

Genesis—Sunday Morning Series Overview

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horror of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Resist Temptation. No matter how good sin looks, it always brings death and destruction. Speak the truth about it. Stand strong against it. Run away from it when necessary. Don't give in!

Remember the Source. God has given us all that we have "in our hand." We are to faithfully serve Him as stewards of what He has entrusted to our hand.

Use Your Gifts for His Glory. Trust Christ in exercising the grace that He has entrusted to you.

The Life of Faith—Sunday Evenings in Hebrews

Rooted in God's Promises & Running to New Jerusalem

The book of *Hebrews* was written to encourage and exhort God's people who were tempted to turn back from the gospel. They were reminded that the promise of salvation comes through the Son who reveals His Father's glory and provides Sabbath rest. This is the basis for the Christian hope as we await the New Jerusalem whose architect has secured our resurrection life in the eternal city of peace.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
October 6th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 39: 1 – 23

Hand in Hand

1. God Continues to Bless His People to Be a Blessing.
2. God's Hand Remains on Joseph Despite False Charges.
3. Christ Was Wrongly Accused to Grant Us Mercy.

God has set aside Joseph for His special purposes in protecting His people from enemies within and without. This episode with Joseph in the house of Potiphar contrasts with the previous chapter of Tamar in Judah's house. While God's people often fail, God Himself is ever faithful. Here God blesses Joseph and through Him blesses Egypt (the nations) despite their treachery. Christ likewise comes to protect and bless us in spite of our wickedness.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 11: 8 – 16

Looking Forward to the City with Foundations

1. God's People Trust In His Promises.
2. God's People Trust New Jerusalem's Architect.
3. God Is Faithful to His People.

The Christian hope is not just forgiveness in Christ, but an entirely new Creation with a New Jerusalem at its center. We will live there in perfect fellowship with God and one another because that's what God has promised and He is faithful in all that He says and does. We are called now to live out this faith in Christ for the fullness of all that our Architect has planned.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Can we trust God to protect us when our brothers conspire against us? When our boss's wife is a temptress? When others go out of their way to destroy us? These were not rhetorical questions for Joseph. Let's explore his story in more detail this week and see how God remains faithful forever.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 39:1-23; Hebrews 11:13-16**. DISCUSS, Who protected Joseph? How? What about the times Joseph was enslaved and falsely accused and in prison? REST today as you meditate on God's faithfulness. THANK God for His faithfulness to His promises.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Hebrews 11:8-16**. MEDITATE on this reality, "God is not ashamed to be called their God." PRAISE God for our reconciliation in Christ. EXPRESS your longing for the New Jerusalem.

Monday

READ **Genesis 39:1-6a; 15:1-18**. DISCUSS, Who was with Joseph? What did others notice about Joseph? Who was Joseph serving? What was his rank? Who else benefitted from God's blessing of Joseph? How does this match God's promise to Abraham? PRAY for God to reveal to us how we might serve others in His name. Ask Him to reveal to us more deeply our desperate need for Christ.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 39:6b-10**. DISCUSS, What specific temptation does Joseph face? How does this relate to Judah in the previous chapter? Is it a one time temptation? PRAY, "Lord, give us power and boldness to resist temptation. Teach us to trust You fully and completely."

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 39:11-18**. DISCUSS, What trap did Potiphar's wife set for Joseph? Was she ever interested in him? How do other people's self-interest affect us? Who alone can truly protect us? Why is this the case? What do we usually rely on instead? PRAY, Ask God to enable us to trust Him in difficult circumstances.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 39:19-23; Acts 7:9-16**. DISCUSS, How did God turn around Joseph's situation in jail? How does Stephen show this is true of all Abraham's descendants? PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for Your faithfulness throughout generations."

Friday

READ **Genesis 39:1-23**. DISCUSS, What has God been teaching from these passages this week? PRAY thanking the Lord for His faithfulness to us.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. Do what you can *today* so that you will be less rushed tomorrow.

READ **Genesis 40-41**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God through His Word and to learn more about our God together. Pray for FCCW to continue to grow.

Hebrews 11:13 – 16

"These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city."