

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:

Repent! What do you need to acknowledge and turn from? Do not continue wallowing in sin! Turn from it and live!

Serve Christ through Self-Sacrifice for Neighbor. In this freedom we have in Christ, how are we loving others? This is the clearest demonstration of faith in what Christ has done for us.

Encourage One Another. Let us cheer one another on to love and good deeds.

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 27th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 44: 1 – 34

The Gospel According to Judah

1. Joseph's Brothers Continue to Struggle with Sin and Doubt.
2. Judah Repents.
3. Jesus Is Our Substitute.

Watching the brothers stumbling about can be painful because it reflects our own weaknesses. Our struggle with sin and doubt is humbling. Yet repentance is possible through the Holy Spirit. The reality of Christ's sacrifice in our place frees us to be honest about our own failures. Let us as the family of God apply this redemption in our daily lives sacrificing ourselves for others.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 12: 1 – 3

The Race of Faith

1. We Are Called to Run the Race Marked Out for Us.
2. Let Us Commit to Run It with Perseverance.
3. Consider Jesus as We Run So We Don't Lose Heart.

The list of all those who have gone before us in chapter eleven is to serve as an encouragement for us to press on in faithfulness. But it's not *just* their example that serves to spur us on; rather it is faith in Christ who has completed the race and won victory for us together. Now we, together with them, are running the victory laps set before us by that same Savior.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

As Joseph continues to test his brothers, they persist in their cluelessness and sin. Instead of wisdom and discernment they plod along as senseless as their donkeys. But when Joseph turns up the heat, Judah is brought to repentance, offering himself in Benjamin's place for the love of a broken father. As we read and pray through this episode this week, ask the Lord to keep us repentant and willing to sacrifice ourselves for others.

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 44; Second Corinthians 7:6-13**. DISCUSS, What brings about Judah's repentance? Do you have people in your life who are difficult to love? TRUST CHRIST to love them through you by faith. THANK God for His faithfulness to His promises.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Hebrews 12:1-3**. DISCUSS, How are we supposed to run the race? What most often causes you to grow weary or lose heart? How does considering Christ enable us to press on? PRAISE God for the certainty of Christ's resurrection.

Monday

READ **Genesis 44:1-13**. DISCUSS, How does this passage show the brothers' cluelessness? Is that sin? Why or why not? Are we responsible to know better? How does understanding the gospel help us to better know what we're to do? PRAY for God to give us wisdom to know what we are to do. Ask Christ to reveal to us more deeply our desperate need for Christ.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 44:14-17**. DISCUSS, Why does the text refer to Judah and his brothers here? What is the point of Joseph sending them back to their father without a son of Rachel? How does this point out Judah's sin? PRAY, "Lord, show us our sin and unbelief. Help us to wait on trust You instead of our own plans."

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 44:18-29**. DISCUSS, What is Judah doing in recounting his conversation with his father? How does this express his care for his dad? How is this different from how he acted towards his dad before? How does he demonstrate faith in God? PRAY, Ask God to enable us to trust Him in dealing with difficult family members and others who are hard to love.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 44:30-34; Second Timothy 2:22-26**. DISCUSS, Repentance means turning from one thing to another? What does it look like in these two passages? PRAY, "Jesus, soften our hearts to respond to Your correction and lead us in repentance."

Friday

READ **Genesis 44:1-34**. 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 45-46**. 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.

Second Corinthians 7: 9 – 10

"As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death."