him in these circumstances?

12. What difficulty did Abram anticipate would happen upon arriving in Egypt?


What was his solution to this difficulty?

Are Abram's decisions and behavior in the midst of difficulty God-centered or self-centered?



 **Application:** We often find ourselves in times of difficulty, like Abram, quick to come up with our solutions. Do you find in yourself a tendency to seek comfort and solutions for your personal times of difficulty on your own terms rather than trusting God to provide? Give an example of a time you fled to "Egypt" during a time of trouble. What was the result? How should you have responded?

13. What does God's response to Abram's trouble reveal to you about God?

 **Application:** Has God ever rescued you out of a mess you created? Reflect on that time and give thanks to God for His goodness to you.

14. Read Genesis 13. Where does Abram go from Egypt?

What is significant about this place?

What does he do when he gets there?


15. What is Abram's next crisis?

What is the reason for this crisis?

16. Who does the text tell us are the residents of this region? Why is this significant?

17. What does Abram offer Lot as a solution to their difficulty?

How does this offering reveal a change in Abram?

 **Application: Sometimes we are changed through hearing the wisdom and truth of God and responding to what we have heard in obedience. But more often, the fruit of change comes through failure to obey and learning the hard way that trusting God and His Word leads to life and peace. How has past failure led you to trust the Lord more consistently in the present?**

18. Why does Lot choose the parcel of land that he chooses?

What do we learn about this land that Lot has chosen to settle?

Specifically where does Lot settle?

What does this reveal to you about Lot?

19. Based upon the description of the land that Lot chose, what can we assume about the land that Abram was left with?



What reason is given for the uprising of Alliance B against Alliance A?

26. Look up "bitumen" in the dictionary and describe what kind of pits these were.

27. What happened in this battle?

Which alliance was victorious?

List all that was taken as spoils of war by the victorious alliance.

28. Read Genesis 14:13-16. Where is Abram dwelling at this time?

Who are Abram's alliances?

29. How many men head out with Abram on the rescue mission? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think the author of Scripture wants us to know exactly how many men go out on this rescue mission?

30. What is the outcome of the rescue mission?

31. Read Genesis 14:17-24. What two kings does Abram encounter after his return?

\*

\*

32. Write down everything the text tells us about each of these kings.

33. Does the presence of a king like Melchizedek in the land of the Canaanites surprise you? Why or why not?

What does his presence in the land of Canaan tell us about God?

34. What do we learn about Abram from Melchizedek's blessing?

What do we learn about God through Melchizedek's blessing?

What do we learn about Abram's victory over King Chedorlaomer in the blessing?

35. What reason does Abram give for not taking any of the goods from the king of Sodom?



**Wrap Up:**

In light of your study this week, what was the most significant thing that you learned about God? Why was it significant to you?

Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.

What are some practical steps you can take to live in light of this truth?

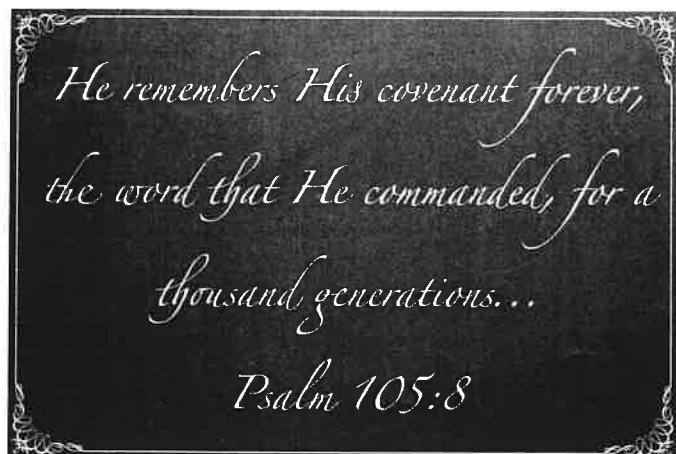
Example: Knowing that God is eternal shows me that I have a beg. & an end.

Practical steps to live in light of this truth:

- ~ Report of the ways in which I live as if I am eternal & have unlimited time on my hands.
- ~ Be more intentional this week about the way in which I will use my time by evaluating my options through these lenses - 1) Would God be pleased (does it go against Scripture?) 2) Will this "thing" stir my affections for Jesus or will it cool my affections for Jesus?

*Notes ~ Week 2: Genesis 11:27-14:24*

*“The God Who Calls”*



## *Week 3:*

### *Genesis 15-17*

## *"The God of Covenant"*

Remember each day you spend in study to spend time in prayer first, asking the Holy Spirit to illumine the Scriptures and give you understanding.

1. Read Genesis 15-17.
2. In Genesis 13:16, what had the Lord promised Abram?

Read Genesis 15:1-6. What problem is brought up by Abram regarding this promise of God? Complete the chart below.

What God Says		What Abram Says	
(V. 1)		(V.2)	
(V. 4)		(V. 3)	
What God Does/Says		What Abram Does	
(V. 5)		(V. 6)	

3. What was Abram's belief based in? (Check all that apply)

☐ evidence      ☐ visible signs/miracles      ☐ God's character      ☐ God's Word

4. Specifically what did Abram believe?
5. Read the following passages of Scripture and write what each has to say about Abraham:

\*Romans 4:1-5:

\*Galatians 3:5-6:

Summarize what “Abram believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness” means according to these New Testament passages of Scripture.

6. Look up the following passages of Scripture and write what each has to say about who the offspring of Abraham are.

\*Romans 4:13 -

\*Romans 4:16-17 -

\*Galatians 3:7-9 -



**Application: According to the Word of God, are you one of Abraham's offspring? How can you know for sure?**

7. Read Genesis 15:7-11. How does the Lord describe Himself to Abram?
8. What does Abram want from the Lord? Why do you think this is so?
9. The Lord's response to Abram's request is to enter into covenant with him. What does the Lord ask Abram to bring to Him?

Does Abram obey God's instructions

☐ partially? ☐ completely? ☐ not at all?

Read the description of the "Blood Covenant" in the box to help your understanding of this scene.

### **Abrahamic Covenant "Blood Covenant"**

The scene would look quite ominous to modern-day observers—five bloody animal carcasses on the ground, three of them split in half, with the halves separated a short distance from each other. But in Abraham's time it would not have been so menacing. The arrangement of divided animal carcasses would have been instantly recognized as the set-up for making a type of blood covenant.

In ancient Near Eastern royal land grant treaties, this type of ritual was done to "seal" the promises made. A blood covenant communicated a self-maledictory oath. The parties involved would walk the path between the slaughtered animals so to say, "May this be done to me if I do not keep my oath."

(Got [questions.org](https://www.questions.org) on Blood Covenants)

10. Read verses 12-21. Describe the scene in your own words.

11. What is Abram doing in this scene?

What is the Lord doing in this scene?


12. What does the Lord say that the future holds for Abram's offspring (vv. 13-14)?

13. What is the Lord covenanting to do (v.18)?

Specifically with whom is He making this covenant?

What is Abram's responsibility or part in this covenant?

14. Will Abram see the fulfillment of this promise?

 **Application: Are there still promises of God that we find in His Word that we too are waiting to see fulfilled? Give an example in the space below and how we too can KNOW that these promises will someday be ours.**

15. Read Genesis 16. Go back and focus your attention on verses 1-2. Who does Sarai hold responsible for her barrenness?

Is this an accurate conclusion for her to make? Why or why not?

16. In light of this conclusion, what plan does Sarai propose to Abram?

17. Do you think Sarai knew about the promises God had made to Abram?

How do you think she would have come to learn of them?

What does Sarai's plan reveal to us about her belief in God and in His Word?

18. Fill in what Scripture tells us about Abram's response in Genesis 16:2:

And Abram \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

Now look up Genesis 3:17 and fill in the text below:

Because you have \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_.

19. List below the similarities in the Genesis 3 account of the fall of Adam and Eve and the Genesis 16 account of the fall of Abram and Sarai.

20. What is at the root of the sin of Abram?

What is at the root of the sin of Sarai?



**Application: Do you see similarities in these two accounts in your own experience in dealing with temptation and sin? Explain.**

**Why is it important to recognize the common roots of our sin in the battle to fight temptation?**



21. In Genesis 16:3-6 we begin to see the immediate fallout of Abram & Sarai's sinful choice just like we see an immediate fallout in Adam & Eve's sinful choice. What is the first observable strife that happened as a result of this sin?

How does Sarai respond?

How does Abram respond?

What happens to Hagar?

22. Read Genesis 16:7-16. Where does the Angel of the Lord find Hagar?


What does He tell her to do?

What is your initial response to the Angel of the Lord's instruction? Why do you have this response?

23. What hope does the Angel of the Lord give her in the midst of sending her back into a difficult situation?

How are the Angel's words hopeful for Hagar?

24. How does Hagar respond to the Angel of the Lord?

 **Application:** In your own life, have you ever been asked by the Lord to remain in a difficult situation? How did you come to the place where you were willing to obey?

**What specific lessons can you learn from Hagar's story to help you persevere in difficulty?**

**In these difficult situations, how has God shown Himself to you and sustained you?**

25. Read Genesis 17. How many years have transpired since Ishmael's birth? \_\_\_\_\_
- Go back and read Genesis 12:4. How old was Abram when God called him? \_\_\_\_\_
- How old is he now? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many years have passed since the Lord called Abram? \_\_\_\_\_
- What evidence has Abram had over these years that the Lord would fulfill His promise?
- What did he have to cling to?



**Application: What kinds of evidence do you look for in your walk of faith that help you persevere?**

**How do you cling to the promises of God when you don't see any tangible evidence?**

26. Focus on Genesis 17:1-14. We are seeing another covenant between God and Abram. Unlike the previous one in chapter 15, this is a conditional covenant. Let's look at this more closely.

God enters into covenant with whom? Choose the best answer.

☐ Abram & his offspring

☐ Abram & all mankind

What is Abram's responsibility in the covenant (vv. 1, 9-11)?

\*

\*

\*

What is God covenanting to be (v.7)?

What is God covenanting to do (vv.6-8)?

\*

\*

\*

\*

Is this covenant a(n) (check which applies):

☐ temporary covenant? ☐ eternal covenant?

27. What does God's changing of Abram's name to Abraham tell us about God?
28. Why would circumcision (which is a cutting away of flesh) be an appropriate sign for this type of covenant? To help you wrestle with the answer, think about how the covenant is broken and what will then happen to the person who breaks the covenant (v. 14).
29. Read Genesis 17:15-27. What is Abraham's response to God's renaming and blessing of Sarah (vv. 15-17)?

Why do you think Abraham responded in this way?

30. What was Abraham's hope for his son Ishmael?
31. In spite of Abraham's request, through which of Abraham's sons does God establish his covenant?
- ☐ Ishmael ☐ Isaac

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 **Application: What is your reaction to God's choosing who to covenant with?**

**What does your reaction reveal about you?**

**What does God's freedom to choose reveal about Him?**

32. List in the space below all that God promises to Ishmael.

33. In verses 22-27, who did Abraham circumcise?

When did Abraham obey?

34. What does Abraham's obedience indicate?

What does Romans 4:11a tell us that Abraham's circumcision indicated?

35. Look up the following verses and write what each has to say about circumcision:

\* Romans 2:28-29 -

\* Colossians 2:11-12

36. In light of these passages of Scripture, what would be the New Testament equivalent for circumcision?

**Wrap Up:**

In light of your study this week, what was the most significant thing that you learned about God? Why was it significant to you?

Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.

What are some practical steps you can take to live in light of this truth?

*Notes ~ Week 3: Genesis 15-17*

*"The God of Covenant"*





## *Week 4:*

### *Genesis 18-19*

#### *"The God of Justice & Mercy"*

Remember to spend time in prayer before you begin to study, asking the Holy Spirit to give you understanding. This week we will be looking at the God of justice and mercy. Ask the Lord specifically to help you see these two characteristics of God clearly as you study and to worship Him wholly for who He is!

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1. Read Genesis 18 & 19.
2. In Genesis 18:1-15, the LORD once again makes an appearance to Abraham. Read through these verses again. What familiar phrase signals this next encounter (v. 2)?

Where is Abraham at this time?


What does he see?

Do you think Abraham initially knows who he is offering hospitality to? For what reason do you think this?

3. What does Abraham offer the men (vv. 3-5)?

What does Abraham actually provide for them (vv. 6-8)?

What does this reveal to you about Abraham?

 **Application: How do we view hospitality in our current cultural context?**

**How does this view of hospitality line up with the biblical definition of hospitality (see box) that was shown by Abraham?**

**What are ways in which you can grow in offering biblical hospitality?**

*Hospitality can be defined as "the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way." In the New Testament, the Greek word translated "hospitality" literally means "love of strangers."*

*www.GotQuestions.org*

[www.GotQuestions.org](http://www.GotQuestions.org)

4. Focus your attention on Genesis 18:9-15. Abraham has a conversation with the three men as they are eating dinner. Where is Sarah during the conversation and what is she doing?

What does Sarah hear?

What is her response to what she hears? Why does she respond in this way?

5. Go back and read Genesis 17:15-17. What does Abraham do when he hears the exact same news that Sarah heard?

How did the Lord respond to Abraham's laughter?

How did He respond to Sarah's laughter?

What do you think is the reason for the different responses from the Lord in these two situations?

6. Read Genesis 18:16-33. Write a summary of the conversation between the three men and Abraham in these verses.

7. For what reason does the Lord decide to tell Abraham what He is about to do (vv. 17-19)?

Do you see God's mercy in this reason? Explain your answer.

8. What is the Lord planning to do and why?

What does the Lord's plan reveal to us about how God views sin and His judgment of sin?

9. In verses 22-32, we see Abraham and the Lord in an intense conversation over the fate of Sodom & Gomorrah. What does this conversation reveal to you about Abraham's relationship with the Lord?

What does this conversation reveal to you about the Lord's relationship with Abraham?

10. Let's look closely at the conversation:

Scripture Passage	What Abraham said:	What the Lord said:
<b>Genesis 18:23-26</b>		
<b>Genesis 18:27-28</b>		
<b>Genesis 18:29</b>		

Scripture Passage	What Abraham said:	What the Lord said:
Genesis 18:30		
Genesis 18:31		
Genesis 18:32		

11. What does this conversation reveal to you about justice and God's judgment?
12. Why do you think Abraham was so persistent in pleading with God? What is at the bottom of his concern?

What does Abraham's persistence in pleading with God reveal to you about what Abraham believed about God?



**Application:** Have you ever prayed for God to intervene on behalf of someone you love with this much persistence and passion?

**What does your persistence in prayer (or lack thereof) reveal about what you believe about God?**

13. Read Genesis 19. We now find out where the two angels went after leaving Abraham. Where do they go?

Where do they find Lot seated?

What does this reveal about Lot's status in the city?

14. List the ways in which the biblical account of Lot's greeting and hospitality of the two angels is similar to Abraham's greeting of the three men in 18:1-8.

Do you think that Lot understood who he was entertaining?

15. Read verses 4-11 again. Using your own words describe the scene in this passage.

What point is the author trying to give to the readers about the men of the city in the way he describes this scene?

16. How does Lot respond to the request of the men of Sodom?

What is Lot's view of their behavior and request?

Look back at Genesis 18:20. What is the Lord's view of the sin of Sodom?

17. It is important as we read the Bible that we do our best to understand the world in which these stories happened. Spend a few minutes and read the Cultural Context box on the right.

Now that you understand the context in which Lot lived and what his responsibilities as a host would have been, re-read Genesis 19:1-11 again and write in the space below the specific ways in which Lot was serving these two strangers according to what would have been expected and required.

18. In light of the context of his culture, what does Lot offering his daughters reveal about what he thought of his daughters?
19. Look up 2 Peter 2:6-8. What does this passage reveal to you about Lot's character?

### **Cultural Context: Ancient Hospitality**

Hospitality is regarded as a right by the traveler, to whom it never occurs to thank his host as if for a favor. And hospitality is granted as a duty by the host, who himself may very soon be dependent on some one else's hospitality.

The traveler is made the literal master of the house during his stay; his host will perform for him the most servile offices, and will not even sit in his presence without express request. To the use of the guest is given over all that his host possesses, stopping not even short of the honor of wife or daughter.

The host is in duty bound to defend his guest against all comers and to lay aside any personal hatred--the murderer of father is safe as the guest of the son.

In the lands of the East, when a host accepts a man to be his guest he thereby agrees at whatever the cost to defend his guest from possible enemies during the time of his entertainment.


Taken from the article Manners & Customs: Hospitality in the Ancient World found at [www.bible-history.com](http://www.bible-history.com)

Does Peter's description of Lot surprise you? Why or why not?

20. Back in Genesis 19:1-11, who is it that rescues both Lot and his daughters from the men of Sodom?

21. Read Genesis 19:12-22. What is about to happen to the city of Sodom?

How do we know Lot believes the angels?

 **Application:** In 2 Peter 2:6 we read that the judgment of God on Sodom and Gomorrah serves as an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly. The Word of God is filled with warnings of this coming judgment. Do you believe these warnings are true?

**How do you actively warn others of the coming judgment and the way to escape it?**



22. What was Lot's response to the early morning call to leave the city of Sodom?

Why do you think he did this?

23. How did the angels get Lot and his family out of the city and away from destruction?

What did they instruct them to do (v. 17)?

Where did Lot ask permission to go? Why?

24. Read Genesis 19:23-29. What happens when Lot arrives in Zoar?


Who is responsible for the judgment on these two cities?

What was included in this judgment?

25. Why did Lot's wife become a pillar of salt?

Is this a just judgment? Why or why not?

26. Remembering the conversation between Abraham and the Lord earlier in this chapter, what might Abraham's thoughts have been as he saw the smoke off in the distance?
27. We learned in Part 1 of our Genesis study that God's remembering is connected to an action on His part. What action is God's remembering Abraham connected to?
28. What two aspects of God's character are revealed to us in Genesis 19:29?

 **Application:** In this passage, we are able to clearly see God's mercy alongside His judgment. So often we can miss this in our approach to Scripture. How does this story challenge you as you study Scripture to look for His mercy when studying passages that tell of His judgment? How can you incorporate that into discussions with others who struggle with God's judgment when reading the Word of God?

29. Read Genesis 19:30-38. This is a disturbing passage of Scripture. Let us do our best to read this with a humble heart.


What problem do Lot's two daughters have?

What solution do they come up with to solve their problem?

What happens as a result of their solution?

30. Look up Judges 10:6-9. What do these verses tell us about the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon?

Why is this important for the original audience that Moses is writing to?

 **Application:** It is easy for us to sit in judgment of these two women, while we do the same thing in different ways. How have you sought solutions to problems in your own life without looking to God for help? What was the result of these decisions?

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**Wrap Up:**

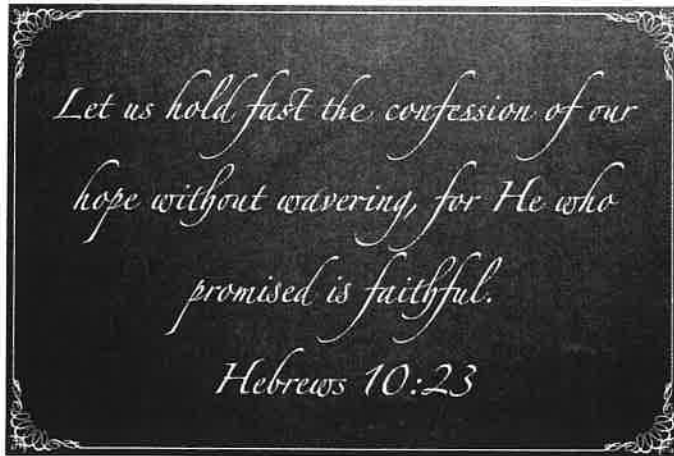
In light of your study this week, what was the most significant thing that you learned about God? Why was it significant to you?

Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.

What are some practical steps you can take to live in light of this truth?

*Notes ~ Week 4: Genesis 18-19*

*"The God of Justice & Mercy"*



*Week 5:*

*Genesis 20-22:19*

*"The God of Abraham"*

Remember to spend time in prayer before you begin to study, asking God for insight. This week we will be looking at the fulfillment of the promise God made to Abraham to give him a son. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in your understanding of God's faithfulness to His promise, not just to Abraham, but to you as well.

---

1. Read Genesis 20-22:19.
2. Re-read Genesis 20. Summarize in the space below what happens in this chapter.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. We've seen a version of this story before when Abraham went down to Egypt. Once again Abraham fails to trust God and comes up with his own solution. What does this failure teach us about the walk of faith?



**Application: What can we learn from Abraham's failure about what it means to walk by faith and not by sight?**

**How does this understanding help you when you stumble repeatedly in the same area of life?**

**How does this challenge you to persevere in the face of failure?**

4. What is at stake in Abraham's failure to protect his wife Sarah?


How does God act to protect Sarah?

How is this protection fitting for what is at stake?

5. What reason does Abraham give Abimelech for his deception?

Is Abraham's perception of Abimelech true based on the outcome of the story?

How did Abraham's deception to Abimelech reveal his own lack of "fear of the Lord"?

 **Application: Have you ever judged someone to have "no fear of God" and realized later that your assessment couldn't be further from the truth? What did you learn about yourself through that experience?**

6. Read Genesis 21:1-7. Fill in the blanks from verse 1:

The LORD \_\_\_\_\_ Sarah \_\_\_\_\_, and the  
LORD \_\_\_\_\_ to Sarah \_\_\_\_\_.

What assurance does the Word of God give us about the character of God?


Why is this important for the original audience?

Why is this important for us today?

7. Fill in the blanks from verse 2:

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham a \_\_\_\_\_ in his old age at  
the time of which \_\_\_\_\_.

Abraham & Sarah's sorrow has been turned to joy by the God of promise.  
Describe what this joy must have been like for them at the birth of Isaac.

 **Application:** Think about a time in your life that you had deeply longed for something and pleaded and waited on God to answer the desires of your heart. Has God answered this longing or are you still waiting?

**If God answered it, was it in the way you expected or something different but better?**

**If you are still waiting, how can you be encouraged and persevere in trust during these times of longing?**

**In what ways can we encourage others to persevere and trust in their times of waiting?**



8. Let's reflect again on Genesis 21:1-2. What do these verses make clear to the reader?

In light of Genesis 21:1-7, why is it important that this is made clear to the reader?

9. What happened when Isaac was 8 days old?

Why did Abraham do this?

What did this act of obedience signify? See Genesis 17:9-14 to refresh your memory.

10. Read Genesis 21:8-21. In verses 1-7 Sarah laughs with joy at the birth of her son, Isaac, and says, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." Now Ishmael is laughing. Why do you think his laughter displeases Sarah?

In her anger, what does Sarah demand from Abraham concerning Hagar and Ishmael?

11. In a similar conflict between Hagar & Sarah in Genesis 16, how is Abraham's response different in this encounter? Why?

What does God tell Abraham to do? Why?

What promise does God give Abraham regarding Ishmael?

12. At this point in the story, it is likely that Ishmael was about 17 years old. Regardless of the backstory of the birth of Ishmael, he was still Abraham's son. What did Abraham's obedience to the voice of the Lord cost him?

When does the text tell you that Abraham obeyed the Lord?

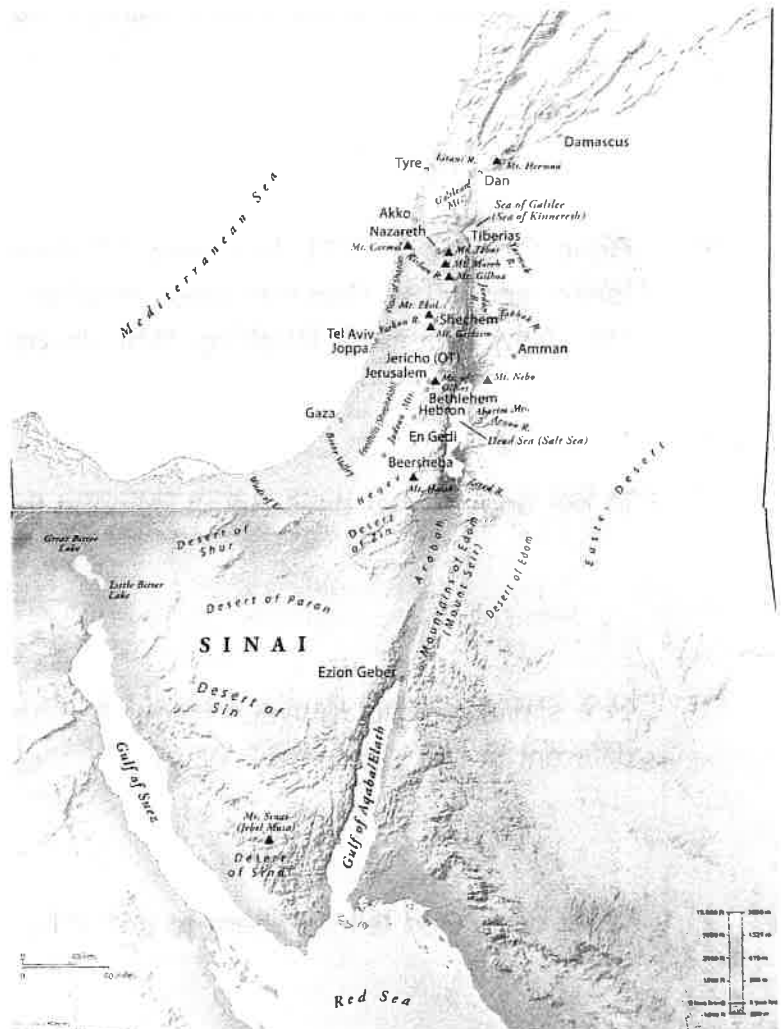
What does this tell you about Abraham?

13. In Genesis 20, we learned that Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negev (also Negev) and lived between Kadish & Shur. Find the Negev on the map and highlight.

On the map, find and highlight the region where Hagar and Ishmael wandered in Genesis 21.

Find and highlight the area where Ishmael settled.

Highlight on the map where Ishmael's wife is from.



14. In your own words describe the condition that Hagar and her son are in (vv. 15-16).

15. In verses 17-21, in what way does God show Himself to Hagar?

How is this like her previous encounter with God in Genesis 16:7-14?


How is it different?

16. How does God provide for and protect Hagar & Ishmael?

Why does He do this?

17. God made a promise to Abraham and now to Hagar about what He would do for Ishmael. What did He promise that He would do?

Thinking back to the whole story of Hagar, what evidence does Hagar have that God will be faithful to His promise to her?

 **Application: Hagar had reached the end of her resources in the wilderness of Beersheba. And it was at this point that God shows up to rescue and deliver her. Are there other stories in the Bible that you can think of where God does this same thing?**

**How about in your life? Have you ever had a season (or seasons) when you reached the end of your resources and God showed up? Share about this time in your life.**

**Why do you think that God does this?**

**How does remembering these moments of God's faithfulness and rehearsing them in the midst of trials to one another help build our faith and trust in God for present and future wilderness seasons?**

18. Read Genesis 21:22-34. Abimelech reappears once again in Abraham's story. Summarize the story in the space below.

For what reason(s) do you think Abimelech and Phicol would approach Abraham and seek to make a treaty with him?

What were the terms of the treaty that Abimelech made with Abraham?

19. Abraham confronts Abimelech with a problem that he has with him. What is the problem and what is the solution that they come up with to resolve the conflict (vv. 25-30)?

Where was this well located? Find this on the map on page 46 and mark it with a star.

20. After Abimelech and Abraham come to an agreement, what does Abraham do?

Have you seen Abraham do this previously in his story? If so, note these occasions below and include the passages of Scripture and what Abraham did.

What is significant about this ritual of Abraham?


21. Why do you think the Lord through Moses saw fit to include this story in the narrative? Do you see any connection in this story with the passages around it?

22. Read Genesis 22. In verse 1 we learn that God tested Abraham. Look up the word "test" in the dictionary and write the definition below.

In light of the definition, what could God's purpose be in testing Abraham?

Is this the first time God tested Abraham?

Think through Abraham's story and list below some of the ways God had already been testing him. Include references of Scripture where they can be found.

 **Application: Do you filter difficulties in your life through the possibility that God may be testing your faith? Why or why not? Would that change how you experience and respond to difficulties?**

23. When God calls to Abraham, how does Abraham respond?

❧ **Application:** When you recognize that you are entering a time of testing, do you answer “Here I am” or is your attitude one of resistance?

**What would it look like to trust in God with an attitude of submission when He brings testing your way?**

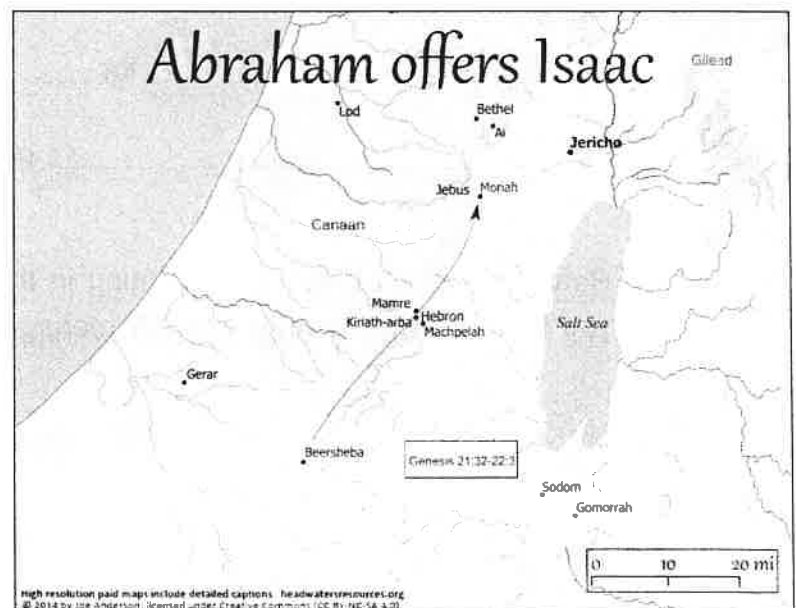
24. What are the words God uses to describe Isaac in verse 2?

What is the specific way in which God is testing Abraham in this passage?

What will this test reveal about Abraham’s faith?

25. Where does God call Abraham to go?

Highlight the location on the map.



26. What does Abraham do in response?

When does he do it?

How long of a journey is it?

What do you think was in Abraham's thoughts as he took this journey?

27. Read verses 5-8. Who continues on the journey and what is their purpose?

List below all the details of what they take.

According to Isaac what is missing?

28. Fill in the response of Abraham to Isaac:

\_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_  
for a \_\_\_\_\_, my son.

29. Read verses 9-14. Is there anything in the passage to indicate Isaac's age? Do you think he was a small boy? A teenager? A young adult? Why do you think this?

What about Abraham? About how old could he have been?



30. What do you think Isaac's thoughts were as he realized he was the sacrificial lamb?

What does the text say he says or does?

What does this reveal about Isaac?

31. Who is it that calls to Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_

How does Abraham respond? \_\_\_\_\_

32. Abraham had passed the test! What does the Lord say he was testing?

Did the Lord not know this information before? Look up Psalm 44:21, Jeremiah 17:10, and Acts 15:8 to help you with your answer.

33. If God already knew what was in Abraham's heart, then what is the reason for all of this?

Look up James 1:2-4 & 1 Peter 1:6-7. How could these passages of Scripture help shed some understanding on what God is doing in and revealing about Abraham?

34. When Abraham lifted up his eyes what did he see?

What did he do?

How did he worship?

35. In verse 14, Abraham names the place "The Lord will provide." What does it mean when it says "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided"? To help you think through your answer, refer back to Genesis 20:7.

36. Read Genesis 22:15-19. List all that the Lord swears by Himself to do for Abraham:



**Application:** In Hebrews 11:17-19 we read that Abraham considered that God was able to bring Isaac from the dead if he had gone through with sacrificing him. He fully stood on the promise that through his son Isaac the promised offspring would come. Do you trust God like this? What can we learn about standing on God's character and his Word through Abraham's example?

**Wrap Up:**

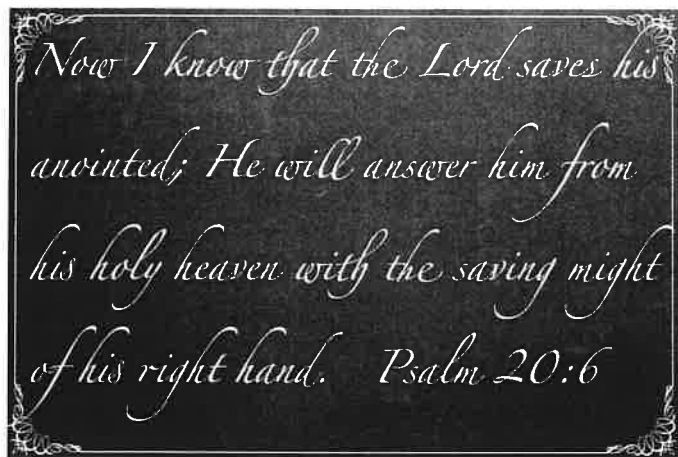
In light of your study this week, what was the most significant thing that you learned about God? Why was it significant to you?

Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.

What are some practical steps you can take to live in light of this truth?

*Notes ~ Week 5: Genesis 20-22:19*

*"The God of Abraham"*



## Week 6:

Genesis 22:20-26:33

*"The God of Isaac"*

This week as you read and study, pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to give you understanding and point you to Jesus in the Scriptures.

1. Read Genesis 22:20-26:35. We have a lot of ground to cover in this week's lesson! Try to work on a chapter a day to spread out the homework.
2. Read Genesis 22:20-24. Here we get a family update on Abraham's brother, Nahor. Fill in Nahor's family tree:

Milcah	-m.-	Nahor	-m.-	Reumah
1 _____				1 _____
2 _____				2 _____
3 _____		(father of _____)		3 _____
4 _____				4 _____
5 _____				
6 _____				
7 _____				
8 _____		(father of _____)		

Why do you think this information is included?

3. Read Genesis 23. Highlight on the map the region where Sarah died.

Who does Abraham approach to purchase property to bury Sarah?

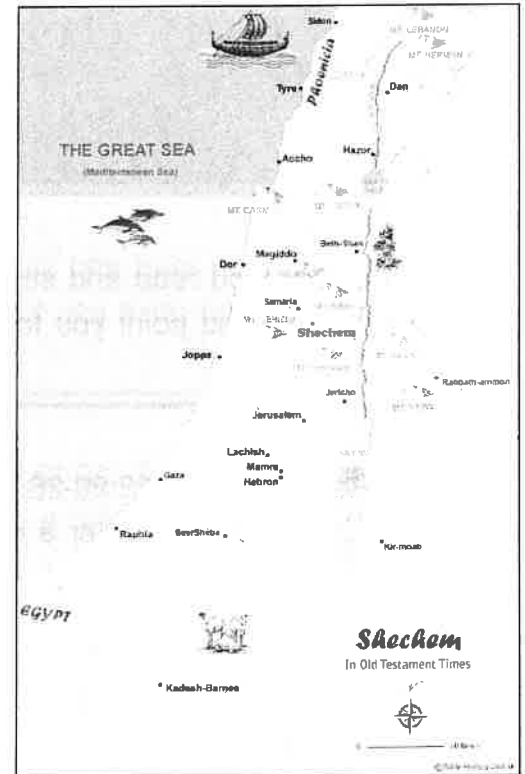
From whom does he purchase the property?

Write a description of the property that Abraham is seeking to purchase.

What was the final purchase price?

Where was Sarah laid to rest?

4. Read Genesis 24. In verses 1-9, Abraham sends his servant on a very special mission. Where is he being sent and what is the purpose of this mission?

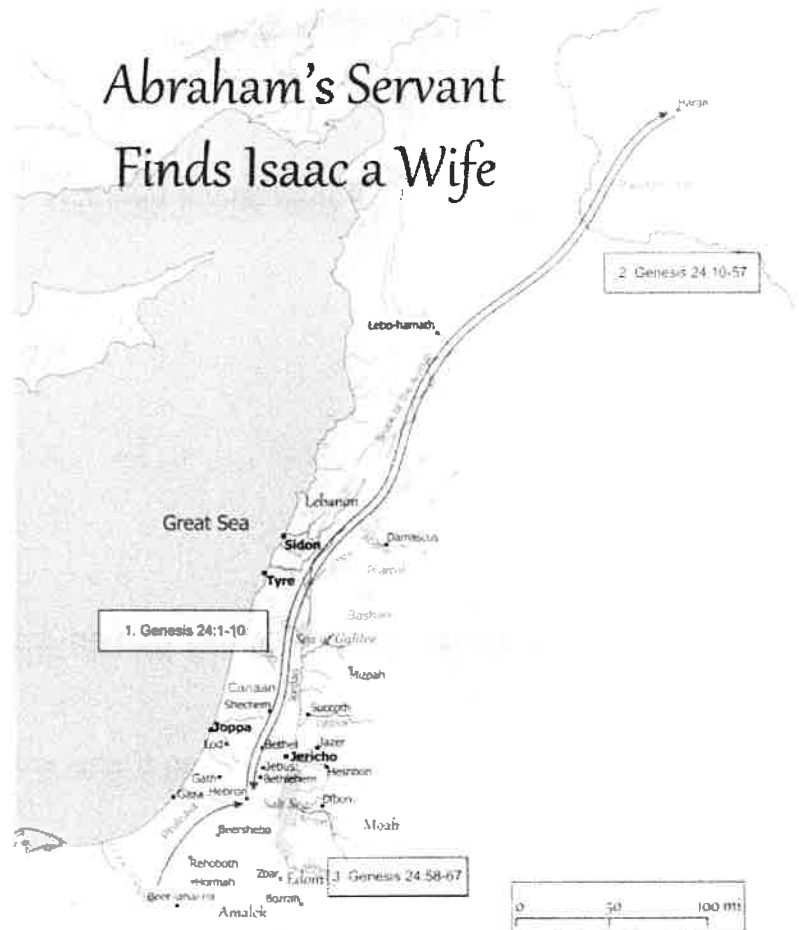


5. On the map find Hebron and trace the trip that Abraham's servant will need to take.

Using the mileage key at the bottom of the map, figure out about how far of a journey it is.

6. What is Abraham adamant that the servant should not do?

Why do you think this is so important to him?



High resolution paid maps include detailed captions: [headwatersresources.org](http://headwatersresources.org)  
© 2014 by Joe Anderson, licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0).

7. In verses 10-14 the servant sets out on his journey. List below what he takes with him.

8. Where is the first place he goes upon arrival?

Rewrite the servant's prayer found in verses 12-14 in your own words.

9. Read through verses 15-21. While the servant is praying, who appears at the well?

What is significant about who she is?

What did the servant pray would happen?

What actually happened?

Does the servant know who this woman is at this point in the story?

How does he go about discerning if she is “the one”?

10. Read verses 22-33. What do these verses reveal about who this woman is?

How does the servant respond when he realizes who she is? Why is this his response?

What two things propel Laban, Rebekah’s brother, to go to the servant of Abraham and offer him hospitality?

\*


\*



Why do you think the author brings out these things in the text?

What do they reveal to you about Laban's character?

11. In verses 34-49 the servant retells the story of Abraham and of the mission that brought him to Rebekah's family. As you read through this retelling, summarize in the space below the ways in which you see God's providence in the lives of Abraham, his servant, and Rebekah.

 **APPLICATION:** In the retelling of a story we can often see how God has providentially worked in our story much like we have seen in the life of Abraham. Write a retelling of a story in your life where you can see God providentially at work.

How does the act of rehearsing these stories glorify God?

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**How does the act of rehearsing these stories lead us to worship God?**

12. Upon hearing the servant's words, what do Laban and Bethuel conclude in verses 50-51?

13. Read through verses 52-61.

Gifts given to Rebekah:

Gifts given to Rebekah's mother & brother:

Who tries to delay the departure of the servant and Rebekah?

How long did they wish to delay it?


How is Rebekah's call to leave her home similar to Abraham's call to leave his home?

How is it different?

14. What does Rebekah's willingness to leave without delay reveal about her faith?

Look up Psalm 119:60. Write the verse in the space provided.

Why is it important to obey without delaying?

 **Application: Have you ever been convicted by the Holy Spirit about something that you were either called to do or called not to do and delayed following through? What happened?**

**Is there something the Lord has been calling you to that you need to stop pushing off? Write about this in the space provided and commit to the Lord today to follow through in obedience.**

15. Write out the blessing given to Rebekah on her departure.

Compare this blessing to the blessing the Lord gave to Abraham in Genesis 22:17. How are they alike?

16. Read Genesis 24:62-67 and the account of Isaac and Rebekah's meeting. Unlike a romance novel we are not given a whole lot of details about the meeting and subsequent marriage of Isaac & Rebekah. Write a description of the scene given.

What do you think Isaac is meditating on?

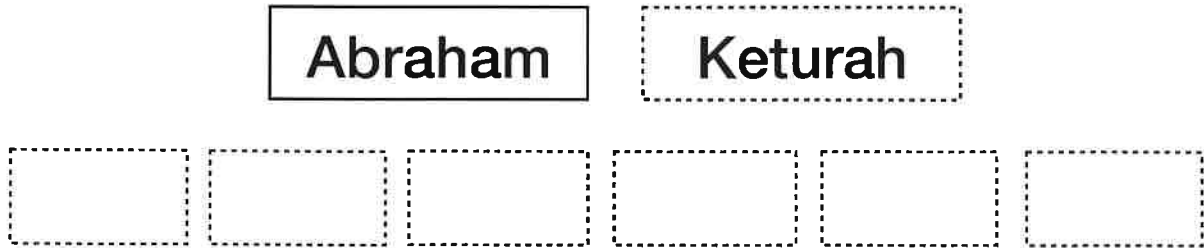
What does it say that Isaac saw when he lifted up his eyes?

What does Rebekah see when she lifts up her eyes?

17. Summarize Isaac & Rebekah's "wedding."

18. Read Genesis 25. Does the news that Abraham takes another wife surprise you? Why or why not?

19. Let's fill in another family tree. Who are the sons of Abraham & Keturah?



Who are the sons of Jokshan? \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the grandsons of Jokshan?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who are the sons of Midian? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Highlight any names that are familiar to you.

20. We are at the end of Abraham's life. What does he bequeath to his sons?

To Isaac

To the sons by his concubines

Where did he send his sons (v. 6)?

21. How many years did Abraham live?

Where was he buried?

Who buried him?

- 
- 2 Genesis 24:10-57
- Great Sea
- 1 Genesis 24:1-10
- Jericho
- Joppa
- Tyre
- Sidon
- Leshem
- Jordan River
- 0 50 100 mi
- 2 Genesis 24:10-57
- High resolution paid maps include detailed captions | [headwatersresources.org](http://headwatersresources.org)  
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- © 2020 Cherie Leatherman

25. How many years did the Lord give Ishmael?
26. Where did the Ishmaelites settle?

What do you think the statement “he settled over against all his kinsmen” means? Refer back to Genesis 16:12 to help with your answer.

27. Reread Genesis 25:19-28. In contrast to Ishmael's robust genealogy in the previous section, what do we learn about Isaac & Rebekah in verses 19-21?

How long did they wait before they received the answer to their prayers?

28. List the sons that were born to Isaac & Rebekah and the description of each:

\*

\*

29. What did the Lord say would become of these children (v. 23)?

30. Re-read Genesis 25:29-34. What exchange does Esau make with Jacob? Why does he do this?

Look up the word “despised” in the Merriam-Webster dictionary. In light of the definition of this word and the Cultural Context in the box to the right, what does it mean that Esau despised his birthright?

## *Cultural Context*

### **The Birthright**

Special privileges and advantages belonging to the first born son among the Jews.

\*He became priest of the family


\*Received a double portion of paternal inheritance

\*He inherited authority and responsibilities of his father

(Easton's Bible Dictionary - Birthright)

Esau is mentioned in Hebrews but not in the Hall of Faith. Look up Hebrews 12:16-17. What does the author of Hebrews tell us about Esau?

What are the implications of that?

 **Application: What are some ways that we can do what Esau did...sell our birthright for a single meal or despise the promises of God (which is what Esau did)? Look up Proverbs 1:7b to help with your answer.**

**How does the warning we see in Hebrews about Esau not finding an opportunity to repent motivate us to persevere in difficulty and hold on to our birthright as believers?**



31. Read Genesis 26. This chapter is the bulk of what we know of Isaac and his life. Another famine comes to the region where Isaac is sojourning. Previously when there was a famine, where did Isaac's father go? (Hint: Genesis 12:10)

Where does the Lord specifically tell Isaac not to go?

Where does Isaac go?

32. What does the Lord promise Isaac?

Is this the same promise He made to Abraham or is it different? See Genesis 22:17-18.

As you read these verses of God bestowing the promise He originally made to Abraham also on Isaac, what is this a fulfillment of? See Genesis 17:19.

33. What does Isaac do in Gerar that is just like what his father Abraham did many years past?

How was Isaac caught in his lie?

34. In spite of Isaac's behavior, how does the Lord protect Isaac and his family during his time in Gerar (v. 11)?

35. How does the Lord provide for Isaac during this time?

36. What motivates Isaac to move?

37. Isaac lived in Gerar during the famine. Highlight that on the map with a yellow highlighter. Draw a line to the place that he eventually settled and highlight that place.

Write on the map the names of the wells that Isaac dug in the order that they appear in the text.



38. When the Lord appears to Isaac, how does He identify himself to him?

What does He say to him?

What is Isaac's response to this encounter?

39. Why does Abimelech come to visit Isaac?

What are the terms of the treaty between Isaac and Abimelech?

**Wrap Up:**

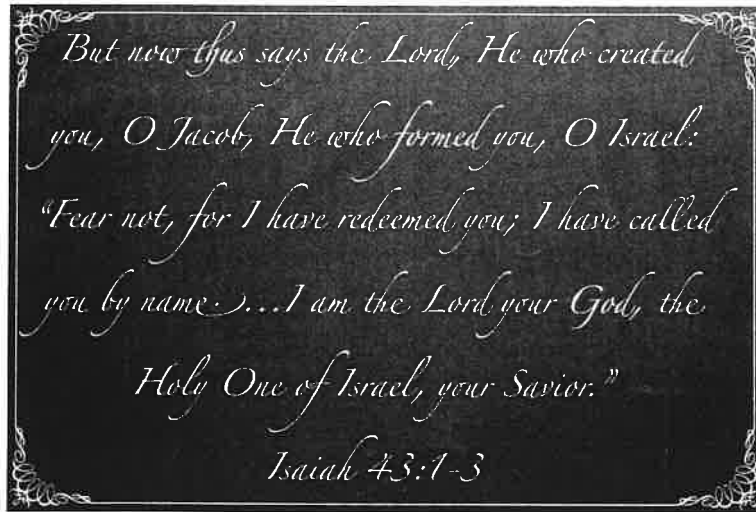
In light of your study this week, what was the most significant thing that you learned about God? Why was it significant to you?

Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.

What are some practical steps you can take to live in light of this truth?

*Notes ~ Week 6: Genesis 22:20-26:33*

*"The God of Isaac"*



## *Week 7:*

*Genesis 26:34-33:20*

*"The God of Israel"*

This week as you study, pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you into growing in the knowledge of God.

1. Once again we have quite a lot of ground to cover this week. Read through Genesis 26:34-33:20.
2. As we head into the story of Jacob and Esau, let's re-read Genesis 25:27-28. Write a summary of the family dynamics that are at play.

How will these family dynamics impact the relationship between these two boys?

How will it impact the relationship between Isaac & Rebekah?



**Application: Let's think through favoritism within families. Why does it exist in families?**

**In what ways could unintentional favoritism have an impact in your parenting?**

**What are steps that can be put in place to guard against favoritism in your parenting?**

3. In Genesis 26:34-35, what do we learn about Esau?

Why would this make life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah?

4. Read Genesis 27:1-29. Which of his two sons does Isaac desire to bless before he dies? \_\_\_\_\_

Which of her two sons does Rebekah desire Isaac to bless before he dies? \_\_\_\_\_

Based on the Cultural Context information regarding the patriarchal blessing, why is this such a big deal?

### *Cultural Context*

#### **PATRIARCHAL BLESSING**

"Patriarchal blessings were not merely a father's wishes for his sons; they were unalterable...the family blessing was mediated by God through the faith of the patriarch..."

*Genesis 27:1-29*

("The Patriarchal Blessing," *Table Talk Magazine*)

5. Describe Rebekah's plan to obtain the blessing for Jacob.

6. Describe how Jacob carried out this plan.

7. What clues does the text give us that Isaac may have been suspicious?

What does he do with his suspicions?

What seems to convince Isaac to give his blessing?

8. Write out Isaac's blessing to Jacob in the space below.

In your answer above, highlight the parts of the blessing that are similar to what God had promised previously to Abraham and then again to Isaac.

9. Read Genesis 27:30-38. When does Esau return from his hunting expedition?

What does he return to find?

What are Esau's emotions and his response to the deception?

Is he justified in his response? Why or why not?

10. Esau begs his father for a blessing. Read through the blessing in verses 39-40. Write out Esau's blessing next to each section that parallels Jacob's blessing.

Jacob's Blessing

"May God give you of the dew of heaven  
and of the fatness of the earth  
and of the grain and wine.

Let peoples serve you,  
and nations bow down to you.  
Be lord over your brothers,  
and may your mother's sons bow down to you.

Cursed be everyone who curses you  
and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

Esau's Blessing

11. In verse 41, what was Esau's response to the blessing he received?
12. Read Genesis 27:42-28:9. Where is Jacob being sent and what reason is given for sending him away?

Look up Genesis 24:6-8. What had Abraham expressly forbidden his servant to do?

Do you think that there is any significance in Abraham's refusal to allow Isaac to go to his homeland and Isaac & Rebekah's different approach? What are the potential dangers if Jacob remains at home? What are the potential dangers if he leaves home?



13. Why is it important to Isaac & Rebekah that Jacob obtain a wife from the house of Bethuel? See Genesis 28:1.
14. What blessing does Isaac send Jacob off with in Genesis 28:3-4?
15. In Genesis 28:6-9 we read of Esau's response after hearing that Jacob is sent away to get a wife from Bethuel. How many wives does Esau have according to Genesis 26:34-35? \_\_\_\_\_

Where were Esau's first two wives from?

From what family does Esau take another wife?

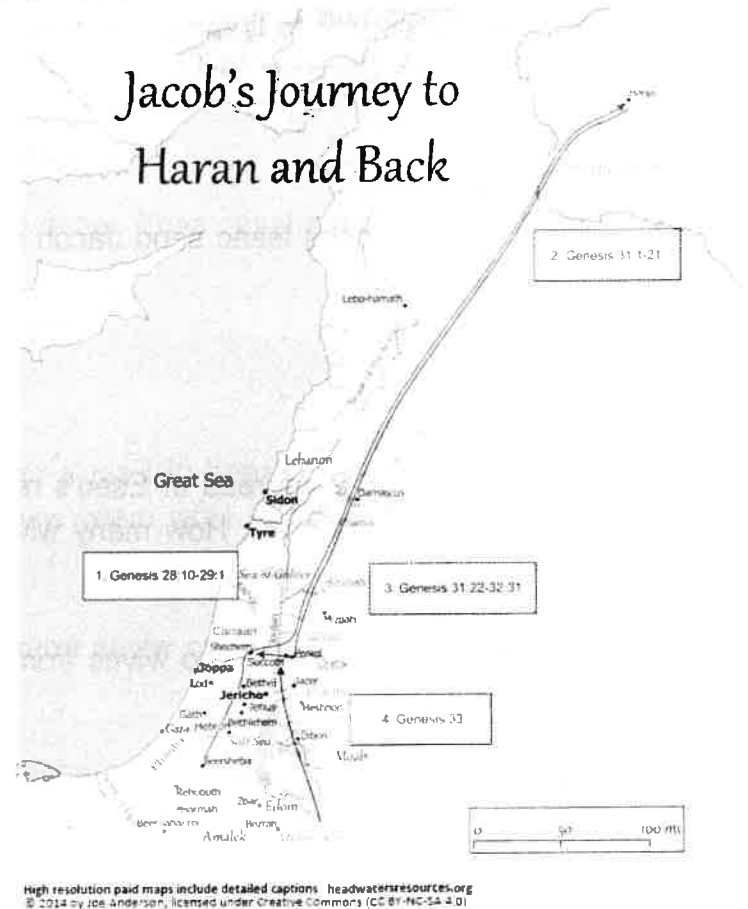
16. The text tells us in Genesis 28:8 that when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please his father, he took another wife. Do you believe that he did this out of spite or out of attempting to please his father? Explain your answer.

Would his decision have pleased his father? Explain why or why not.

17. Read Genesis 28:10-22. Highlight where Jacob began his journey.

What does Jacob call the place that he had his dream?

Highlight this location on the map.



18. Write in your own words what Jacob sees in his dream.

Look up John 1:51. Who is speaking in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

What claim is being made that connects this passage to Jacob's dream?

19. Back in Genesis 28:13-15, how does the Lord identify Himself to Jacob?

What does He promise to Jacob?

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What is Jacob's response to the dream in verses 16-22?

20. Describe the vow Jacob makes to the Lord after the dream.

What does this reveal about Jacob?

21. Read Genesis 29:1-30. As Jacob continues on his journey to his mother's homeland, who does he meet as he nears his destination?

Where is their meeting?

22. Describe what Jacob does when Rachel enters the scene?

Why do you think he does this?

23. Whose daughter is Rachel?


What do we know about this man's character based on the previous week's study?

24. How does the Scripture describe Rachel?

How does the Scripture describe Leah?

Which sister does Jacob love and desire to marry?

25. Things take a surprising turn for Jacob. Describe in your own words what happens to Jacob.

 **Application:** In an ironic twist, the deceiver has now been deceived. Why do you think God in His sovereignty allowed for the deceiver to be deceived?

**How has the Lord worked in similar fashion in your own life?**


26. Read Genesis 29:31-35. In light of Jacob's preference for Rachel, how does the Lord respond?
27. What does Leah say after the birth of Reuben?

What does she say after the birth of Simeon?

What does she say after the birth of Levi?

What does she say after the birth of Judah?

What do you see changing in Leah from the birth of her firstborn to her fourth child?

 **Application: We often look to God to alleviate our discomforts and difficulties with the things that we believe we need for happiness, comfort, and satisfaction. However, God is using these discomforts to turn our attention to Himself. Do you recognize your own longings as a gift from God to draw you to Himself? Why or why not?**

**What steps can you take to live in light of this truth?**

28. Read Genesis 30:1-24 and the summary of the baby wars. Who does Rachel hold responsible for her barrenness?

Who does Jacob hold responsible for her barrenness?

What is Rachel's solution to her barrenness?

What does this reveal about Rachel's view of God?

29. According to Genesis 29:31-30:24 fill in the names of the sons of Jacob and their meanings.

Leah	Leah through Zilpah	Rachel	Rachel through Bilhah

30. As you read the account of the baby wars between Leah and Rachel, what evidence do you find that these women had a distorted view of God and His character as related to their behavior with each other and with Jacob?



**Application:** How do we come to the place where we can recognize that we have a distorted view of God?

**What are ways in which we distort the character of God in our contemporary cultural context?**

**How can we be sure that we don't distort God's character?**

**How has your understanding of God and His character changed through the years as you have studied Scripture?**

**Are you able to look back in your life and see how your distorted understanding of God affected decisions you made and ways you have lived your life?**

31. Read Genesis 30:25-43. For what reason is Laban reluctant to let Jacob leave for home?

32. What does Jacob negotiate with Laban as wages?

What is the outcome of this negotiation?

33. Read through Genesis 31. Summarize the conflict between Jacob and Laban that we read in verses 1-16 in the space below.

34. What does Rachel steal from her father?

What is it that Laban is the most upset about?

35. What do we learn in verses 36-42 about the way that Laban had treated Jacob through the years?

How long had Jacob been in Haran?

To whom does Jacob attribute his wealth and how does he describe Him?

36. Summarize the covenant between Jacob and Laban found in Genesis 31:43-55.

Note how God is described in verse 53.

37. Read Genesis 32:1-21. Who do we learn Jacob meets as he continues his travels?

What is significant about this encounter?

38. When Jacob learns that his brother is coming to meet him with 400 men, how does he react?

Is Jacob's emotional response rational or irrational given the circumstances?

39. How does Jacob prepare for this upcoming meeting according to the following verses:

\*In verses 7b-8?

\*In verses 9-12?



\*In verses 13-15?

\*In verses 16-21?



**Application: How do we make plans similar to what Jacob does in this passage?**

**What should be our priority when faced with a terrifying situation?**

40. Read Genesis 32:22-32. After sending his family across the stream, Jacob is alone. Who does the text say he encounters in a wrestling match?

Who “wins” the wrestling match?

Summarize this wrestling match in your own words.

What are the significant changes to Jacob as a result of this wrestling match?

41. Read Genesis 33. Write in your own words what happens when Jacob finally encounters Esau.

Were his fears realized?

42. On the map highlight the area where Jacob camps.

Highlight on the map where Jacob originally was from (Genesis 28:10).

From whom does he purchase a piece of land to pitch his tent?

To whom does he build an altar?



**Wrap Up:**

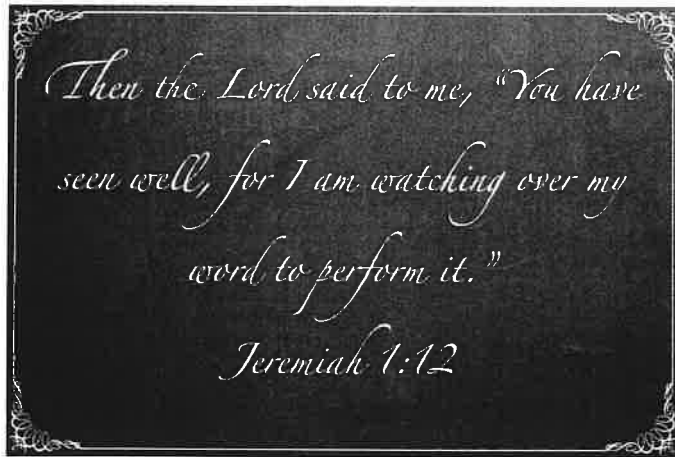
In light of your study this week, what was the most significant thing that you learned about God? Why was it significant to you?

Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.

What are some practical steps you can take to live in light of this truth?

*Notes ~ Week 7: Genesis 26:34-33:20*

*"The God of Israel"*



## *Week 8: Genesis 34-38*

### *“The Promise-Keeping God”*

This week as you study, pray that the Holy Spirit will help you grow in your understanding of the promise-keeping God.

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1. Read Genesis 34-38 to give you an overview of our week of study. What are your overall observations about the character of God’s chosen people as you read through the text?

2. Read Genesis 34 again. How many times is God’s name mentioned in this chapter?

What is the significance of this?

3. Who is Dinah?

What does she decide to do?

Who is Shechem? (See also Genesis 33:19.)

What did Shechem do?

4. We know little of what Dinah's thoughts are in this chapter; however, what word do you see in verse 2 that may give us a hint of Dinah's perspective?
5. What is Shechem's desire?

What does he do?

What conclusion do you make about Shechem's character?

6. What does Jacob do when he hears about what happened to Dinah?

Is this the reaction you would expect from a loving father? Why or why not?

What is the reaction of the sons of Jacob to the news?

Is this the reaction you would expect? Why or why not?

7. What solution does Shechem's father have to offer Jacob and his sons?

How do the sons of Jacob answer Hamor (v. 13)? \_\_\_\_\_

Where might they have learned that behavior?

What do they agree to do?

What will be the result of this agreement?

For the children of Abraham, what did circumcision symbolize? (Hint: Genesis 17:13-14)

Is there significance in what they were asking the men of Shechem to do?

8. What happens on the third day after the men of Shechem were circumcised (vv. 25-29)?

9. Was the behavior of Simeon and Levi

☐ justice? ☐ vengeance?

Look up the definition of both of these words. Explain your choice.

10. Jacob's response to the activities of Simeon & Levi is interesting. Who is at the center of his concern?

☐ Dinah    ☐ Simeon & Levi    ☐ God    ☐ Himself

What clues in the text helped you choose your answer?

What conclusion can you make about Jacob's character based upon the events of this story?

What conclusion can you make about the character of Jacob's sons based upon the events of this story?



**Application: We learned in this chapter that Jacob under-reacted to a tragic situation which resulted in Levi and Simeon over-reacting. Which of these two responses do you lean toward in times of crisis?**

**Think about a particular situation to which you either overreacted or under-reacted. What would have been a more biblical response to that situation?**

**How can we develop biblical responses to difficult and even unjust situations that we face?**



11. Read chapter 35. What is the first word in this chapter? \_\_\_\_\_

What does He tell Jacob to do?

In light of what we read in chapter 34 and the behavior of Jacob and his sons, what does the opening of chapter 35 reveal to you about the God of the Bible?

12. Go back and skim over Genesis 28:10-22. What happened at Bethel previously?

What had God said to Jacob at that time (vv. 13-15)?

What vow did Jacob make to God at Bethel in verses 20 and 21?

Turn back to Genesis 35. Why is it significant that God instructs Jacob to go back to Bethel and dwell there?

13. In Genesis 35:2-3, Jacob gets his family ready to go to Bethel. He tells them to:

\* Put away what? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Purify what? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Change what? \_\_\_\_\_

What is significant about these three things? See Isaiah 1:12 & 16 to help with your answer.

14. Look up the following verses and write what each one says about who is doing the purifying and how one is purified:

Verse	Who does the purifying	How the purifying is done
Hebrews 1:3		
1 John 1:7		
1 John 1:9		
1 John 2:2		
Titus 2:14		
Ephesians 5:25-26		

Look up the following verses about putting off and putting on and write what is to be put off and what is to be put on.

Verse	Put off	Put on
Ephesians 4:22-24		
Colossians 3:5-10		



**Application:** Based on these passages of Scripture, summarize how you are purified.

**Is this a change from how you previously viewed how you are purified? Explain.**

15. How did Jacob refer to God in Genesis 35:3?

How did Jacob respond to God back in Genesis 28:20-21?

What is the change that you see in Jacob's response to God?

What do you think brought about this change?

16. What did Jacob do with the foreign gods and the rings in their ears in verse 4?



**Application:** Today, we don't bow down to little statues. But what kinds of idols do we have? Identify an idol that you may be holding onto. How would you go about leaving it behind or burying it?

17. Why did the cities leave Jacob and his family alone as they traveled?
18. Upon arrival at Bethel what significant things happened (vv. 6-8)?
19. God appears once again to Jacob and blesses him in verses 9-15. Let's compare the Lord's blessing of Jacob to the way the Lord blessed Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac. Read through the following blessings and answer the questions that follow.

**The Lord's blessing of Abraham:**

Genesis 12:1-3: Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 17:1-8: When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

**The Lord's Blessing of Sarah:**

Genesis 17:15-16: And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

**The Lord's Blessing of Isaac:**

Genesis 26:2-5: And the Lord appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

**The Lord's Blessing of Jacob:**

Genesis 35:9-13: God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So

he called his name Israel. And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you." Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him.

Who is re-named as a part of their blessing?

What is promised in all of these blessings?

In His blessing to Abraham God promises that He will make him exceedingly fruitful. What does He command the man, Israel, regarding being fruitful?

When have you seen this blessing/command before? Hint: there are 2 places.

Why is this significant?

20. What does Jacob do to mark this encounter with God in verses 14-15?

21. In Genesis 35 there are three significant deaths:

\*Deborah, Rebekah's nurse: Where was she buried?

\*Rachel, Jacob's wife: How did she die?

Where was she buried?

\*Isaac, Jacob's father: How old was he when he died?

Where was he living at the time of his death?

Who buried him?

22. What do we learn about Reuben in verse 22?

Why are we told that Israel heard of this?

Does Israel do anything with this information?

23. We now are given a complete list of the 12 sons of Jacob. List them in the space below.

Who is the last addition to the family? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was his mother? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Read chapter 36. In verses 1-19 we are given a list of Esau's sons. Who are his wives?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who are his sons?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To the left of the sons' names, write the name of their mother.

To the right of Eliphas & Reuel, list out the names of their sons.

25. Why did Esau move his family?

Where did they go?

What does the great wealth of both Jacob and Esau reveal to you about God?

26. In verses 20-30, we are given the list of Seir the Horite's sons. List them below.

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Write the listed grandchildren of Seir the Horite next to the sons.

Highlight any names that you recognize in this list.

What is significant about this list of names in the midst of this chapter on the generations of Esau?

27. List the kings of Edom found in verses 31-39 and the city they reigned in (if listed):

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Why do you think this is included in the text?

28. And finally, we are given a list of the chiefs of Esau in verses 40-43.

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As you read through these lists of names, think about the original audience. Why would Moses have included this information for them?

Why would God have preserved this list of names for our benefit today?

29. Read chapter 37. Our attention is now taken away from Esau, and brought back to the generations of Jacob. Which one of Jacob's sons are we introduced to?

What do we learn about him?

How do his brothers feel about him?

30. Write Joseph's two dreams in your own words in the space below:

What do these dreams seem to be indicating?

Was Joseph's sharing of his dreams with his family helpful or hurtful?

Why do you think he shares these dreams?

31. In verses 12-35, where are Joseph's brother's pasturing the family flocks?

Why does Jacob send Joseph to his brothers?

Where does Jacob eventually find his brothers?

32. What do the brothers plot as they see him approaching?

Who steps in to rescue Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_

What is his alternate plan?

33. Who do they sell Joseph to?

Where are they headed?

How do the brothers cover their sin and hide the truth from their father Jacob?

34. Describe the impact of the loss of Joseph on Jacob.

How do you think his grief affected the rest of the family?

35. Where does Joseph end up?

As you look over this dreadful story of betrayal and deception, how do you see God at work behind the scenes?



**Application:** In the midst of suffering, we are often blinded by our pain or our circumstances. What are ways that we can lift our eyes above the circumstances and see God's hand at work in our lives?

36. Read chapter 38. Once again we are told another tragic story of betrayal and deception in Jacob's family. This time the focus is on Judah, Leah's son.

What does it mean that Judah turned aside (v. 1)?

Who does Judah befriend? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is this person from? \_\_\_\_\_

Who does Judah take as his wife? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is she a daughter of? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this significant?

What do you think the author may be hinting at with the words "Judah... turned aside" in light of the decisions Judah made in the beginning of this chapter?

Read Proverbs 4:10-19. In light of this passage, what was Judah's first mistake?

37. List the 3 sons born to Judah:

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Next to each of the sons, write a description of his character, and what God did in response to each son.

What does this reveal to you about Judah's family and how he was raising his children?

38. What does Judah promise Tamar?

When does Tamar realize that Judah has no intention of following through with his word?

What plan does Tamar come up with and then execute in order to get justice for herself (vv. 12-19)?

What does she request as a pledge from Judah?

39. How does Judah respond when news of Tamar's pregnancy reaches his ears?

Describe how the table is turned on Judah.

Why do you think he declares that Tamar is more righteous than he is?

40. What are the names of Judah & Tamar's sons:

\_\_\_\_\_

41. Why do you think this story is included in Scripture?

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**Wrap Up:**

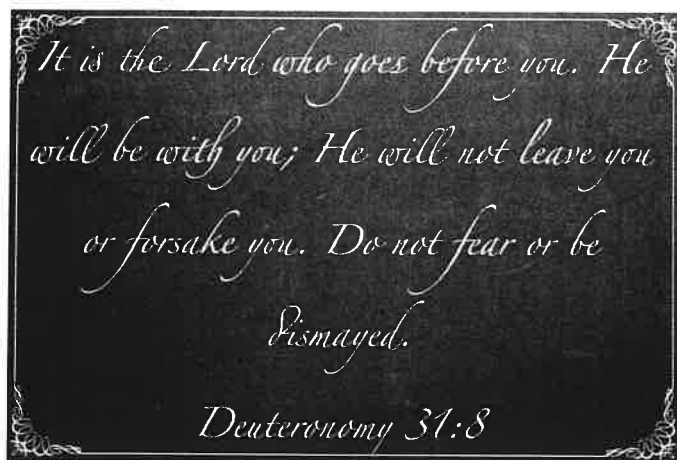
In light of your study this week, what was the most significant thing that you learned about God? Why was it significant to you?

Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.

What are some practical steps you can take to live in light of this truth?

*Notes ~ Week 8: Genesis 34-38*

*"The Promise-Keeping God"*



## *Week 9: Genesis 39-41*

### *"The God Who Goes Before"*

This week as you study, pray that the Holy Spirit will open your eyes to see the goodness of God at work in all circumstances.

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1. The story moves from Jacob and his sons in the land of Canaan to Egypt where we pick up the story of Joseph. Read Genesis 39-41. Out of the whole story of Joseph's journey from the pit to the palace, what did you find most interesting?
2. Read through Genesis 39. Underline or highlight every time you see the following phrases:

"The Lord was with..."	Number of times mentioned _____
"The Lord blessed..."	Number of times mentioned _____
"The Lord caused/made..."	Number of times mentioned _____
	Total _____

What was the result of the Lord's presence, blessing, and causation in Joseph's life?

3. At the end of Genesis 39 where is Joseph?


Write in the space below how Joseph ended up in prison.

Write a description of Potiphar's wife & her actions.

Write a description of Joseph and his actions.

4. In spite of Joseph's character and actions, he found himself in prison. What is your initial response to the negative result of Joseph's righteous behavior?

Why didn't God intervene and rescue Joseph?

 **Application:** There tends to be an expectation deep within us that doing the right thing will lead us to favorable circumstances. Do right and things will go well with you. But so often this does not prove to be true. Look up 1 Peter 3:14 and write it in the space below.

**Does Peter say that when we do good we are guaranteed a favorable outcome?**



**What does Peter tell us not to do in these times?**


**What does he tell us WILL happen in these circumstances?**

**Have you ever had the experience of choosing the right thing and it led to suffering?  
Please write about this experience in the space provided.**

**How did you experience God's blessing in the midst of this time?**

5. God did not intervene and rescue Joseph, but what does Genesis 39:21-23 make clear that God did for Joseph?
  
6. Genesis 39:21 says that the Lord was with Joseph and SHOWED him steadfast love. What does the Lord's steadfast love mean?

What do you think that would have looked like?

 **Application: Joseph had the presence of God and his steadfast love and the Lord made him successful in all that he did, but let us not forget that Joseph was still a slave and a prisoner. In the midst of suffering, disappointment and even unfair circumstances, is knowing that the presence of the Lord is with you and His steadfast love is toward you enough to sustain you? Explain your answer.**

**How has the Lord showed steadfast love to you in difficult and often disappointing circumstances?**

7. Read Genesis 40. What are the opening words of this chapter?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Who joins Joseph in prison? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete verse 4 below.

They continued \_\_\_\_\_.

What do you think the author is seeking to communicate about Joseph's prison sentence with these two phrases?

9. The cupbearer and the baker each had a dream that troubled them. Joseph noticed that they were troubled. What does Joseph's observations about the cupbearer and baker reveal to you about him?

 **Application: Do you see this characteristic in yourself?**

**When you are in the midst of trials, are you able to observe others who are struggling or are you more inward focused?**

**What steps can you take to be more outward focused and seek to minister to others even when you are in the midst of your own personal struggles?**

10. Who does Joseph attribute the interpretation of dreams to before he offers to interpret the dreams for them?

What does this reveal to us about Joseph's understanding of his relationship with God?

11. Draw a picture below of the dream that the cupbearer had.

What does Joseph tell him the interpretation of his dream is?


What does Joseph ask the cupbearer to do once he is restored to office?

Now draw a picture of the baker's dream.

What was the interpretation of this dream?

12. The cupbearer's dream brought him good news, but the baker's was bad news. How did Joseph handle the presentation of the bad news?

Do you think he may have been tempted to nuance or soften or even hide the bad news?

 **Application: We are surely tempted to nuance, soften, deny or even hide the bad news that we are sinners and judgement is coming. We skip the bad news and only tell good news. But what if Joseph had told the baker the news he told the cupbearer? He would have given him a temporary hope but when he met judgment day the baker would have been surprised, devastated, and dead. What can we learn from Joseph's example of telling the truth, even when it's harsh?**

13. What was the outcome of these dreams and the interpretations given by Joseph?
14. Did the cupbearer remember Joseph?
15. Read Genesis 41. How long has Joseph been forgotten?

Application: Have you ever felt forgotten or overlooked? Tell about that time.

How did the Lord use that time for your good?

16. Who is now having dreams?

17. Get in touch with your inner artist once again and draw each of Pharaoh's dreams.

Dream 1

Dream 2

18. What effect do these dreams have on Pharaoh?

Who does he seek help from?

19. Describe how Joseph gets pulled back into the story.

How do you observe God providentially at work behind the scenes in this story?

20. Where does the text say they pulled Joseph from?

And where was he taken?

21. What does Pharaoh ask of Joseph?

Who does Joseph give glory to before Pharaoh?

22. After Joseph heard Pharaoh recount his dreams, what interpretation did God give to him?

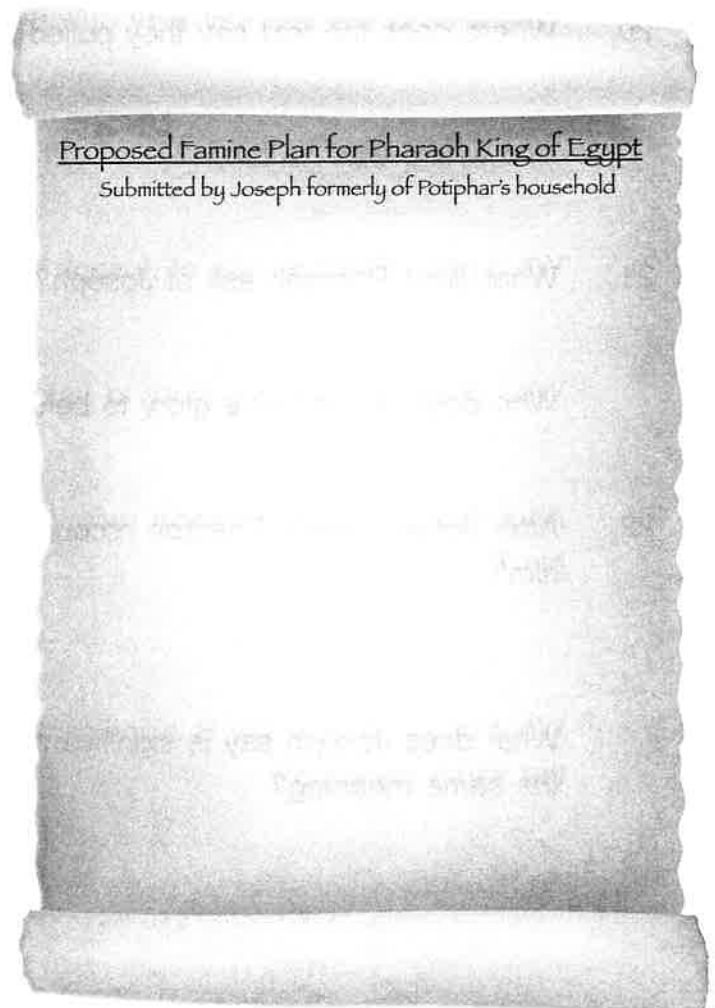
What does Joseph say is significant about the fact that Pharaoh had two dreams with the same meaning?

23. After Joseph interprets the dream for Pharaoh, he offers him a suggestion to prepare for what is to come. Does it surprise you that he could so quickly come up with an extensive plan? Why or why not?

How do you think he was able to come up with a plan like this?

Does his courage in promoting his plan surprise you? Why or why not?

24. List in the scroll on the right all the details of Joseph's preparation plan.






25. If you were Pharaoh, what would be your assessment of Joseph's plan?

How does Pharaoh receive this plan?

What reason does Pharaoh give for identifying Joseph as the right man for the job?

What was the visible evidence in Joseph's life of what Pharaoh described as the indwelling of the Spirit of God?

 **Application: The indwelling Spirit of God in the life of a believer should produce visible evidence. What visible evidence should we be exhibiting in increasing measure? Look up Galatians 5:22-23 & 2 Peter 1:5-9 to help you with your answer.**

**Reflect on your own life as a believer. What is the evidence of the Spirit's indwelling work being made manifest in you?**


**Spend some time in prayer, asking the Spirit of God within you to manifest in increasing measure the visible evidence of His presence in your life.**

26. What spheres does Pharaoh place under Joseph's command?

Who alone is greater than Joseph?

27. This is quite a promotion! From the pit to the palace. Summarize all that has happened to Joseph on his journey to this place.

How did God use each of these pit stops to prepare him for this moment and this position?

 **Application: Are you able to see your life, both the good and the bad, the just and the unjust, the joys and the suffering, as God's training ground in preparation for the next opportunity He has for you... even if the next opportunity is a trial? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to view these opportunities through his purposes. Write about this.**

28. Read Genesis 41:42-43. List below the ways in which Pharaoh honored Joseph.

What were the 2 final gifts that Pharaoh gives Joseph in verse 45?

29. Spend some time reflecting on the ways in which this story of Joseph, from the pit to the palace, is a foreshadowing of Jesus. Write a summary of this in the space below.

30. How old is Joseph according to verse 46? \_\_\_\_\_

When we were first introduced to Joseph in Genesis chapter 37, he was a boy of 17.  
How many years have passed? \_\_\_\_\_

31. What do we learn that Joseph did immediately upon his promotion?

32. When were Joseph's sons born?

What was the name of his firstborn? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the meaning of his name? \_\_\_\_\_


What was the name of his second son? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the meaning of his name? \_\_\_\_\_

What is significant about the names of Joseph's sons?

What does that reveal about Joseph's faith over these years of difficulty?

What does this reveal about God's work in Joseph's life over these years of difficulty?

 **Application: Some people respond to suffering with bitterness and anger while others respond like Joseph. What makes the difference in how people respond?**

**Which response is your tendency when suffering comes into your life?**

**What are ways that you can begin to respond more like Joseph?**

33. Summarize verses 53-56 in your own words.

**Wrap Up:**

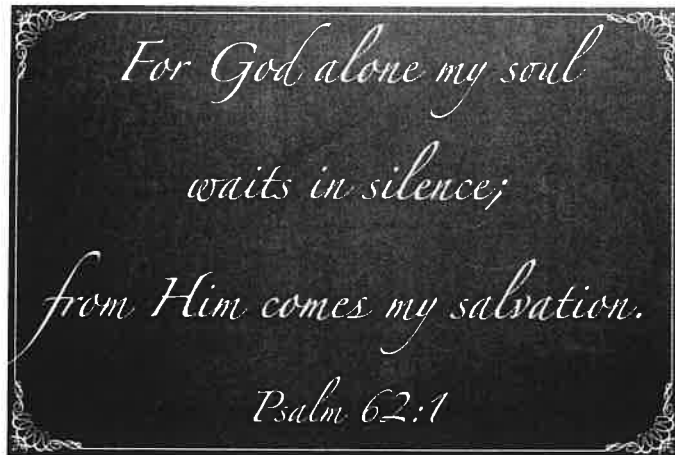
In light of your study this week, what was the most significant thing that you learned about God? Why was it significant to you?

Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.

What are some practical steps you can take to live in light of this truth?

*Notes ~ Week 9: Genesis 39-41*

*"The God Who Goes Before"*



## *Week 10:*

*Genesis 42-47*

## *"The God of Salvation"*

This week as you study, pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal to you the beauty of the God who goes before His people bringing salvation to them. Pray that your heart will be changed by Him, that your desire will be for Him, and that your life will begin to reflect this change of heart and desire.

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1. Read through Genesis 42-47 and the story of how God has worked to save Israel in the midst of a global famine. What is the most interesting part of this story to you and why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  2. Read through Genesis 42 again. In verses 1-5 what tone do you detect in Jacob's words toward his sons?

What is he calling them out on?

Throughout the story of Jacob and his children, we can see the patterns of Jacob's fleshly attitudes and behavior made visible in the lives of his children. Think through the story that we've been looking at these last number of weeks and note in the space below the ways in which we have seen Jacob's character flaws in the lives of his children.

Why do you think this is so?



**Application:** How have you seen this pattern true in your own life, whether you inherited your parents' sinful behaviors or how you have passed them on to your children?

**How does the gospel of Jesus allow for and bring about the breaking of generational sin?**



3. Who does Jacob not send to Egypt with his brothers and why?

At this point in the story, does it appear to you that Jacob has changed much over the years? Explain your answer.

How do you think Jacob's attitude toward his children and his favoritism of Benjamin continue to impact them even into adulthood?

4. Upon arrival in Egypt where do the brothers go?

Describe the scene of the meetup (v. 6).

How is this scene a fulfillment of Scripture?

5. Joseph recognizes his brothers; however, they don't recognize him. Why do you think they would not have recognized him?

How does he speak to them?

Do you think he speaks to them this way because he is angry or because he is hiding who he is? Explain your answer.

What does he repeatedly accuse them of being?

In his accusations, what information does Joseph subtly extract from his brothers about their family?

6. Joseph decides to test the words of his brothers. Why would he want to do this? Do you think there is mistrust on the part of Joseph toward his brothers?

In verses 15-16, what is Joseph requiring them to do? How would these requirements test the trustworthiness of their words?

Where do the brothers spend the next 3 days? What do you think Joseph was seeking to accomplish in this?

What do you think the brothers were doing during these 3 days?


7. On the third day, Joseph meets with them again. How does he change up the plan (vv. 18-20)?

What is striking to you about the conversation the brothers have amongst themselves?  
How does this conversation reveal God working in their hearts?

How does Joseph respond to overhearing this conversation?

Does he reveal himself yet? Why or why not?

Which of the brothers is taken into custody. Describe this scene.

 **Application:** We see that Joseph is guarding himself when it comes to his relationship with his brothers. Joseph proceeded with caution and with wisdom in his dealings with them. How can we learn from Joseph's interactions with his brothers, ways to navigate with the same wisdom and caution when trust has been broken?

8. What does Joseph do next (v. 25)?

Do you think that this is grace on Joseph's part or is he continuing to test their character? Explain your answer.

9. At what point is the money discovered?

What is the brothers' response to this discovery?

10. Describe the scene between the brothers and their father upon their return (vv. 29-38).

What does Jacob say in verse 36 about this situation they are in?

What past event does his "woe is me" response remind you of?

What does this continue to reveal about Jacob?

11. Is Jacob willing to let his youngest son go?

What does Reuben offer as a pledge to bringing Benjamin home safely?

Does this change Jacob's mind?

12. Read through Genesis 43:1-15. Why does Jacob send them back to Egypt?

Which of the brothers reminds him of the futility of going back without Benjamin?

What does he offer as a pledge for the safety of Benjamin?

Why is this a more compelling pledge than the one that Reuben gave?

13. Jacob finally agrees and sends them off once again to Egypt. What does he send them with (vv. 11-15)?

14. Read Genesis 43:16-34. Where does Joseph instruct his steward to bring his brothers?

Why are they afraid? What do they think is happening?

Describe the conversation they have with the steward.

What the brothers said:

What the steward said:

What is the most striking thing to you about what the steward tells them? Why?

15. Simeon is returned to them and they prepare to meet Joseph. Pretend that you are a servant in Joseph's household watching the scene in verses 26-34. Write a description of the scene as if you were writing a letter to your mother.

16. What about this dinner amazed the brothers and why?

17. Read Genesis 44:1-5. What new test does Joseph devise for his brothers?

What do you think he is hoping to accomplish with this test?

18. Notice Joseph's steward in this story. Look up the word "steward" in the dictionary and write the appropriate definition in the space below.

Joseph's steward has been an observer of what surely must seem to him as bizarre behavior on the part of his master. Let's do a quick review:

What does Joseph instruct "someone" to do in Genesis 42:25?

Were the instructions carried out? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What did he instruct the steward to do in Genesis 43:16?

What did the steward do (v. 17)?

In Genesis 44:1 what does Joseph tell the steward to do?

What did the steward do?

In Genesis 44:4 what does he tell the steward to do?

Read Genesis 44:6-13. Describe how the steward followed through with his master's commands.



**Application: Look up the following verses and write what each has to say about being a steward:**

**\*1 Corinthians 4:1-2 -**

**\*1 Peter 4:10 -**

**We as Christ followers are stewards. Have you regarded yourself as such?**

**Do you see in yourself the level of obedience as displayed by Joseph's steward? Why or why not?**



19. Read Genesis 44:14-34. Highlight or underline in your Bible every time the name Judah is mentioned. How many times do you see his name? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the author communicating about Judah in this passage?

Is the behavior of Judah in this passage a change from what we've seen in him before?  
If so, what does this change indicate?

Explain how Judah honors his pledge to his father.

20. Read Genesis 45:1-3. What impact does Judah's plea have on Joseph?

Why do you think this is so?

21. Joseph's revealing of himself is intensely emotional. Again, imagine yourself in the room in this scene. Describe what Joseph is doing and saying.


Describe the brothers' response. What do you think it means that they were dismayed at his presence?

Put yourself in their shoes. What do you think they were thinking and feeling in this moment?

22. Read Genesis 45:4-15. What does Joseph say to reassure them?

God is clearly glorified in this scene. Write out the ways in which Joseph glorifies God in what he says and does with his brothers.

How did Joseph become a man that could respond to his brothers in this way? See Genesis 41:51-52 and what he named his children for insight into Joseph's spiritual life.

 **Application:** Have you experienced injustice in some of the ways that Joseph did in his life? Rather than anger and bitterness, we see healing in Joseph. How does that happen in our lives? What is necessary to respond to injustice in this way?

**After looking closely at how Joseph responded to his adversity, take a closer look at how you tend to respond to adversity. Are your responses similar or different? Spend time in prayer asking God to develop in you a change of heart towards suffering.**

**Do you tend to give glory to God for how He saw you through times of trial? Why or why not? How can you change this heart attitude?**

23. Back in Genesis 45, what does Joseph want his brothers to do (vv. 9-13)?

24. Read Genesis 45:16-20. What does Pharaoh instruct the brothers to do?

What does he promise to do for Joseph's family?

Read Genesis 27:28. How is this scene in Genesis 45 with Pharaoh a fulfillment of the blessing of Isaac to Jacob?

25. Read Genesis 45:21-28. What does Joseph give to his brothers?

Why do you think he tells them not to quarrel on the way?

26. What is Jacob's initial response to the news of Joseph?

Is this an understandable response?

What does it take to convince him of the truth of their report?

**Application:** As people who have been born again, Jesus has revealed Himself to us as our King much like we see Joseph doing to his brothers. And we too, like the brothers, are commissioned to carry a message of good news back to our homes! But like these brothers we are a rather messed up group of message bearers! As we look at the things that convinced Jacob of the truth about Joseph being “raised from the dead,” what message and gifts has Jesus sent us out with to convince others of His resurrection and rule?

27. Read Genesis 46:1-27. God appears once again to Jacob in verses 1-4. What does God say to him?

28. Let's look at who sets out with Jacob to Egypt.

Children of Jacob	Grandsons
Reuben	
Simeon	
Levi	
Judah	
Issachar	
Zebulun	
Dinah	

**Sons of Perez:**

- Which of Israel's sons had a son by a Canaanite woman? \_\_\_\_\_ What is this son's name? \_\_\_\_\_

- Cross out the names of Judah's sons that died in the land.

Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Children of Jacob	Grandsons/Grandaughter
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Gad

Asher

**Sons of Beriah:**

Mother \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number \_\_\_\_\_

Children of Jacob	Grandsons/Grandaughter
-------------------	------------------------

Joseph

Benjamin

-Who is the mother of Joseph's children? \_\_\_\_\_

Mother \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number \_\_\_\_\_

Children of Jacob	Grandsons/Grandaughter
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Dan

Naphtali

Mother \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total number traveling to Egypt \_\_\_\_\_

Total number in Jacob's household \_\_\_\_\_

29. Read Genesis 46:28-34. Who does Jacob send ahead of the group?

Who is the firstborn of Jacob's sons according to Genesis 46:8?

Why do you think that Jacob passes over his firstborn and sends Judah?

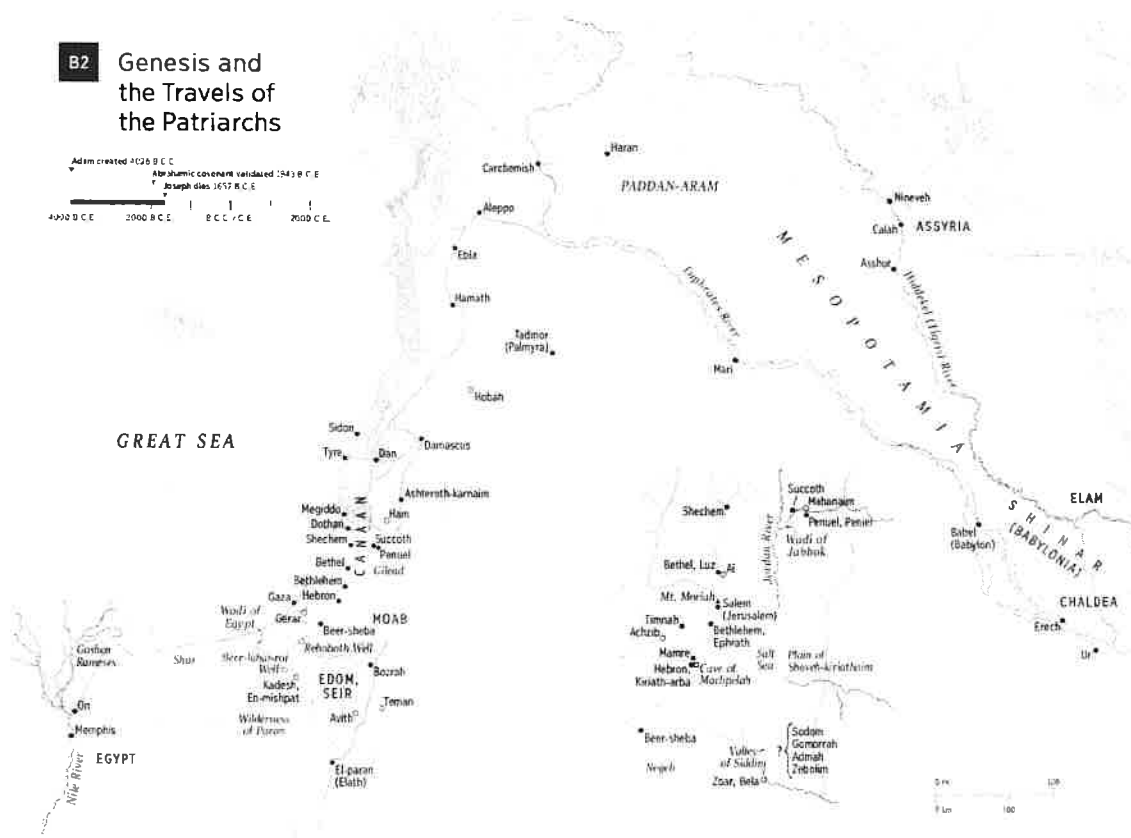
30. Where does Joseph go to meet his family?

Describe the reunion between Jacob and Joseph.

31. When they stand before the Pharaoh, what are they going to tell him about their trade?

What is the reason that they are doing this?

Find Beersheba on the map and highlight it. Trace a possible route to Goshen and highlight Goshen.



For what reason do you think it was important that they all settle in Goshen?

32. Read Genesis 47:1-12. How many men does Joseph select to appear before Pharaoh?

What do they request of Pharaoh?

What does Pharaoh grant them?

What does Pharaoh put them over?

33. What does Jacob do when he stands before Pharaoh?

Why does he do this?

Look up Genesis 12:3. What are the ways in which this scene is a fulfillment of the Word of the Lord?

34. What is Jacob's response to Pharaoh's question of his age?

The days of the \_\_\_\_\_ of my \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Look up the word "sojourn" in the dictionary and write the definition in the space below.



 **Application: Read 1 Peter 2:11. What are we as believers called?**

**Have you viewed your life as a sojourn? What would need to change in your perspective as a believer to see life as a sojourn?**

**How would you view trials AND blessings differently if you considered yourself a temporary resident here?**

35. According to Genesis 47:12, once the family was settled in the land of Goshen, how did Joseph provide for them?
36. Read Genesis 47:13-26. As the famine increased dramatically, what was the first resource that Joseph gathered in exchange for grain?

What was the second resource they gave in exchange for food?

What was the last thing that was left that they were willing to exchange for food?

By the end of the famine, what all did Joseph accumulate for Pharaoh?

What was the one thing that Pharaoh did not own?

37. How did Joseph continue to feed the people of the land and increase the wealth of the nation (vv. 23-26)?

What positive things do you see about Joseph's stewardship? What negative things do you see?

38. Read Genesis 47:27-31. Jacob is nearing the end of his life. How long do we learn that he sojourns in Egypt?

What does the author want us to know about how the people of Israel are faring in the land of Egypt?

What does Jacob request of Joseph?

What does this request reveal to you about Jacob's faith at the end of his life?

**Wrap Up:**

In light of your study this week, what was the most significant thing that you learned about God? Why was it significant to you?

Knowing that God is \_\_\_\_\_ shows me that I am \_\_\_\_\_.

What are some practical steps you can take to live in light of this truth?

*Notes ~ Week 10: Genesis 42-47*

*"The God of Salvation"*



## *Week 11:*

### *Genesis 48-50*

### *"God of Our Fathers"*

This week as you study, ask the Holy Spirit to help you see and appreciate all that you have been blessed with in the heritage you have in Christ Jesus.

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1. We are coming to the end of our study in Genesis. Read through Genesis 48-50. What jumps out at you in these chapters?

What do you find to be the most confusing?

2. These final chapters in Genesis give us the last words of Jacob. Deathbed words are words of deep meaning and impact, and for Jacob, they are words of faith. Look up Hebrews 11:21. What does the author of Hebrews say about Jacob's deathbed words?

Now read through Genesis 48. What do you observe in this chapter that reveals to you the faith of Jacob?

3. In Genesis 48:1-7, with Joseph and his sons Manasseh and Ephraim by his bedside, Jacob begins by recounting a bit of his history with God.

How does he identify who God is?

What does he recount about what God said to him?

Look back to Genesis 35:9-15. Does Jacob's retelling of this event reflect the actual event with integrity? Explain your answer.

4. What is Jacob doing for Manasseh & Ephraim in Genesis 48:5-7?

Why do you think he does this?

5. In Genesis 48:8-20 Jacob then blesses the two brothers. Joseph sets them up in order of birth: Manasseh, then Ephraim, but Jacob switches things up.

On whose head does Jacob place his right hand?

On whose head does he place his left hand?

What is Joseph's reaction to this?

What does the switching order indicate for Ephraim according to verse 19?

What does it indicate for Manasseh?

6. Let's look back at the blessing. In verse 15 who is he blessing by blessing Ephraim and Manasseh?

7. Read verses 15-18 in the box on the right. Who does Jacob ask to do the blessing?

Write all the words he uses to describe who God is in this blessing.


*"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."*

What is significant about each of these identifiers?

What is notable in this blessing about the relationship between God and Abraham & Isaac?

What is notable in this blessing about the relationship that God has with Jacob?

What does Jacob's choice of descriptions of God reveal to you about Jacob's somewhat tumultuous relationship with God and how he views God's dealings with him over the years?

 **Application:** If you were on your deathbed and wanted to give a blessing similar to this for those you love, how would you describe God? Include why you would choose these particular attributes.


8. Look at verses 15-16 again (in the box). What does he ask of God on behalf of the boys?

What do you think is significant about what he's asking for them?

*"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."*



Do you think there is any connection between Jacob's description of God and how he wants God to bless the boys? Explain your answer.

 **Application:** Write a blessing in the space provided that you would want to give to someone you love. Use the words you used previously about God and add how you would want Him to bless them.

9. What do you think the pronouncement in verse 20 means?
10. Read Genesis 48:21-22. What does Jacob assure Joseph of?

What does Jacob give Joseph that further assures us of the faith he has?

11. Jacob now blesses the rest of his sons. It may be hard for us to understand the impact of Jacob's words because this is not part of our culture. Read the Cultural Context box to the right to give insight into this next section of our study. Then read Genesis 49:1-27.

Which two brothers receive the longest blessings?

Which of the brothers' blessings sound more like a curse?

### Cultural Context

"The expectation of Jacob's sons was that their father was going to bless them and his blessing would provide a glimpse of their future, much like Noah had given to his sons."

(Taken from [Genesis: Beginning and Blessing](#) by R. Kent Hughes)

12. Read Reuben's blessing in the gray box to the right.

As you think through Reuben's life, what do you remember as notable points in his story? (See Genesis 35:22; 37:21-29; and 42:37.)

*Reuben, you are my firstborn,  
my might, and the first fruits of  
my strength, preeminent in  
dignity and preeminent in power.*

*Unstable as water, you shall not  
have preeminence, because you  
went up to your father's bed;  
then you defiled it—he went up  
to my couch!”*

How was he unstable as water?

Looking forward to the future:

Look up Joshua 1:12-18 & Judges 5:15b-17. How did Reuben continue to be unstable as water?

13. Reuben has been moved from his firstborn status because of his sin. Who does Jacob eliminate next?

Read Jacob's blessing in the box. To what event is Jacob referring?

What is the result of their action as to their inheritance?

When have we seen God divide and scatter before in our study of Genesis? Why had He done that?

*Simeon and Levi are  
brothers; weapons of violence are  
their swords. Let my soul come  
not into their council; O my  
glory, be not joined to their  
company. For in their anger  
they killed men, and in their  
willfulness they hamstringed oxen.  
Cursed be their anger, for it is  
fierce, and their wrath, for it is  
cruel! I will divide them in  
Jacob and scatter them in  
Israel.*

How do God's actions in the past inform our understanding of what is happening to Simeon & Levi?

Looking ahead:

What do the following passages of Scripture tell us about Simeon's inheritance?

\*Joshua 19:1-9

\*Judges 1:3

What do the following passages of Scripture tell us about Levi's inheritance?

\* Numbers 18:21-24

\* Numbers 35:1-8

What do we also learn that is redemptive for the tribe of Levi?

How do we see this as a fulfillment of Jacob's words?

14. By the process of elimination, Judah is now elevated to the position of firstborn. Read Judah's blessing in the gray box.

*Judah, your brothers praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness, who dares rouse him?*  
*The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his gesture in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.*

Think through Judah's story and list below the low points and the high points of his story.

What is Jacob saying about the line of Judah in using the symbol of the lion?

According to this blessing, what is Jacob prophesying that will come from the line of Judah?

Looking ahead:

Look up the following passages of Scripture to see some famous descendants of Judah. List the descendent and how they seem to fulfill this prophetic blessing.

\* Numbers 13:6 ~

\* Ruth 4:18-19 (Remember, who is the father of Perez?) ~

\* Matthew 1:1-16 ~

\* Revelation 19:11-16 ~ Who is this and how does this glimpse of Him fit the prophetic blessing for Judah?

15. Who was Zebulun & Issachar's mother? \_\_\_\_\_



Highlight Zebulun & Issachar's inheritances on the map. Read their blessings in the box on the right.

How might Zebulun's blessing be fulfilled if his inheritance does not border any sea?

What does Judges 5:15 say about Issachar?

*Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea; he shall become a haven for ships, and his brother shall be at Sidon.*

\*\*\*

*Issachar is a strong donkey, crouching between the sheep folds. He saw that a resting place was good and that the land was pleasant, so he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant at forced labor.*

What does the blessing say will become of Issachar?

16. Who was Dan's mother? \_\_\_\_\_  
Read his blessing.

Looking ahead:

Look up Judges 13:1-2, 24 and note what famous person came from the tribe of Dan. How was he a fulfillment of this prophetic word?

What happened to the territory that Dan inherited? (Hint: very opening words of Joshua 19:47.)

*Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward. I wait for your salvation, O Lord.*

In the period of the kings and the divided kingdom, what 2 places became the center for idolatrous worship (1 Kings 12:28-30)?

How would this be a fulfillment of Dan being "a serpent in the way" (think Genesis 3)?

Highlight the last sentence in the prophetic words about Dan. Why do you think Jacob says this here?

17. Who is Gad's and Asher's mother? \_\_\_\_\_.  
Read their blessings in the box on the right.

What does 1 Chronicles 12:8 tell us about the men from Gad that gives insight into this prophetic blessing?

Highlight Asher on the map. How might the location of Asher's inheritance be a fulfillment of this blessing?

*Raiders shall raid Gad, but he shall raid at their heels.*

\*\*\*

*Asher's food shall be rich, and he shall yield royal delicacies.*

\*\*\*

*Naphtali is a doe let loose that bears beautiful fawns.*



Do you think Asher's Chocolate could be a fulfillment of this prophecy?

Who is Naphtali's mother? \_\_\_\_\_.  
Read his blessing.

Highlight Naphtali's inheritance on the map. In the tribal inheritance there is no northern border. It was an inheritance rich in natural resources. How might this be a fulfillment of his blessing?

18. Read Joseph's blessing in the box below. Write in the space below the ways in which Jacob's blessing on Joseph was a description of Joseph's journey.

*Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall. The archers bitterly attacked him, shot at him, and harassed him severely, yet his bow remained unmoved; his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), by the God of your father who will help you, by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that crouches beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of my parents, up to the bounties of the everlasting hills. May they be on the head of Joseph, and on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.*

Who does Jacob attribute Joseph's strength, character and success to?

Who does Jacob attribute the blessings of Joseph to?

19. Read Benjamin's blessing in the box on the right. Who was his mother and brother?

*Benjamin is a ravenous wolf,  
in the morning devouring the  
prey and at evening dividing  
the spoil.*

Looking ahead:

What were the warriors of Benjamin known for (Judges 20:15-16, 1 Chronicles 8:40 and 12:2)?

What nearly happened to the tribe of Benjamin because of their sin during the period of the judges (Judges 20:43-48)?

By the grace of God, some famous biblical characters arose from the line of Benjamin. Look up the following passages of Scriptures and note who they are.

\*1 Samuel 9:1-2 -

\* Esther 2:5 -

\* Jeremiah 1:1-2

\* Philippians 3:5 -

20. Read Genesis 49:28-33. How does the author summarize Jacob's blessing?

What command does he give his sons?

21. Jacob's sojourning in this life has ended. Read Genesis 50:1-14 and write a description of the grief process done to honor Jacob. How long was this process?
22. Read Genesis 50:15-21. Do you think this scene happened at Jacob's death or after the funeral? Explain your answer.



Is the brothers' fear legitimate in light of what Joseph has said and done already? Explain your answer.

23. What do the brothers say to Joseph?

Do you think that Jacob really told them to say this? Or did they say this because of how they viewed Joseph's close relationship with Jacob?

24. How does Joseph respond to their words? \_\_\_\_\_

25. What words does Joseph say to them to comfort and assure them?

Look up Romans 8:28. Write it in the space provided.

How does the story of Joseph's life serve as an illustration of this verse?

How does this scene picture Jesus?

 **Application:** How has the truth behind Romans 8:28 as so clearly illustrated by the story of Joseph help you in practical ways in the middle of life's troubles?

26. Read Genesis 50:22-26. Write an obituary for Joseph including both what you've studied and the details included in these verses.
27. What does Joseph make his brothers promise him on his deathbed?

What does this deathbed request reveal to you about the faith of Joseph? See Hebrews 11:22 to help with your answer.

28. Look up Genesis 15:13-16 and fill in the following blanks:

Then the LORD said to Abram, “\_\_\_\_\_ that your \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_ in a land that is not theirs and will be \_\_\_\_\_ there, and they will be \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ . But I will bring \_\_\_\_\_ on the nation that they serve, and \_\_\_\_\_ they shall \_\_\_\_\_ with great possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And \_\_\_\_\_ shall come back \_\_\_\_\_ in the fourth generation. For the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

In light of the “rest of the story” of the children of Israel in the book of Exodus, how does the ending of the book of Genesis bring home the trustworthiness of God’s Word?

How does the ending of the book of Genesis also bring hope in the darkness of death?

**Wrap Up:**

How has the study of Genesis shaped, deepened, and strengthened your understanding of who God is?

What has stood out the most to you about God as you have studied this book?

What part of the study of Genesis impacted you the most?

Name one specific way that the Lord used the study of Genesis to change your thinking and how you live your life.

*Notes ~ Week 11: Genesis 48-50*

*"God of Our Fathers"*



# *Appendix*





# THE ATTRIBUTES *Of* GOD

To study God's attributes is to study his character, to answer questions like, *Who is God?* and *What is God like?* A typical classification of God's attributes divides them into those that are **incommunicable** (those that he does not share or "communicate" to anyone or anything else) and **communicable** (those that he shares with other beings). Like most theological classifications, this one is imperfect but still helpful as we seek to understand what is so far beyond ourselves.

God's communicable attributes can be further categorized into: attributes of God's being, mental attributes, moral attributes, attributes of purpose and "summary" attributes (attributes that, in a more particular way, modify each of the others).

It is important to consider that God is not simply the sum of his attributes. His attributes are not separate from one another, but each one modifies or qualifies each of the others.

<b>TRANSCENDENCE</b> God transcends all creation and is unknowable apart from his self-initiated revelation.	<b>IMMANENCE</b> God is active in this world and in our daily lives. God cares about every aspect of our existence and invites us to welcome his guidance, grace, and love.	<b>ASEITY</b> God is self-existent and self-sufficient and has no need of human beings or the rest of creation.	<b>OMNIPRESENCE</b> God has no size or shape and is present in all places with his entire being.
<b>UNITY</b> God's whole being includes all of his attributes at all times. These attributes are never in opposition.	<b>ETERNALITY</b> God has always existed, having no beginning and no end, and experiencing no succession of moments.	<b>IMMUTABILITY</b> God cannot change in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises.	<b>GLORY</b> Summary attribute The created brightness that surrounds God's revelation of himself.
<b>BEAUTY</b> Summary attribute God is the possessor and the sum of all desirable qualities.	<b>BLESSEDNESS</b> Summary attribute God delights fully in himself and in all that reflects his character.	<b>PERFECTION</b> Summary attribute God fully possesses all excellent qualities and lacks no qualities that would be desirable for him.	<b>JEALOUSY</b> Moral attribute God always seeks to protect his own honor.
<b>GOODNESS</b> Moral attribute God is the final standard of all good and all he is and does is worthy of approval.	<b>PEACE</b> Moral attribute God, in his being and actions, is separate from all confusion and disorder.	<b>HOLINESS</b> Moral attribute God is separated from sin and he is committed to seeking his own honor.	<b>LOVE</b> Moral attribute God eternally gives of himself to others.
<b>MERCY</b> Moral attribute God is good to those in misery and distress and he is good to those who deserve punishment.	<b>RIGHTEOUSNESS</b> Moral attribute God is the final standard for what is right and he always acts in accordance with what is right. (Also known as God's justice.)	<b>WRATH</b> Moral attribute God intensely hates all sin.	<b>TRUTHFULNESS</b> Mental attribute God is the true God whose knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b> Mental attribute God fully knows himself and all actual and possible things. (Also known as God's omniscience.)	<b>WISDOM</b> Mental attribute God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.	<b>WILL</b> Attribute of purpose God approves and determines to bring about every action necessary for the existence and activity of all that exists.	<b>FREEDOM</b> Attribute of purpose God does whatever he pleases.
<b>OMNIPOTENCE</b> Attribute of purpose God is able to do all his holy will. (Also known as God's sovereignty.)	<b>INVISIBILITY</b> Attribute describing God's being God's total essence, all of his being, will never be visible to us.	<b>SPIRITUALITY</b> Attribute describing God's being God is a being who is not made up of matter and who cannot be perceived by our bodily senses.	<b>INCOMMUNICABLE</b> attributes are in blue.  <b>COMMUNICABLE</b> attributes are in orange, along with their category.

## *Major Covenants in the Old Testament*

Covenants	Reference	Type	Participant	Description
Noahic	Gen 9:8-17	Royal Grant	Made with righteous (6:9) Noah and his descendants and every living thing on earth—all life that is subject to human jurisdiction	An unconditional divine promise never to destroy all earthly life with some natural catastrophe, the covenant "sign" (9:13, 17) being the rainbow in the storm cloud.
Abrahamic A	Gen 15:6-21	Royal (land) Grant	Made with "righteous" Abram (his faith was "credited...to him as righteousness," v. 6) and his descendants, v. 16	An unconditional divine promise to fulfill the grant of the land; a self-maledictory oath symbolically enacted it (15:18)
Abrahamic B	Gen 17	Suzerain-vassal	Made with Abraham as patriarchal head of his household	A conditional divine pledge to be Abraham's God and the God of his descendants (cf. "as for me," v. 4; "as for you," v. 9); the condition: total consecration to the Lord as symbolized by circumcision
Sinaitic	Exod 19-24	Suzerain-vassal	Made with Israel as the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and as the people the Lord had redeemed from bondage to an earthly power	A conditional divine pledge to be Israel's God (as its protector and the guarantor of its blessed destiny); the condition: Israel's total consecration to the Lord as his people (his kingdom) who live by his rule and serve his purposes in history
Phinehas	Num 25:10-13	Royal Grant	Made with the zealous priest Phinehas	An unconditional divine promise to maintain the family of Phinehas in a "lasting priesthood" (v. 13; implicitly a pledge to Israel to provide it forever with a faithful priesthood)

Covenants	Reference	Type	Participant	Description
Davidic	2 Sam 7:5-16	Royal Grant	Made with faithful King David after his devotion to God as Israel's king and the Lord's anointed vassal had come to special expression (v. 2)	An unconditional divine promise to establish and maintain the Davidic dynasty on the throne of Israel (implicitly a pledge to Israel) to provide it forever with a godly king like David and through that dynasty to do for it what he had done through David—bring it into rest in the promised land (1 Kgs 4:20-21; 5:3-4)
New	Jer 31:31-34	Royal Grant	Promised to rebellious Israel as it is about to be expelled from the promised land in actualization of the most severe covenant curse (Lev 26:27-39; Deut 28:36-37, 45-68)	An unconditional divine promise to unfaithful Israel to forgive its sins and establish his relationship with it on a new basis by writing his law "on their hearts" (v. 33)—a covenant of pure grace

### *Major Types of Royal Covenants/Treaties in the Ancient Near East*

Royal Grant (Unconditional)	Parity	Suzerain-Vassal (conditional)
A king's grant (of land or some other benefit) to a loyal servant for faithful or exceptional service. The grant was normally perpetual and unconditional, but the servant's heirs benefited from it only as they continued in their father's loyalty and service. (Cf. 1 Sam 8:14; 22:7; 27:6; Esth 8:1.)	A covenant between equals, binding them to mutual friendship or at least to mutual respect for each other's spheres and interests. Participants called each other "brother." (Cf. Gen 21:27; 26:31; 31:44-54; 1 Kgs 5:12; 15:19; 20:32-34; Amos 1:9.)	A covenant regulating the relationship between a great king and one of his subject kings. The great king claimed absolute right of sovereignty, demanded total loyalty and service (the vassal must "love" his suzerain) and pledged protection of the subject's realm and dynasty, conditional on the vassal's faithfulness and loyalty to him. The vassal pledged absolute loyalty to his suzerain—whatever service his suzerain demanded—and exclusive reliance on the suzerain's protection. Participants called each other "lord" and "servant" or "father" and "son." (Cf. Josh 9:6,8; Ezekiel 17:13-18; Hos 12:1.)

"Commitments made in these covenants were accompanied by self-maledictory oaths (made orally, ceremonially, or both). The gods were called upon to witness the covenants and implement the curses of the oaths if the covenants were violated."

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