

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:

Face Your Fears! What frightens you? Are you aware of it? Have you recognized the specific ways that Christ frees us from those fears?

Rejoice in Christ's Knowing Love. Jesus' love for us is more intimate and full than any other for He both fully knows us and completely loves us forever.

Repent of Doubting His Love. Turn from other sources of comfort and look to Christ alone.

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 20th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 42 – 43

Joseph and His Brothers

1. Joseph's Brothers Don't Recognize Him and They Are Afraid.
2. Joseph Recognizes His Brothers But Is Unsure of Their Hearts.
3. Jesus Knows Us Fully and Loves Us Completely.

God brought Joseph's brothers to come and bow before him just like in the dream He gave Joseph. But as they bow before him they have no idea that it is him. He is simply the "man" from whom they came to buy life-preserving grain. God is orchestrating all these things to get the sons of Israel to recognize His hand at work in protecting them according to His promises.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 11: 27 – 40

A Better Resurrection

1. Moses Saw the Invisible by Faith.
2. These Conquerers Sought a Better Resurrection.
3. We Are Still Waiting for Perfection with Christ.

All these fathers and mothers in the faith persevered throughout their lives longing for the fullness of what Messiah would bring. Their example of faith facing ferocious opposition is a call for us to continue also in Christ. Just as certainly as Jesus will come back for us, He will unite us together with those who have gone before us.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

His brothers sold him into slavery and now they are coming to him for food. What would you do? God had promoted Joseph to the height of power and he could have exacted revenge, but instead he tests his brothers to see if they have repented from their evil ways. This is all a part of God working in the sons of Israel to establish His people for His purposes.

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 42-43; Psalm 105:7-22**. DISCUSS, What most frightens you? How does the gospel conquer that fear? What do we need to recognize about Jesus to experience that freedom? REST today as you meditate on Christ victory over death. THANK God for His faithfulness to His promises.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Hebrews 11:27-40**. DISCUSS, How does the example of those who have gone before us help us to persevere now? Is it evident from your life that you are counting completely on Christ's promised resurrection? PRAISE God for the certainty of Christ's resurrection.

Monday

READ **Genesis 42:1-6**. DISCUSS, How does God work in Creation? How does our rebellion in Adam and Eve affect Creation? Is God still in control? How? Why? PRAY for God to enable us to trust Him in difficulties. Ask Him to reveal to us more deeply our desperate need for Christ.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 42:6-28; 27:23; Luke 24:13-35**. DISCUSS, How does recognition play a part in these stories? What difference does it make that Joseph recognizes them, but they don't know it's him? PRAY, "Lord, teach us to trust You fully and completely. Help us to wait on Your perfect timing."

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 42:29-43:14**. DISCUSS, Why does Jacob/Israel not want to send Benjamin? How do Reuben and Judah's responses differ? What convinces Israel? How does he express a lack of faith? How does he demonstrate faith in God? PRAY, Ask God to enable us to trust Him in difficult circumstances.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 43:15-34; Romans 15:1-33**. DISCUSS, How does their response to Benjamin's abundance/favor differ from how they handled the same with Joseph? What does it mean for God's people to rejoice in one another's blessing? PRAY, "Jesus, help us not covet the blessings that You give to our siblings."

Friday

READ **Genesis 42-43**. DISCUSS, What has God been teaching 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 44**. 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.

Psalm 105:16 – 22

When [God] summoned a famine on the land
and broke all supply of bread,
he had sent a man ahead of them, / Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
His feet were hurt with fetters; / his neck was put in a collar of iron;
until what he had said came to pass, / the word of the Lord tested him.
The king sent and released him; / the ruler of the peoples set him free;
he made him lord of his house / and ruler of all his possessions,
to bind his princes at his pleasure / and to teach his elders wisdom.