

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:

Rejoice in Our Heavenly Father! He has rescued us from sin and death and adopted us into His royal family. Delight in Him!

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

Care for Others with the Love We Have Been Shown. Let us extend the love of Christ to our neighbors, coworkers, and friends.

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 10th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 47: 1 – 31

Beloved Family vs. Servants

1. Israel Is Settled in Egypt as Beloved Family (1-12, 27-31).
2. Egypt's People Become Slaves to Pharaoh (12-26).
3. Jesus Has Redeemed Us from Slavery into Sonship.

This passage reveals the contrast between God's people and the Egyptians. God shows favor to His people in providing them with food freely while the Egyptians sell all that they own and ultimately themselves for survival. God's people demonstrate faith and humility through Jacob's instructions to bury him in the Promised Land. They have found favor not through their efforts but through the grace of their God. We too find this favor by grace in Christ.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 12: 18 – 29

Fellowship with a Consuming Fire

1. The Reality—*Our Kingdom Cannot Be Shaken.*
2. The Warning—*Everything Else Will Be Shaken.*
3. The Exhortation—*Let Us Gratefully Worship God.*

The reality since Christ came is both more terrifying and more comforting than it was in the old covenant. While God has already shaken the earth, He is preparing to shake both earth and heaven and nothing but His Kingdom will stand. Let us trust God and His promises as we run to the New Jerusalem together in Christ.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

What's the difference between being in the family business as a family member versus as an employee? God blesses both the Hebrews and the Egyptians with bread during the famine, but how does He differentiate between them? Why? Is it fair? How do we come to terms with these things?

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 47; Ephesians 1:3-6**. DISCUSS, How are adoption and favor related? What's the significance of us being adopted in Christ and not just forgiven? THANK God for His adoption of His people in Christ.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Hebrews 12:18-29**. DISCUSS, How secure are you in Christ? Why? How is this a comfort? How is it a warning? PRAISE God for the certainty of our security in Christ.

Monday

READ **Genesis 47:1-12; 46:1-7**. DISCUSS, How were the Israelites received in Egypt? How are they provided for during the famine? Why? How is that true of us? DELIGHT in the Lord! Express your delight in prayer, singing, dancing, and/or praise. PRAY for God to give us wisdom to see His loving care for us in Christ even during difficult seasons.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 47:1-12; Hebrews 11:9-16**. DISCUSS, What is the relationship between faith in God's promises and the blessing His people enjoy? How does Israel's experience of that relationship help encourage you today? Is God as faithful to His promises now as He was then? REJOICE in God's blessings to us in Christ! PRAY, "Lord, thank You for blessing us so abundantly in Christ. Teach us to trust You in all Your promises and to resist the temptation to believe lies that You are not trustworthy."

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 47:13-26; Exodus 1:8-14; 2:23-24**. DISCUSS, Notice the contrast between the Egyptians under the rule of God's appointed and Israelites under a faithless Pharaoh? Not all servitude is the same. Why do the Egyptians rejoice in Joseph? Why does Israel cry out under Pharaoh? PRAY, Ask the Lord to embolden us to speak out for justice and to love mercy.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 47:27-31**; DISCUSS, How do Jacob's instructions for his burial demonstrate his faith in God's promise? Why does God include that here? PRAY, "Jesus, teach us to trust Your faithfulness. Help us to walk by faith in Your promise."

Friday

READ **Genesis 47**. 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 48-49**. 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.

Ephesians 1: 3 – 6

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved."