

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:

Delight in the Riches of Christ! He has made us co-heirs together with Him! Rejoice!

Behave as Beloved Sons and Daughters! Ours is a holy family. Turn from what displeases our Father and run to Christ.

Run from Sin! Our older brother has freed us from sin not so that we could get away with it. Confess. Repent. Trust in Christ.

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
November 17th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 48 – 49

Covenant Blessings

1. Jacob/Israel Gives a Three-Fold Blessing on His Deathbed.
2. Brothers Represent Their Tribes and Nations.
3. Jesus Received Our Curses to Secure Our Blessings.

God reveals in Genesis how He has created all that there is and how He is faithfully redeeming the whole of Creation through His beloved people. His gracious calling to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob continues through their line and these twelve sons to bring us Messiah, the promised child to deliver us from sin and death. Let us worship the King of Kings, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah!

Evening Service:

Elder Gil Emery
Hebrews 12: 10 – 17

The Holiness of God

1. God alone is truly Holy.
2. God alone deserves our absolute reverence and worship.
3. Christ has made His people holy so that we will live as holy ambassadors.

Romans 12:1 “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.”

Taking Gathered Worship Home

What does a poetic blessing of twelve sons (and two grandsons adopted as sons) thousands of years ago have to do with us today? Everything. Here we see the family identity of God's people being confirmed. We see the faithfulness of God continuing to keep His promises of blessing on the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Let's unpack this together this week.

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 48-49; Romans 4:13-25**. DISCUSS, How do the blessing and inheritance of Israel's sons apply to us? What's their significance? How does it show God's faithfulness in all His promises? DELIGHT in the Lord! Express your delight in prayer, singing, dancing, and/or praise. THANK God for His faithfulness in Christ.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passages: **Hebrews 12:10-17; Psalm 99:1-9**. DISCUSS, What does it mean for God to be holy? How is this our greatest fear and security/hope? PRAISE God for His holiness.

Monday

READ **Genesis 48:1-22**. DISCUSS, How does this fit with Jacob/Israel's history? What ironies do you see? PRAY for God to give embolden us to act like the beloved children of the King we are in Christ together.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 49:1-27; Matthew 1:1-2:6**. DISCUSS, Why did Jesus come from the line of Judah? How does this help us to see God's faithfulness in all His promises to His people? Is God as faithful to His promises now as He was then? REJOICE in God's blessings to us in Christ! PRAY, "Lord, forgive us for doubting Your faithfulness. Teach us to trust You as we should. Build in us faithfulness to Your Word that we may walk in Your ways together with Christ."

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 49:1-27; Romans 8:12-39**. DISCUSS, Notice even in the curses within the blessings, that all the brothers remain co-heirs. God is merciful. How do you recognize His mercy to you today? PRAY, Ask the Lord to embolden us to speak out for justice and to love mercy.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 49:28-33**; DISCUSS, How do Jacob's final instructions for his burial demonstrate his faith in God's promise? How are you preparing for death? How does that affect how you are living life? PRAY, "Jesus, teach us to trust Your faithfulness. Help us to walk by faith in Your promise."

Friday

READ **Genesis 48-49**. DISCUSS, What has God been teaching you from this passage 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 50**. 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.

Romans 4:13 – 15

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.