

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:

Express Hospitality by Faith! Who would God have you to bless today? What would it mean for you to give of yourself as Christ has given Himself for us?

Extend Forgiveness to Those Who Have Wronged You. Since we have been so lavishly and generously forgiven in Christ, let us forgive others and absorb the cost of their sin against us.

Rejoice in God's Provision. Let us rejoice in the abundant love of Christ for His people.

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 3rd, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 45 – 46

Reconciled and Relocated

1. Israel's Family Is Reunited By God's Provision.
2. They Are Transformed Through This Reconciliation.
3. Christ Offers Us These Same Blessings in Himself.

In this great reveal of Joseph as "the man" we see him reconciled with his brothers and their father through God's faithful provision. Highlighted in their relocation to Egypt are generous hospitality, family reconciliation, and divine assurance. All of these blessings are a foretaste of the riches we have in Christ.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 12: 4 – 17

True Heirs of Righteousness

1. This Text Shows Us Three Types of People.
2. It Explains Some of Our Present Difficulties.
3. It Calls Us to Rejoice as True Heirs.

Our walk with Christ Jesus is described here as "our struggle against sin" that is natural to all who have been made righteous through His life, death, and resurrection yet still continue to wrestle with our old sinful nature. How are we to press on to the harvest of righteousness and peace? Do we recognize that as the goal of these present trials? We are encouraged that our loving Father disciplines those whom He loves to produce in us this elusive godly character that we might be more and more like our elder brother. Let us press on trusting Him to see us through to the glory of our inheritance.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Joseph's brothers are initially terrified when they learn that Pharaoh's powerful officer is the brother they sold into slavery years ago. Afraid of his retribution they instead find forgiveness and reconciliation. Hospitality demonstrates the reality of reconciliation in loving care for one another.

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 45-46; Second Corinthians 5:17-21**. DISCUSS, How are hospitality and reconciliation related? How can you apply this today? TRUST CHRIST to love people in practical food and drink ways. THANK God for His faithfulness to His promises.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Hebrews 12:4-17**. DISCUSS, How is the hope of our harvest in righteousness and peace sustaining you today? How can we trust Christ together for this? PRAISE God for the certainty of Christ's return to make us whole.

Monday

READ **Genesis 45:1-24; Matthew 19:21-35**. DISCUSS, Why isn't it enough for Joseph just to forgive his brothers after all they did? How far are we to go in forgiveness? How does understanding the gospel help us to better know what we're to do? PRAY for God to give us wisdom to know how to love people. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us more deeply our desperate need for Christ.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 45:25-28; 46:28-30; Matthew 25:31-45**. DISCUSS, It may seem an odd reconciliation since we tend to focus on the brothers' conflict, but remember *it was their problems with their father* that led to their conflict. How was the brothers' sin against their father being restored through this? How important does Jesus see hospitality? How does it show we get the gospel? PRAY, "Lord, show us how we need to repent of our sinful self-centeredness."

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 46:1-7**. DISCUSS, What does it mean to worship the God of our fathers? How is the covenant between God and Abraham ours? Why is this the basis of our reconciliation? 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 46:8-34**. DISCUSS, Why are these names significant? How much of Israel's family came down to Egypt? Why? PRAY, "Jesus, teach us to trust Your faithfulness. You have shown us generation after generation that You are trust-worthy. Help us to walk by faith in that reality."

Friday

READ **Genesis 45-46**. 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 47**. 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 5:17 – 21

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."