

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 Threats Honestly. This world is a scary place. If you are not scared, you're not paying attention. Let's admit our fears and trust Christ with them together.

Depend on Christ Rather Than Self. He has provided spiritual armament. Are you using it? He gives us the benefit of the Church as our spiritual family. Are you serving in it?

Pray for Our FCCW Family. We all struggle to live out this faith in Christ. So let's pray for one another. Ask the Lord to embolden us in this daily faith walk.

Special Sermon Series on the Sacraments

Signs and Seals of God's Promise to His People

Sacrament— A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers. The sacraments of the New Testament are, baptism, and the Lord's Supper. (*Westminster Shorter Catechism* # 92-3)

Communion— The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace. (*WSC* # 96)

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
September 8th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 34: 1 - 31

Defending Dinah

1. Israel Faced Double Threats with the Rape of Dinah.
2. Simeon & Levi Respond to Threats with World's Weapons.
3. Christ Has Conquered All Our Threats.

Dinah is raped and her family faces assimilation or destruction. Instead of trusting God's promises of protection, Simeon and Levi lead the family in a military strategy that defies God instead of relying on Him. Once again God is gracious and protects them in spite of their disobedience.

Evening Service:

Exodus 12:1-13:16; Matt 26; John 6;
1Cor 10-12; Rev 19:1-9

The Glory of God Revealed in Communion

1. What Is Communion?
2. How Do We Recognize Christ's Body in Communion?
3. Receive Christ's Invitation to His Table *and Life Together with Him*.

The Lord God loves to eat with us. He enjoys the delight of table fellowship. Christ has sacrificed Himself for us enabling us to return to His table and to once again delight in Him and His family together. So what are you doing?! Are you coming to feast?

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Life in this fallen world is perilous. This passage shows us some of the horror God's people have faced because of the sin that ravages and destroys. So how are we to respond? What does covenant faithfulness look like for God's people? Here we have an example of what *not* to do. As we consider this episode, let's ask the Holy Spirit to lead us in right responses of faith and dependence rather than vengeance.

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 34:1-31; Romans 12:14-21**. DISCUSS, How was Jacob received by Esau? How does this anticipate the reception of the prodigal? How does God receive us in Christ? Why? PRAY thanking God for our joyous reception in Christ as our mediator between God and people.

Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Revelation 19:1-9**. DISCUSS, What are the most common ways you tend to try to offer additional sacrifices? Why? PRAISE Christ for being our Priest whose sacrifice is enough.

Monday

READ **Genesis 34:1-4; 12:10-16; 20:1-7**. DISCUSS, What does Shechem do? How does this connect with the ongoing threat of Abraham's family living in Canaan (Ch. 12, 20)? How can we trust Jesus with our very real fears? PRAY for God to show us how Christ is absolutely trustworthy. PRAY for our neighbors to know this peace.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 34:5-17**. DISCUSS, How does the family tendency to distrust God and rely on dishonesty continue in this passage? How does their action demonstrate their misunderstanding of circumcision? 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 34:18-24**. DISCUSS, What does Shechem's speech reveal about his motives? How do you respond to evil in your workplace? Neighborhood? How do those actions demonstrate faith in Christ or the lack thereof? Why? PRAY, Ask God to enable us to trust Him in dangerous circumstances.

Thursday

READ **Genesis 34:25-31**. DISCUSS, Is Simeon and Levi's strategy effective? Is it biblically faithful? What's the difference? PRAY, "Jesus, empower us to love our families without compromising what You have called us to do."

Friday

READ **Genesis 34:1-31; Romans 12:14-21**. 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.

READ **Genesis 35:1-29**. Come to worship tomorrow *in the joy of His welcome in Christ*. Pray for our neighbors to know this joy.

Romans 12:14 – 21

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. ¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. ¹⁹ Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.