

Genesis

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result 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:

Admit That You Are Broken! All of us have areas of profound weakness and fragility. It is not healthy to ignore these realities. Bring them to Christ for healing.

Ask Christ to Heal You! Cry out to the Lord to do what only He can do. Find hope in His Word and believe it.

Extend the Grace You Have Received to Others! Ask the Lord to help you (and us) to be gracious and forgiving with our neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family members.

The Life of Faith—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
June 9th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 26: 34 – 27: 46

A Stolen Blessing

1. What Is This Blessing They Are Seeking?
2. Isaac's Family Shows Us the Horrific Results of Deceit.
3. The Gracious Purposes of God Cannot Be Defeated.

Isaac lets his appetite direct him against God's plans and the results are disastrous. His family is a wreck and his sons hate one another. Yet, God faithfully works through this family to bring about His good purposes for His people. There is hope and security for the broken in Christ.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 5: 1 – 6: 3

Rest Can Only Come Through Redemption

1. Why Do We Need a High Priest?
2. Who Can Serve as Our High Priest?
3. Why Do We Struggle to Trust Our High Priest?

God had provided His people with a High Priest in the Temple to point forward to our need of the perfect High Priest we would need to rescue us from sin and death. Jesus was uniquely qualified to serve in this capacity and has fulfilled the office entirely and perfectly. Yet we still struggle to believe that He is enough for us. God calls us to maturity where we can trust Him.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Do you have a messed up family or know someone who does? In this week's passage we are shown the filth of a truly broken family. Yet God uses them, He LOVES them in spite of their pettiness, deceit, and hatred. So how can we learn from them to look to Christ in faith and repentance?

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 26:34-27:46; First Timothy 1:5-11.** DISCUSS, On what do the promises of God depend? If God uses something that we do wrong to accomplish His purpose, does that make it right? PRAY thanking God for His sure and certain promises in Christ.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Hebrews 5:1-6:3.** DISCUSS, What are typically the hardest truths about Christ for you to believe? Why? PRAISE Christ for being the Lord of our High Priest.

Monday

READ **Genesis 27:1-4.** DISCUSS, Why does Isaac want to bless Esau? What kind of blessing does he want to give him? How does that relate to what God has said? PRAY for God to help us turn to Him in our need. EXTEND His grace to someone today. Show them Christ's grace lavished upon you. PRAY for Christ's comfort for our neighbors.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 27:5-25.** DISCUSS, How do Rebekah and Jacob respond? Why? If the end is right, does that justify their deceit? PRAY, "Lord, teach us to trust You while we wait. Show us how Your faithfulness to our fathers and mothers can help us to trust You now. Enable us to delight in You when the things we most want are kept from us. Enliven us to walk by faith in Christ!"

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 27:26-29.** DISCUSS, How does Isaac bless Jacob? Why? PRAY, Ask God to radically transform your understanding of His promises so that no one could mistake the fact that you are trusting in Christ as your only hope.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 26:34-35; 27:30-46.** DISCUSS, What was wrong with Esau's marriages? Why is this significant? PRAY, "Jesus, help us to trust in You and Your faithfulness in fulfilling all Your promises. Teach us to believe what You tell us more than our own eyes."

Friday

READ **Genesis 26:34-27:46.** DISCUSS, What have you been learning from this passage this week? PRAY, "Lord, God of the Covenant, You have shown Yourself to be faithful. Again and again You heard the prayers of our mothers and fathers in the faith and lovingly cared for them, just as You promised. Yet we, like they, often despair and distrust You. Teach us to trust You. Enable us to demonstrate that faith in how we live together as a community at FCCW. Grant grace to our neighbors that they too might see You in all Your glory and rejoice in Christ.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. Do what you can today so that you will be less hurried tomorrow. Please pray specifically for our worship service and for the Holy Spirit to guide us together.

READ **Genesis 28:1-22.** Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God through His Word and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.