

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:

Stop Hedging Your Bets. God has shown Himself to be faithful. So trust in Him entirely and solely for salvation.

Delight in Jesus. He is a gracious Savior and worthy of all our worship and praise.

Pray for Our FCCW Family. Reading about Reuben, Judah, and the rest of God's people it is easy to see that we desperately need God's help. So let's continue to ask Him for it.

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

September 22nd, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 36: 1 – Genesis 37: 36

The Line of Promise

1. The Line of Promise Is All About God's Faithfulness.
2. God Works Through the Bratty Joseph.
3. Jesus Rescues Us Without Gloating.

The on-going saga of Abraham's line of promise picks up with the divergence of Esau's descendants from the children of Israel. Among Israel's twelve sons Joseph is brought front and center and revealed to be a spoiled brat. Yet, God is clear. He will deliver His people in ways that we cannot imagine. God's people continue to resist His gracious care. All his brothers can see is their father's favoritism and they hate Joseph because of it. Even so God continues to pursue them and ultimately rescues them (and us) in Christ.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 10: 19 – 39

Terror and Confidence

1. Our Confidence Is in the Gospel.
2. The Reality of God's Wrath Is Terrifying.
3. Come Place All Your Faith in Christ!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Throughout Genesis God contrasts two groups—those who call upon the name of the Lord and those who depart from God’s presence. We see their descendants listed to underscore the divide between Cain and Seth (4-5), the sons of Noah (10-11), Abraham and Lot (19), Ishmael and Jacob (25). Our text this week lists the descendants of Esau who depart the Promised Land in contrast to the sons of Israel. It is clear from the text that the difference is not in them, but is a result of God’s grace in spite of their faithlessness.

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 36-37; Hebrews 10:23-25**. DISCUSS, What is your first impression of Joseph? Why? What is the significance of this family? Why? How can we have confidence in the promise of God? REST today as you meditate on His faithfulness. PRAY thanking God for His faithfulness to His promises.

Sunday PM

READ tonight’s passage: **Hebrews 10:19-39**. DISCUSS, What is the basis for our confidence? PRAISE God for His gift to us in Christ.

Monday

READ **Genesis 37:1-4**. DISCUSS, How much did Joseph’s brothers hate him? It says they couldn’t even greet him. How bad is that? PRAY for God to show us how Christ is absolutely trustworthy. Ask Him to show our neighbors this peace.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 37:5-12**. DISCUSS, What’s the gist of Joseph’s dreams? Is it true (see 43:26; 44:14)? Why does God work through this brat? BEFRIEND someone today by trusting God’s provision for you. PRAY, “Lord, forgive us for ways trust our own efforts more than You. Teach us to trust You fully and completely.”

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 37:12-36**. DISCUSS, Why do his brothers not kill Joseph? How does God use Reuben and Judah in spite of themselves? PRAY, Ask God to enable us to trust Him in difficult circumstances.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 37:12-36**. DISCUSS, How had Jacob used animals to deceive his father? How are they used against him here? Was Jacob/Israel forgiven? Why does he still bear consequences for previous sin? PRAY, “Jesus, thank You for Your grace and forgiveness. Teach us to obey You always.”

Friday

READ **Genesis 36-37; Hebrews 10:23-25**. 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 38:1-30**. 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.

Hebrews 10: 23 – 25

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”