

GENESIS

VOLUME 3



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NEXT STEPS

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BUT GOD. There's something powerful about these two words! A simple conjunction, combined with a powerful noun, highlights the worst and the best of God's redemptive story. On one side of that phrase is sin, rebellion, disobedience, the worst of the human spirit, hopelessness, darkness, and death. On the other side is grace, worship, obedience, purpose, hope, light and life. From Noah to Paul and everywhere in between the phrase, BUT GOD, is used by human authors to describe God's activity in nearly every salvation story in scripture. BUT GOD is a signal to lean in closer and pay attention because God is about to move.

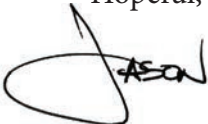
There may be no story recorded in the Bible where this is clearer than the story of Joseph. The great grandson of Abraham, and the favorite son of Jacob, finds himself facing rejection, abandonment, isolation, false accusations, forgotten promises, unrealized dreams, hopelessness and pride...BUT GOD. No matter how dark the situation becomes, Joseph is reminded, by those two salvation-filled words, that God is not done.

My hope is that the story of Joseph will encourage and inspire you to hold on to these powerful two words...BUT GOD. These words are not just past promises or stories of old but a current hope and reminder of how God is always working behind the scenes in our lives. BUT GOD reminds us that God hasn't given up on us or abandoned us to our own mess. BUT GOD is a neon sign pointing to God's relentless and merciful intervention in our lives.

James Montgomery Boice wrote, "If you understand those two words, BUT GOD, they will save your soul. If you recall them daily and live by them, they will transform your life completely."

If he, and the countless Biblical authors are right, these two words will give you a greater vision for God's redemptive work, hope when you find yourself in a pit and confidence that there may be suffering and hardship in this world BUT GOD will ultimately have the last word.

Hopeful,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop on the left side that extends under the name.

Pastor Jason

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This workbook is volume three of a three-volume study series through the book of Genesis. The workbook may be used during weekly teaching lessons, personal study time and group discussion.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”
James 1:22 (NIV)

3-THIRDS STUDY METHOD

Scripture is the expert. The Holy Spirit is the ultimate teacher (John 14:26). Our goal is to encourage our church to read the Bible and discover what God has to say to them. God’s Word is full of revelations just waiting to be discovered. Simple, memorable questions allow a disciple to: 1) discover and understand the character of God, 2) encourage them to obediently apply Scripture to their life and 3) share it with others.

This Bible study method promotes the authority of God’s Holy Word, practical daily discipleship and evangelism. It removes the need for an “expert” to lead them and trusts the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to each group member. This method of looking at Scripture gives each person a simple, memorable way to daily dig into God’s Word on their own and learn from the Holy Spirit.

Bottom line: Our mission is to make disciples, who make disciples, who make disciples and thus to see God raise up a DISCIPLE MAKING MOVEMENT that will bless the people of this city, this state, this nation and the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:18-20).

You will see a similar structure each week that divides your Bible study into 3-Thirds: **Look Back, Look Up and Look Forward**. Each section explores how God’s Word is transforming our lives as we live it out in our daily routines. Prayer is necessary for this type of Bible study because we need the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth and reveal to us the thoughts of God (John 16:13-15; 1 Cor. 2:10-16). We must invite the Holy Spirit into our study as we seek to discover truths about God and His Gospel. Commit to obey, not just hearers of His Word but doers of His Word, and pledge to share what we know with others.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

3-THIRDS QUESTION STRUCTURE

LOOK BACK

1. How has your relationship with Jesus been the past week?
 - How have you obeyed what you have learned?
 - What are you grateful for?
2. Who did you share last week's lesson with?

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to teach us as we study God's Word.

LOOK UP: READ THE TEXT

Repeat the text in your own words.

3. What does this text teach us about God?
 - What does it say about His character?
 - What does it say about His plans?
 - What does it say about how He relates to us?
4. What does this text say to me?
 - Is there a sin I need to address?
 - Is there a promise I need to hold on to?
 - Is there an example I should follow?
 - Is there a command I need to obey?
 - Is there a Gospel truth?

LOOK FORWARD

5. What am I going to do this week because of this text?
6. Who do I think needs to know this?

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to help us do what the Bible says and share what we learned with one person.

HOW TO P.R.A.Y

There is no special formula for prayer. There are no “buzz words” or phrases that capture God’s attention more than any other. Prayer is pouring your honest, surrendered heart out to God and seeking His answers to your struggles. When asked by His disciples about prayer, Jesus responded with the Lord’s Prayer.

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’” Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

Jesus’ response points out four key attributes of prayer. We’ve made an acrostic to make it easy to remember every time you pray. This isn’t a formula, but if you need a little direction in your prayers, this serves as a great guide.

PRAISE: Praise God for who He is and His attributes. Begin by giving Him your worship and adoration.

REPENT: Confess to God the things you have done in word, thought or deed which led you into sin. Confess and repent.

ASK: After you have spent time in praise and repentance, make your requests known to God by asking Him to provide your needs.

YIELD: God is always at work around you. Take time to notice when He invites you to join Him to become part of His mission.



HOW TO USE S.O.A.P.S.

Open your Bible and ask God to illuminate what He wants you to learn and apply today. God's Word says that the Holy Spirit "will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13) and will help you understand what you read from the scriptures. Read the passage slowly and look for that specific "gem" of truth that jumps off the page and grabs your attention.

SCRIPTURE

Choose one Bible verse that stands out to me and copy it word for word.

OBSERVATION

What does this verse teach me about my relationship with God?

APPLICATION

How will I be different because of what I've read today?

PRAYER

Write out a prayer asking God to help me live out what I've just learned.

SHARE

Share what you learned with one person.



WHO IS JOSEPH?

Being the first-born son of Jacob's beloved wife, Rachel, it is no surprise that Joseph is known as the "favorite." As a young man, Joseph shows a level of overconfidence that sets him in opposition to his ten older brothers, who eventually sold him into slavery. The hardships and trials detailed in this section of Genesis would have brought destruction to even the best of men, but God was with him and he was with God. After being betrayed and deserted, exposed to sexual temptation and then punished for doing the right thing, Joseph was forgotten about and left in prison. But God was with him. Instead of complaining and wallowing in self-pity, Joseph continued to look for what God would do next. His faith led to God raising him to be a leader in Egypt, bringing about the survival of the sons of Israel from a famine. As Joseph's life came to an end, he prophesied God's faithfulness to bring the children of Israel up from Egypt and into the land that was long ago promised to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. As you study the details of Joseph's life, consider your faith in God and how He calls you to walk with Him to achieve the good works He has planned from long ago (Ephesians 2:10).



WEEK 1

GENESIS 37 & 38 - PITS

Genesis 37

1 So Jacob settled again in the land of Canaan, where his father had lived as a foreigner. 2 This is the account of Jacob and his family. When Joseph was seventeen years old, he often tended his father's flocks. He worked for his half brothers, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing. 3 Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. 4 But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him. 5 One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. 6 "Listen to this dream," he said. 7 "We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!" 8 His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them. 9 Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!" 10 This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. "What kind of dream is that?" he asked. "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?" 11 But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant.

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12 Soon after this, Joseph's brothers went to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem.

13 When they had been gone for some time, Jacob said to Joseph, "Your brothers are pasturing the sheep at Shechem. Get ready, and I will send you to them." "I'm ready to go," Joseph replied. 14 "Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are getting along," Jacob said. "Then come back and bring me a report." So Jacob sent him on his way, and Joseph traveled to Shechem from their home in the valley of Hebron. 15 When he arrived there, a man from the area noticed him wandering around the countryside. "What are you looking for?" he asked.

16 "I'm looking for my brothers," Joseph replied. "Do you know where they are pasturing their sheep?" 17 "Yes," the man told him. "They have moved on from here, but I heard them say, 'Let's go on to Dothan.'" So Joseph followed his brothers to Dothan and found them there.

18 When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. 19 "Here comes the dreamer!" they said.

20 "Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!" 21 But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him," he said.

22 "Why should we shed any blood? Let's just throw him into this empty cistern here in the wilderness. Then he'll die without our laying a hand on him." Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father. 23 So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. 24 Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. 25

Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them. It was a group of Ishmaelite traders taking a load of gum, balm, and aromatic resin from Gilead down to Egypt. 26 Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain by killing our brother? We’d have to cover up the crime. 27 Instead of hurting him, let’s sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!” And his brothers agreed. 28 So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph’s brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.

29 Some time later, Reuben returned to get Joseph out of the cistern. When he discovered that Joseph was missing, he tore his clothes in grief. 30 Then he went back to his brothers and lamented, “The boy is gone! What will I do now?” 31 Then the brothers killed a young goat and dipped Joseph’s robe in its blood. 32 They sent the beautiful robe to their father with this message: “Look at what we found. Doesn’t this robe belong to your son?” 33 Their father recognized it immediately. “Yes,” he said, “it is my son’s robe. A wild animal must have eaten him. Joseph has clearly been torn to pieces!” 34 Then Jacob tore his clothes and dressed himself in burlap. He mourned deeply for his son for a long time. 35 His family all tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. “I will go to my grave mourning for my son,” he would say, and then he would weep. 36 Meanwhile, the Midianite traders arrived in Egypt, where they sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Potiphar was captain of the palace guard.

Genesis 38

1 About this time, Judah left home and moved to

Adullam, where he stayed with a man named Hirah. 2 There he saw a Canaanite woman, the daughter of Shua, and he married her. When he slept with her, 3 she became pregnant and gave birth to a son, and he named the boy Er. 4 Then she became pregnant again and gave birth to another son, and she named him Onan. 5 And when she gave birth to a third son, she named him Shelah. At the time of Shelah's birth, they were living at Kezib. 6 In the course of time, Judah arranged for his firstborn son, Er, to marry a young woman named Tamar. 7 But Er was a wicked man in the LORD's sight, so the LORD took his life. 8 Then Judah said to Er's brother Onan, "Go and marry Tamar, as our law requires of the brother of a man who has died. You must produce an heir for your brother." 9 But Onan was not willing to have a child who would not be his own heir. So whenever he had intercourse with his brother's wife, he spilled the semen on the ground. This prevented her from having a child who would belong to his brother. 10 But the LORD considered it evil for Onan to deny a child to his dead brother. So the LORD took Onan's life, too. 11 Then Judah said to Tamar, his daughter-in-law, "Go back to your parents' home and remain a widow until my son Shelah is old enough to marry you." (But Judah didn't really intend to do this because he was afraid Shelah would also die, like his two brothers.) So Tamar went back to live in her father's home. 12 Some years later Judah's wife died. After the time of mourning was over, Judah and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went up to Timnah to supervise the shearing of his sheep. 13 Someone told Tamar, "Look, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep." 14 Tamar was aware that Shelah had grown up, but no arrangements had been made for her to come and marry him. So she changed out of her widow's clothing and covered

herself with a veil to disguise herself. Then she sat beside the road at the entrance to the village of Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. 15 Judah noticed her and thought she was a prostitute, since she had covered her face. 16 So he stopped and propositioned her. "Let me have sex with you," he said, not realizing that she was his own daughter-in-law. "How much will you pay to have sex with me?" Tamar asked. 17 "I'll send you a young goat from my flock," Judah promised. "But what will you give me to guarantee that you will send the goat?" she asked.

18 "What kind of guarantee do you want?" he replied. She answered, "Leave me your identification seal and its cord and the walking stick you are carrying." So Judah gave them to her. Then he had intercourse with her, and she became pregnant. 19 Afterward she went back home, took off her veil, and put on her widow's clothing as usual. 20 Later Judah asked his friend Hirah the Adullamite to take the young goat to the woman and to pick up the things he had given her as his guarantee. But Hirah couldn't find her. 21 So he asked the men who lived there, "Where can I find the shrine prostitute who was sitting beside the road at the entrance to Enaim?" "We've never had a shrine prostitute here," they replied. 22 So Hirah returned to Judah and told him, "I couldn't find her anywhere, and the men of the village claim they've never had a shrine prostitute there." 23 "Then let her keep the things I gave her," Judah said. "I sent the young goat as we agreed, but you couldn't find her. We'd be the laughingstock of the village if we went back again to look for her." 24 About three months later, Judah was told, "Tamar, your daughter-in-law, has acted like a prostitute. And now, because of this, she's pregnant." "Bring her out, and let

her be burned!” Judah demanded. 25 But as they were taking her out to kill her, she sent this message to her father-in-law: “The man who owns these things made me pregnant. Look closely. Whose seal and cord and walking stick are these?” 26 Judah recognized them immediately and said, “She is more righteous than I am, because I didn’t arrange for her to marry my son Shelah.” And Judah never slept with Tamar again. 27 When the time came for Tamar to give birth, it was discovered that she was carrying twins. 28 While she was in labor, one of the babies reached out his hand. The midwife grabbed it and tied a scarlet string around the child’s wrist, announcing, “This one came out first.” 29 But then he pulled back his hand, and out came his brother! “What!” the midwife exclaimed. “How did you break out first?” So he was named Perez. 30 Then the baby with the scarlet string on his wrist was born, and he was named Zerah.

NOTES

SERMON TAKEAWAY FOR THE WEEK:

WEEK 1
GENESIS 37 & 38 - PITS

LOOK BACK

1. How has your relationship with Jesus been this past week?

- How have you obeyed what you learned?
- What are you grateful for?

2. Who did you share last week's lesson with?

GENESIS 37 & 38 - PITS

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to teach us as we study God's Word.

LOOK UP

Read Genesis 37. Repeat the text in your own words (for Group study, have one member do this aloud).

3. What does this text teach us about God?

- What does this say about His character?
- What does it say about His plans?
- What does it say about how He relates to us?

GENESIS 37 & 38 - PITS

4. What does this text say to me?

- Is there a sin that I need to address?
- Is there a promise I need to hold on to?
- Is there an example I should follow?
- Is there a command that I need to obey?
- Is there a Gospel truth?

LOOK FORWARD

5. What am I going to do this week because of this text?

GENESIS 37 & 38 - PITS

6. Who do I think needs to know this?

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to help us do what the Bible says and share what we learned with one person.

S.O.A.P.S.

Sunday – Genesis 37

Monday – Genesis 38

Tuesday – Job 33

Wednesday – Matthew 10:24-39

Thursday – Daniel 6

Friday – Psalm 40

Saturday – Matthew 5:21-26

Instructions on using S.O.A.P.S. is in the front of the book

NOTES

WEEK 2

GENESIS 39 - GOD WITH YOU

1 When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. 2 The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. 3 Potiphar noticed this and realized that the LORD was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. 4 This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. 5 From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the LORD began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. 6 So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat! Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, 7 and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded. 8 But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. 9 No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God." 10 She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible. 11 One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work. 12 She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house. 13 When she saw that she was

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GENESIS 39 - GOD WITH YOU

holding his cloak and he had fled, 14 she called out to her servants. Soon all the men came running. “Look!” she said. “My husband has brought this Hebrew slave here to make fools of us! He came into my room to rape me, but I screamed. 15 When he heard me scream, he ran outside and got away, but he left his cloak behind with me.” 16 She kept the cloak with her until her husband came home. 17 Then she told him her story. “That Hebrew slave you’ve brought into our house tried to come in and fool around with me,” she said.

18 “But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his cloak with me!” 19 Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife’s story about how Joseph had treated her. 20 So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king’s prisoners were held, and there he remained. 21 But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the LORD made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. 22 Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. 23 The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The LORD was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.

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SERMON TAKEAWAY FOR THE WEEK:



BUT THE LORD WAS WITH

Joseph and showed him

STEADFAST LOVE AND GAVE

him favor in the sight

OF THE KEEPER OF THE PRISON



Genesis 39:21

WEEK 2
GENESIS 39 - GOD WITH YOU

LOOK BACK

1. How has your relationship with Jesus been this past week?

- How have you obeyed what you learned?
- What are you grateful for?

2. Who did you share last week's lesson with?

GENESIS 39 - GOD WITH YOU

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to teach us as we study God's Word.

LOOK UP

Read the Text. Repeat the text in your own words (for Group study, have one member do this aloud).

3. What does this text teach us about God?

- What does this say about His character?
- What does it say about His plans?
- What does it say about how He relates to us?

GENESIS 39 - GOD WITH YOU

6. Who do I think needs to know this?

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to help us do what the Bible says and share what we learned with one person.

S.O.A.P.S.

Sunday – Genesis 39

Monday – Matthew 1:18-25

Tuesday – Matthew 5:38-48

Wednesday – Psalm 7

Thursday – Luke 2:41-52

Friday – Psalm 78

Saturday – John 1:1-18

Instructions on using S.O.A.P.S. is in the front of the book

NOTES

WEEK 3

GENESIS 40 – BROKEN

1 Some time later, Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer and chief baker offended their royal master.

2 Pharaoh became angry with these two officials, 3 and he put them in the prison where Joseph was, in the palace of the captain of the guard. 4 They remained in prison for quite some time, and the captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, who looked after them.

5 While they were in prison, Pharaoh's cup-bearer and baker each had a dream one night, and each dream had its own meaning. 6 When Joseph saw them the next morning, he noticed that they both looked upset.

7 "Why do you look so worried today?" he asked them.

8 And they replied, "We both had dreams last night, but no one can tell us what they mean." "Interpreting dreams is God's business," Joseph replied. "Go ahead and tell me your dreams." 9 So the chief cup-bearer told Joseph his dream first. "In my dream," he said, "I saw a grapevine in front of me.

10 The vine had three branches that began to bud and blossom, and soon it produced clusters of ripe grapes. 11 I was holding Pharaoh's wine cup in my hand, so I took a cluster of grapes and squeezed the juice into the cup. Then I placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand." 12 "This is what the dream means," Joseph said.

"The three branches represent three days. 13 Within three days Pharaoh will lift you up and restore you to your position as his chief cup-bearer. 14 And please remember me and do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place. 15 For I was kidnapped from my

NOTES

GENESIS 40 – BROKEN

homeland, the land of the Hebrews, and now I'm here in prison, but I did nothing to deserve it." 16 When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given the first dream such a positive interpretation, he said to Joseph, "I had a dream, too. In my dream there were three baskets of white pastries stacked on my head.

17 The top basket contained all kinds of pastries for Pharaoh, but the birds came and ate them from the basket on my head." 18 "This is what the dream means," Joseph told him. "The three baskets also represent three days. 19 Three days from now Pharaoh will lift you up and impale your body on a pole. Then birds will come and peck away at your flesh." 20 Pharaoh's birthday came three days later, and he prepared a banquet for all his officials and staff. He summoned his chief cup-bearer and chief baker to join the other officials. 21 He then restored the chief cup-bearer to his former position, so he could again hand Pharaoh his cup. 22 But Pharaoh impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had predicted when he interpreted his dream. 23 Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer, however, forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought.

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SERMON TAKEAWAY FOR THE WEEK:



WEEK 3
GENESIS 40 – BROKEN

LOOK BACK

1. How has your relationship with Jesus been this past week?

- How have you obeyed what you learned?
- What are you grateful for?

2. Who did you share last week's lesson with?

GENESIS 40 – BROKEN

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to teach us as we study God's Word.

LOOK UP

Read the Text. Repeat the text in your own words (for Group study, have one member do this aloud).

3. What does this text teach us about God?

- What does this say about His character?
- What does it say about His plans?
- What does it say about how He relates to us?

GENESIS 40 – BROKEN

6. Who do I think needs to know this?

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to help us do what the Bible says and share

S.O.A.P.S.

Sunday – Genesis 40

Monday – Acts 16:16-40

Tuesday – Jeremiah 23

Wednesday – Psalm 34

Thursday – Daniel 2

Friday – Psalm 80

Saturday – Daniel 4

Instructions on using S.O.A.P.S. is in the front of the book

NOTES



WEEK 4

GENESIS 41 – PRISONS

1 Two full years later, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing on the bank of the Nile River.

2 In his dream he saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass. 3 Then he saw seven more cows come up behind them from the Nile, but these were scrawny and thin. These cows stood beside the fat cows on the riverbank. 4 Then the scrawny, thin cows ate the seven healthy, fat cows! At this point in the dream, Pharaoh woke up. 5 But he fell asleep again and had a second dream. This time he saw seven heads of grain, plump and beautiful, growing on a single stalk. 6 Then seven more heads of grain appeared, but these were shriveled and withered by the east wind. 7 And these thin heads swallowed up the seven plump, well-formed heads! Then Pharaoh woke up again and realized it was a dream.

8 The next morning Pharaoh was very disturbed by the dreams. So he called for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. When Pharaoh told them his dreams, not one of them could tell him what they meant. 9 Finally, the king's chief cup-bearer spoke up. "Today I have been reminded of my failure," he told Pharaoh. 10 "Some time ago, you were angry with the chief baker and me, and you imprisoned us in the palace of the captain of the guard. 11 One night the chief baker and I each had a dream, and each dream had its own meaning. 12 There was a young Hebrew man with us in the prison who was a slave of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he told us what each of our dreams meant. 13 And everything happened just as he had predicted. I was restored to my position as cup-bearer, and the chief baker was executed and impaled on a pole." 14 Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh. 15 Then Pharaoh said

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GENESIS 41 – PRISONS

to Joseph, “I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it.”

16 “It is beyond my power to do this,” Joseph replied. “But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease.” 17 So Pharaoh told Joseph his dream. “In my dream,” he said, “I was standing on the bank of the Nile River, 18 and I saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass. 19 But then I saw seven sick-looking cows, scrawny and thin, come up after them. I’ve never seen such sorry-looking animals in all the land of Egypt. 20 These thin, scrawny cows ate the seven fat cows. 21 But afterward you wouldn’t have known it, for they were still as thin and scrawny as before! Then I woke up. 22 “In my dream I also saw seven heads of grain, full and beautiful, growing on a single stalk. 23 Then seven more heads of grain appeared, but these were blighted, shriveled, and withered by the east wind. 24 And the shriveled heads swallowed the seven healthy heads. I told these dreams to the magicians, but no one could tell me what they mean.” 25 Joseph responded, “Both of Pharaoh’s dreams mean the same thing. God is telling Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do. 26 The seven healthy cows and the seven healthy heads of grain both represent seven years of prosperity. 27 The seven thin, scrawny cows that came up later and the seven thin heads of grain, withered by the east wind, represent seven years of famine. 28 “This will happen just as I have described it, for God has revealed to Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do. 29 The next seven years will be a period of great prosperity throughout the land of Egypt. 30 But afterward there will be seven years of famine so great that all the prosperity will be forgotten in Egypt. Famine will destroy the land. 31 This famine will be so severe that even the memory of the good years will be erased. 32 As for having two similar dreams, it means that these events have been decreed by God, and he will soon make them happen. 33 “Therefore, Pharaoh should find an intelligent and wise man and put him in charge of the entire land of Egypt.

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34 Then Pharaoh should appoint supervisors over the land and let them collect one-fifth of all the crops during the seven good years. 35 Have them gather all the food produced in the good years that are just ahead and bring it to Pharaoh's storehouses. Store it away, and guard it so there will be food in the cities. 36 That way there will be enough to eat when the seven years of famine come to the land of Egypt. Otherwise this famine will destroy the land." 37 Joseph's suggestions were well received by Pharaoh and his officials. 38 So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" 39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. 40 You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours." 41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt."

42 Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and placed it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in fine linen clothing and hung a gold chain around his neck. 43 Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. And wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, "Kneel down!" So Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt.

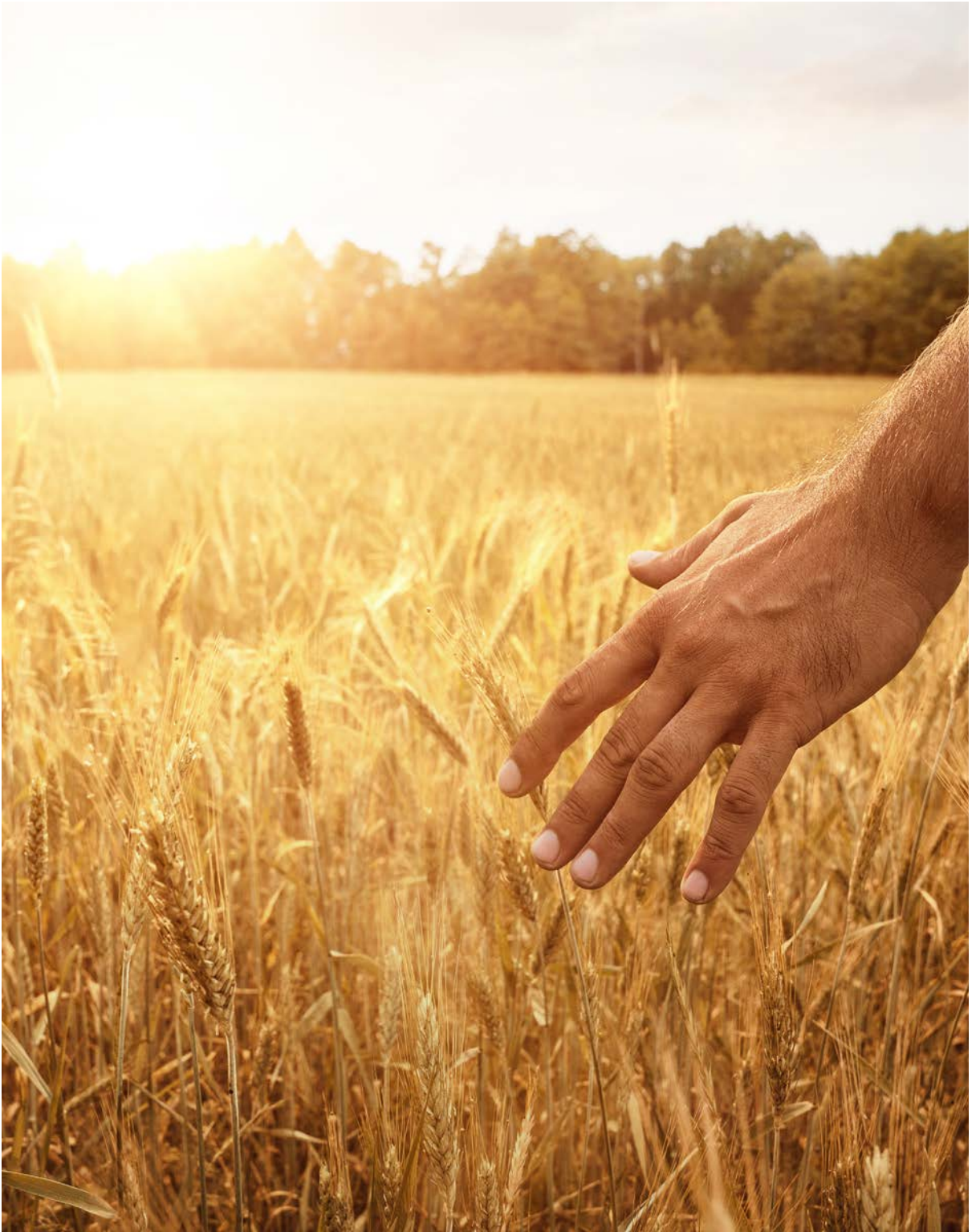
44 And Pharaoh said to him, "I am Pharaoh, but no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt without your approval." 45 Then Pharaoh gave Joseph a new Egyptian name, Zaphenath-paneah. He also gave him a wife, whose name was Asenath. She was the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. So Joseph took charge of the entire land of Egypt. 46 He was thirty years old when he began serving in the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. And when Joseph left Pharaoh's presence, he inspected the entire land of Egypt. 47 As predicted, for seven years the land produced bumper crops. 48 During those years, Joseph gathered all the crops grown in Egypt and stored the grain from the surrounding

GENESIS 41 – PRISONS

fields in the cities. 49 He piled up huge amounts of grain like sand on the seashore. Finally, he stopped keeping records because there was too much to measure. 50 During this time, before the first of the famine years, two sons were born to Joseph and his wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. 51 Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, “God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father’s family.” 52 Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, “God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief.” 53 At last the seven years of bumper crops throughout the land of Egypt came to an end. 54 Then the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had predicted. The famine also struck all the surrounding countries, but throughout Egypt there was plenty of food. 55 Eventually, however, the famine spread throughout the land of Egypt as well. And when the people cried out to Pharaoh for food, he told them, “Go to Joseph, and do whatever he tells you.” 56 So with severe famine everywhere, Joseph opened up the storehouses and distributed grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout the land of Egypt. 57 And people from all around came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph because the famine was severe throughout the world.

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SERMON TAKEAWAY FOR THE WEEK:



GENESIS 41 – PRISONS

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to teach us as we study God's Word.

LOOK UP

Read the Text. Repeat the text in your own words (for Group study, have one member do this aloud).

3. What does this text teach us about God?

- What does this say about His character?
- What does it say about His plans?
- What does it say about how He relates to us?

GENESIS 41 – PRISONS

6. Who do I think needs to know this?

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to help us do what the Bible says and share what we learned with one person.

S.O.A.P.S.

Sunday – Genesis 41

Monday – Acts 4

Tuesday – Psalm 102

Wednesday – Matthew 18:21-35

Thursday – Luke 12:54-59

Friday – Psalm 81

Saturday – Isaiah 61

Instructions on using S.O.A.P.S. is in the front of the book

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WEEK 5

GENESIS 42; 43:1-15 - FORGIVING

Genesis 42

1 When Jacob heard that grain was available in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why are you standing around looking at one another? 2 I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there, and buy enough grain to keep us alive. Otherwise we’ll die.” 3 So Joseph’s ten older brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain. 4 But Jacob wouldn’t let Joseph’s younger brother, Benjamin, go with them, for fear some harm might come to him. 5 So Jacob’s sons arrived in Egypt along with others to buy food, for the famine was in Canaan as well. 6 Since Joseph was governor of all Egypt and in charge of selling grain to all the people, it was to him that his brothers came. When they arrived, they bowed before him with their faces to the ground. 7 Joseph recognized his brothers instantly, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. “Where are you from?” he demanded. “From the land of Canaan,” they replied. “We have come to buy food.” 8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they didn’t recognize him. 9 And he remembered the dreams he’d had about them many years before. He said to them, “You are spies! You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become.” 10 “No, my lord!” they exclaimed. “Your servants have simply come to buy food. 11 We are all brothers—members of the same family. We are honest men, sir! We are not spies!” 12 “Yes, you are!” Joseph insisted. “You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become.” 13 “Sir,” they said, “there are actually twelve of us. We, your servants, are all brothers, sons

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of a man living in the land of Canaan. Our youngest brother is back there with our father right now, and one of our brothers is no longer with us.” 14 But Joseph insisted, “As I said, you are spies! 15 This is how I will test your story. I swear by the life of Pharaoh that you will never leave Egypt unless your youngest brother comes here! 16 One of you must go and get your brother. I’ll keep the rest of you here in prison. Then we’ll find out whether or not your story is true. By the life of Pharaoh, if it turns out that you don’t have a younger brother, then I’ll know you are spies.” 17 So Joseph put them all in prison for three days. 18 On the third day Joseph said to them, “I am a God-fearing man. If you do as I say, you will live. 19 If you really are honest men, choose one of your brothers to remain in prison. The rest of you may go home with grain for your starving families. 20 But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. This will prove that you are telling the truth, and you will not die.” To this they agreed. 21 Speaking among themselves, they said, “Clearly we are being punished because of what we did to Joseph long ago. We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn’t listen. That’s why we’re in this trouble.” 22 “Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy?” Reuben asked. “But you wouldn’t listen. And now we have to answer for his blood!” 23 Of course, they didn’t know that Joseph understood them, for he had been speaking to them through an interpreter. 24 Now he turned away from them and began to weep. When he regained his composure, he spoke to them again. Then he chose Simeon from among them and had him tied up right before their eyes. 25 Joseph then ordered his servants to fill the men’s sacks with grain, but he also gave secret instructions to return each

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brother's payment at the top of his sack. He also gave them supplies for their journey home.

26 So the brothers loaded their donkeys with the grain and headed for home. 27 But when they stopped for the night and one of them opened his sack to get grain for his donkey, he found his money in the top of his sack. 28 "Look!" he exclaimed to his brothers. "My money has been returned; it's here in my sack!" Then their hearts sank. Trembling, they said to each other, "What has God done to us?" 29 When the brothers came to their father, Jacob, in the land of Canaan, they told him everything that had happened to them. 30 "The man who is governor of the land spoke very harshly to us," they told him. "He accused us of being spies scouting the land. 31 But we said, 'We are honest men, not spies. 32 We are twelve brothers, sons of one father. One brother is no longer with us, and the youngest is at home with our father in the land of Canaan.' 33 "Then the man who is governor of the land told us, 'This is how I will find out if you are honest men. Leave one of your brothers here with me, and take grain for your starving families and go on home. 34 But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. Then I will know you are honest men and not spies. Then I will give you back your brother, and you may trade freely in the land.'" 35 As they emptied out their sacks, there in each man's sack was the bag of money he had paid for the grain! The brothers and their father were terrified when they saw the bags of money. 36 Jacob exclaimed, "You are robbing me of my children! Joseph is gone! Simeon is gone! And now you want to take Benjamin, too. Everything is going against me!" 37 Then Reuben said to his father, "You may kill my two sons if I don't bring Benjamin back to you. I'll be responsible for him,

and I promise to bring him back.” 38 But Jacob replied, “My son will not go down with you. His brother Joseph is dead, and he is all I have left. If anything should happen to him on your journey, you would send this grieving, white-haired man to his grave.”

Genesis 43:1-15

1 But the famine continued to ravage the land of Canaan. 2 When the grain they had brought from Egypt was almost gone, Jacob said to his sons, “Go back and buy us a little more food.” 3 But Judah said, “The man was serious when he warned us, ‘You won’t see my face again unless your brother is with you.’ 4 If you send Benjamin with us, we will go down and buy more food. 5 But if you don’t let Benjamin go, we won’t go either. Remember, the man said, ‘You won’t see my face again unless your brother is with you.’” 6 “Why were you so cruel to me?” Jacob moaned. “Why did you tell him you had another brother?” 7 “The man kept asking us questions about our family,” they replied. “He asked, ‘Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?’ So we answered his questions. How could we know he would say, ‘Bring your brother down here?’” 8 Judah said to his father, “Send the boy with me, and we will be on our way. Otherwise we will all die of starvation—and not only we, but you and our little ones. 9 I personally guarantee his safety. You may hold me responsible if I don’t bring him back to you. Then let me bear the blame forever. 10 If we hadn’t wasted all this time, we could have gone and returned twice by now.” 11 So their father, Jacob, finally said to them, “If it can’t be avoided, then at least do this. Pack your bags with the best products of this land.

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GENESIS 42; 43:1-15 - FORGIVING

Take them down to the man as gifts—balm, honey, gum, aromatic resin, pistachio nuts, and almonds. 12 Also take double the money that was put back in your sacks, as it was probably someone’s mistake. 13 Then take your brother, and go back to the man. 14 May God Almighty give you mercy as you go before the man, so that he will release Simeon and let Benjamin return. But if I must lose my children, so be it.” 15 So the men packed Jacob’s gifts and double the money and headed off with Benjamin. They finally arrived in Egypt and presented themselves to Joseph.

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SERMON TAKEAWAY FOR THE WEEK:



GENESIS 42; 43:1-15 - FORGIVING

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to teach us as we study God's Word.

LOOK UP

Read the Text. Repeat the text in your own words (for Group study, have one member do this aloud).

3. What does this text teach us about God?

- What does this say about His character?
- What does it say about His plans?
- What does it say about how He relates to us?

GENESIS 42; 43:1-15 - FORGIVING

4. What does this text say to me?

- Is there a sin that I need to address?
- Is there a promise I need to hold on to?
- Is there an example I should follow?
- Is there a command that I need to obey?
- Is there a Gospel truth?

LOOK FORWARD

5. What am I going to do this week because of this text?

GENESIS 42; 43:1-15 - FORGIVING

6. Who do I think needs to know this?

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to help us do what the Bible says and share what we learned with one person.

S.O.A.P.S.

Sunday – Genesis 42; 43:1-15

Monday – 1 Corinthians 13

Tuesday – Proverbs 15:27-35

Wednesday – Ephesians 4:17-31

Thursday – Colossians 3:1-17

Friday – Psalm 33

Saturday – Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

Instructions on using S.O.A.P.S. is in the front of the book

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WEEK 6

GENESIS 43:16-34; 44 – CONFESSION

Genesis 43:16-34

16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the manager of his household, “These men will eat with me this noon. Take them inside the palace. Then go slaughter an animal, and prepare a big feast.” 17 So the man did as Joseph told him and took them into Joseph’s palace. 18 The brothers were terrified when they saw that they were being taken into Joseph’s house. “It’s because of the money someone put in our sacks last time we were here,” they said. “He plans to pretend that we stole it. Then he will seize us, make us slaves, and take our donkeys.”

19 The brothers approached the manager of Joseph’s household and spoke to him at the entrance to the palace. 20 “Sir,” they said, “we came to Egypt once before to buy food. 21 But as we were returning home, we stopped for the night and opened our sacks. Then we discovered that each man’s money—the exact amount paid—was in the top of his sack! Here it is; we have brought it back with us. 22 We also have additional money to buy more food. We have no idea who put our money in our sacks.” 23 “Relax. Don’t be afraid,” the household manager told them. “Your God, the God of your father, must have put this treasure into your sacks. I know I received your payment.” Then he released Simeon and brought him out to them.

24 The manager then led the men into Joseph’s palace. He gave them water to wash their feet and provided food for their donkeys. 25 They were told they would be eating there, so they prepared their gifts for Joseph’s

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arrival at noon. 26 When Joseph came home, they gave him the gifts they had brought him, then bowed low to the ground before him. 27 After greeting them, he asked, “How is your father, the old man you spoke about? Is he still alive?” 28 “Yes,” they replied. “Our father, your servant, is alive and well.” And they bowed low again. 29 Then Joseph looked at his brother Benjamin, the son of his own mother. “Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?” Joseph asked. “May God be gracious to you, my son.” 30 Then Joseph hurried from the room because he was overcome with emotion for his brother. He went into his private room, where he broke down and wept. 31 After washing his face, he came back out, keeping himself under control. Then he ordered, “Bring out the food!”

32 The waiters served Joseph at his own table, and his brothers were served at a separate table. The Egyptians who ate with Joseph sat at their own table, because Egyptians despise Hebrews and refuse to eat with them. 33 Joseph told each of his brothers where to sit, and to their amazement, he seated them according to age, from oldest to youngest. 34 And Joseph filled their plates with food from his own table, giving Benjamin five times as much as he gave the others. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

Genesis 44

1 When his brothers were ready to leave, Joseph gave these instructions to his palace manager: “Fill each of their sacks with as much grain as they can carry, and put each man’s money back into his sack. 2 Then put my personal silver cup at the top of the youngest brother’s sack, along with the money for his grain.” So the manager did as Joseph instructed him. 3 The brothers

were up at dawn and were sent on their journey with their loaded donkeys. 4 But when they had gone only a short distance and were barely out of the city, Joseph said to his palace manager, “Chase after them and stop them. When you catch up with them, ask them, ‘Why have you repaid my kindness with such evil? 5 Why have you stolen my master’s silver cup, which he uses to predict the future? What a wicked thing you have done!’” 6 When the palace manager caught up with the men, he spoke to them as he had been instructed. 7 “What are you talking about?” the brothers responded. “We are your servants and would never do such a thing! 8 Didn’t we return the money we found in our sacks? We brought it back all the way from the land of Canaan. Why would we steal silver or gold from your master’s house? 9 If you find his cup with any one of us, let that man die. And all the rest of us, my lord, will be your slaves.” 10 “That’s fair,” the man replied. “But only the one who stole the cup will be my slave. The rest of you may go free.” 11 They all quickly took their sacks from the backs of their donkeys and opened them. 12 The palace manager searched the brothers’ sacks, from the oldest to the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack! 13 When the brothers saw this, they tore their clothing in despair. Then they loaded their donkeys again and returned to the city. 14 Joseph was still in his palace when Judah and his brothers arrived, and they fell to the ground before him. 15 “What have you done?” Joseph demanded. “Don’t you know that a man like me can predict the future?” 16 Judah answered, “Oh, my lord, what can we say to you? How can we explain this? How can we prove our innocence? God is punishing us for our sins. My lord, we have all returned to be your slaves—all of

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us, not just our brother who had your cup in his sack.”
17 “No,” Joseph said. “I would never do such a thing!
Only the man who stole the cup will be my slave. The
rest of you may go back to your father in peace.” 18
Then Judah stepped forward and said, “Please, my lord,
let your servant say just one word to you. Please, do not
be angry with me, even though you are as powerful as
Pharaoh himself. 19 “My lord, previously you asked us,
your servants, ‘Do you have a father or a brother?’ 20
And we responded, ‘Yes, my lord, we have a father who
is an old man, and his youngest son is a child of his old
age. His full brother is dead, and he alone is left of his
mother’s children, and his father loves him very much.’
21 “And you said to us, ‘Bring him here so I can see him
with my own eyes.’ 22 But we said to you, ‘My lord, the
boy cannot leave his father, for his father would die.’
23 But you told us, ‘Unless your youngest brother
comes with you, you will never see my face again.’ 24
“So we returned to your servant, our father, and told
him what you had said. 25 Later, when he said, ‘Go
back again and buy us more food,’ 26 we replied, ‘We
can’t go unless you let our youngest brother go with
us. We’ll never get to see the man’s face unless our
youngest brother is with us.’ 27 “Then my father said to
us, ‘As you know, my wife had two sons, 28 and one of
them went away and never returned. Doubtless he was
torn to pieces by some wild animal. I have never seen
him since. 29 Now if you take his brother away from
me, and any harm comes to him, you will send this
grieving, white-haired man to his grave.’ 30 “And now,
my lord, I cannot go back to my father without the boy.
Our father’s life is bound up in the boy’s life. 31 If he
sees that the boy is not with us, our father will die. We,

GENESIS 43:16-34; 44 – CONFESSION

your servants, will indeed be responsible for sending that grieving, white-haired man to his grave.

32 My lord, I guaranteed to my father that I would take care of the boy. I told him, ‘If I don’t bring him back to you, I will bear the blame forever.’ 33 “So please, my lord, let me stay here as a slave instead of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. 34 For how can I return to my father if the boy is not with me? I couldn’t bear to see the anguish this would cause my father!”

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SERMON TAKEAWAY FOR THE WEEK:



GENESIS 43:16-34; 44 – CONFESSION

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to teach us as we study God's Word.

LOOK UP

Read the Text. Repeat the text in your own words (for Group study, have one member do this aloud).

3. What does this text teach us about God?

- What does this say about His character?
- What does it say about His plans?
- What does it say about how He relates to us?

GENESIS 43:16-34; 44 – CONFESSION

6. Who do I think needs to know this?

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to help us do what the Bible says and share what we learned with one person.

S.O.A.P.S.

Sunday – Genesis 43:16-34; 44

Monday – Romans 12:3-21

Tuesday – 1 Timothy 2:1-6

Wednesday – Psalm 38

Thursday – Luke 3:1-22

Friday – Psalm 32

Saturday – Matthew 5:21-26

Instructions on using S.O.A.P.S. is in the front of the book

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WEEK 7

GENESIS 45; 46:1-30

RECONCILIATION & REUNION

Genesis 45

1 Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, “Out, all of you!” So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. 2 Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh’s palace. 3 “I am Joseph!” he said to his brothers. “Is my father still alive?” But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them. 4 “Please, come closer,” he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. 5 But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. 6 This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. 8 So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt. 9 “Now hurry back to my father and tell him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. So come down to me immediately! 10 You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks

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and herds, and everything you own. 11 I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, and all your animals will starve.” 12 Then Joseph added, “Look! You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that I really am Joseph!

13 Go tell my father of my honored position here in Egypt. Describe for him everything you have seen, and then bring my father here quickly.” 14 Weeping with joy, he embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin did the same. 15 Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and after that they began talking freely with him. 16 The news soon reached Pharaoh’s palace: “Joseph’s brothers have arrived!” Pharaoh and his officials were all delighted to hear this. 17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, ‘This is what you must do: Load your pack animals, and hurry back to the land of Canaan. 18 Then get your father and all of your families, and return here to me. I will give you the very best land in Egypt, and you will eat from the best that the land produces.’” 19 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, ‘Take wagons from the land of Egypt to carry your little children and your wives, and bring your father here. 20 Don’t worry about your personal belongings, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.’” 21 So the sons of Jacob did as they were told. Joseph provided them with wagons, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he gave them supplies for the journey. 22 And he gave each of them new clothes—but to Benjamin he gave five changes of clothes and 300 pieces of silver.

23 He also sent his father ten male donkeys loaded with

the finest products of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other supplies he would need on his journey.

24 So Joseph sent his brothers off, and as they left, he called after them, “Don’t quarrel about all this along the way!” 25 And they left Egypt and returned to their father, Jacob, in the land of Canaan. 26 “Joseph is still alive!” they told him. “And he is governor of all the land of Egypt!” Jacob was stunned at the news—he couldn’t believe it. 27 But when they repeated to Jacob everything Joseph had told them, and when he saw the wagons Joseph had sent to carry him, their father’s spirits revived. 28 Then Jacob exclaimed, “It must be true! My son Joseph is alive! I must go and see him before I die.”

Genesis 46:1-30

1 So Jacob set out for Egypt with all his possessions. And when he came to Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father, Isaac. 2 During the night God spoke to him in a vision. “Jacob! Jacob!” he called. “Here I am,” Jacob replied. 3 “I am God, the God of your father,” the voice said. “Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make your family into a great nation. 4 I will go with you down to Egypt, and I will bring you back again. You will die in Egypt, but Joseph will be with you to close your eyes.” 5 So Jacob left Beersheba, and his sons took him to Egypt. They carried him and their little ones and their wives in the wagons Pharaoh had provided for them. 6 They also took all their livestock and all the personal belongings they had acquired in the land of Canaan. So Jacob and his entire family went to Egypt— 7

sons and grandsons, daughters and granddaughters—all his descendants. 8 These are the names of the descendants of Israel—the sons of Jacob—who went to Egypt: Reuben was Jacob’s oldest son. 9 The sons of Reuben were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. 10 The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar, and Shaul. (Shaul’s mother was a Canaanite woman.) 11 The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 12 The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (though Er and Onan had died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. 13 The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron. 14 The sons of Zebulun were Sered, Elon, and Jahleel. 15 These were the sons of Leah and Jacob who were born in Paddan-aram, in addition to their daughter, Dinah. The number of Jacob’s descendants (male and female) through Leah was thirty-three. 16 The sons of Gad were Zephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli. 17 The sons of Asher were Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Beriah. Their sister was Serah. Beriah’s sons were Heber and Malkiel. 18 These were the sons of Zilpah, the servant given to Leah by her father, Laban. The number of Jacob’s descendants through Zilpah was sixteen. 19 The sons of Jacob’s wife Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin. 20 Joseph’s sons, born in the land of Egypt, were Manasseh and Ephraim. Their mother was Asenath, daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. 21 Benjamin’s sons were Bela, Beker, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard. 22 These were the sons of Rachel and Jacob. The number of Jacob’s descendants through Rachel was fourteen. 23 The son of Dan was Hushim. 24 The sons of Naphtali were Jahzeel, Guni,

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GENESIS 45; 46:1-30 – RECONCILIATION & REUNION

Jezer, and Shillem. 25 These were the sons of Bilhah, the servant given to Rachel by her father, Laban. The number of Jacob's descendants through Bilhah was seven. 26 The total number of Jacob's direct descendants who went with him to Egypt, not counting his sons' wives, was sixty-six. 27 In addition, Joseph had two sons who were born in Egypt. So altogether, there were seventy members of Jacob's family in the land of Egypt. 28 As they neared their destination, Jacob sent Judah ahead to meet Joseph and get directions to the region of Goshen. And when they finally arrived there, 29 Joseph prepared his chariot and traveled to Goshen to meet his father, Jacob. When Joseph arrived, he embraced his father and wept, holding him for a long time. 30 Finally, Jacob said to Joseph, "Now I am ready to die, since I have seen your face again and know you are still alive."

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SERMON TAKEAWAY FOR THE WEEK:



WEEK 7
GENESIS 45; 46:1-30
RECONCILIATION & REUNION

LOOK BACK

1. How has your relationship with Jesus been this past week?

- How have you obeyed what you learned?
- What are you grateful for?

2. Who did you share last week's lesson with?

GENESIS 45; 46:1-30 – RECONCILIATION & REUNION

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to teach us as we study God's Word.

LOOK UP

Read the Text. Repeat the text in your own words (for Group study, have one member do this aloud).

3. What does this text teach us about God?

- What does this say about His character?
- What does it say about His plans?
- What does it say about how He relates to us?

GENESIS 45; 46:1-30 – RECONCILIATION & REUNION

6. Who do I think needs to know this?

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to help us do what the Bible says and share what we learned with one person.

S.O.A.P.S.

Sunday – Genesis 45:1-15

Monday – Genesis 45:16-28; 46:1-30

Tuesday – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Wednesday – Ephesians 2:11-22

Thursday – Genesis 33

Friday – Psalm 51

Saturday – Colossians 1:15-23

Instructions on using S.O.A.P.S. is in the front of the book

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WEEK 8

GENESIS 46:31-34; 47:1-26

CALLING

Genesis 46:31-34

31 And Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's entire family, "I will go to Pharaoh and tell him, 'My brothers and my father's entire family have come to me from the land of Canaan. 32 These men are shepherds, and they raise livestock. They have brought with them their flocks and herds and everything they own.'" 33 Then he said, "When Pharaoh calls for you and asks you about your occupation, 34 you must tell him, 'We, your servants, have raised livestock all our lives, as our ancestors have always done.' When you tell him this, he will let you live here in the region of Goshen, for the Egyptians despise shepherds."

Genesis 47:1-26

1 Then Joseph went to see Pharaoh and told him, "My father and my brothers have arrived from the land of Canaan. They have come with all their flocks and herds and possessions, and they are now in the region of Goshen." 2 Joseph took five of his brothers with him and presented them to Pharaoh. 3 And Pharaoh asked the brothers, "What is your occupation?" They replied, "We, your servants, are shepherds, just like our ancestors. 4 We have come to live here in Egypt for a while, for there is no pasture for our flocks in Canaan. The famine is very severe there. So please, we request permission to live in the region of Goshen." 5 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Now that your father and brothers have joined you here, 6 choose any place in the entire land of Egypt for them to live. Give them the best land of Egypt. Let them live in the region of Goshen. And if any of them have special skills, put them

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in charge of my livestock, too.” 7 Then Joseph brought in his father, Jacob, and presented him to Pharaoh. And Jacob blessed Pharaoh. 8 “How old are you?” Pharaoh asked him. 9 Jacob replied, “I have traveled this earth for 130 hard years. But my life has been short compared to the lives of my ancestors.” 10 Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh again before leaving his court. 11 So Joseph assigned the best land of Egypt—the region of Rameses—to his father and his brothers, and he settled them there, just as Pharaoh had commanded. 12 And Joseph provided food for his father and his brothers in amounts appropriate to the number of their dependents, including the smallest children. 13 Meanwhile, the famine became so severe that all the food was used up, and people were starving throughout the lands of Egypt and Canaan. 14 By selling grain to the people, Joseph eventually collected all the money in Egypt and Canaan, and he put the money in Pharaoh’s treasury. 15 When the people of Egypt and Canaan ran out of money, all the Egyptians came to Joseph. “Our money is gone!” they cried. “But please give us food, or we will die before your very eyes!” 16 Joseph replied, “Since your money is gone, bring me your livestock. I will give you food in exchange for your livestock.” 17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph in exchange for food. In exchange for their horses, flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and donkeys, Joseph provided them with food for another year. 18 But that year ended, and the next year they came again and said, “We cannot hide the truth from you, my lord. Our money is gone, and all our livestock and cattle are yours. We have nothing left to give but our bodies and our land. 19 Why should we die before your very eyes? Buy us and our land in exchange for food; we offer our land and ourselves as slaves for Pharaoh. Just give us grain so we may live and not die, and so the land does not become empty and desolate.” 20 So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh. All the Egyptians sold him their

GENESIS 46:31-34; 47:1-26 – CALLING

fields because the famine was so severe, and soon all the land belonged to Pharaoh. 21 As for the people, he made them all slaves, from one end of Egypt to the other. 22 The only land he did not buy was the land belonging to the priests. They received an allotment of food directly from Pharaoh, so they didn't need to sell their land. 23 Then Joseph said to the people, "Look, today I have bought you and your land for Pharaoh. I will provide you with seed so you can plant the fields. 24 Then when you harvest it, one-fifth of your crop will belong to Pharaoh. You may keep the remaining four-fifths as seed for your fields and as food for you, your households, and your little ones." 25 "You have saved our lives!" they exclaimed. "May it please you, my lord, to let us be Pharaoh's servants." 26 Joseph then issued a decree still in effect in the land of Egypt, that Pharaoh should receive one-fifth of all the crops grown on his land. Only the land belonging to the priests was not given to Pharaoh.

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SERMON TAKEAWAY FOR THE WEEK:



GENESIS 46:31-34; 47:1-26 - CALLING

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to teach us as we study God's Word.

LOOK UP

Read the Text. Repeat the text in your own words (for Group study, have one member do this aloud).

3. What does this text teach us about God?

- What does this say about His character?
- What does it say about His plans?
- What does it say about how He relates to us?

GENESIS 46:31-34; 47:1-26 – CALLING

4. What does this text say to me?

- Is there a sin that I need to address?
- Is there a promise I need to hold on to?
- Is there an example I should follow?
- Is there a command that I need to obey?
- Is there a Gospel truth?

LOOK FORWARD

5. What am I going to do this week because of this text?

GENESIS 46:31-34; 47:1-26 – CALLING

6. Who do I think needs to know this?

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to help us do what the Bible says and share what we learned with one person.

S.O.A.P.S.

Sunday – Genesis 46:31-34; 47:1-26

Thursday – Acts 11:19-30

Monday – Luke 15:11-32

Friday – Psalm 105

Tuesday – Psalm 39

Saturday – Genesis 33

Wednesday – Acts 7:1-53

Instructions on using S.O.A.P.S. is in the front of the book

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WEEK 9

GENESIS 47:27-31; 48 & 49 – PROMISES

Genesis 47:27-31

27 Meanwhile, the people of Israel settled in the region of Goshen in Egypt. There they acquired property, and they were fruitful, and their population grew rapidly. 28 Jacob lived for seventeen years after his arrival in Egypt, so he lived 147 years in all. 29 As the time of his death drew near, Jacob called for his son Joseph and said to him, “Please do me this favor. Put your hand under my thigh and swear that you will treat me with unfailing love by honoring this last request: Do not bury me in Egypt. 30 When I die, please take my body out of Egypt and bury me with my ancestors.” So Joseph promised, “I will do as you ask.” 31 “Swear that you will do it,” Jacob insisted. So Joseph gave his oath, and Jacob bowed humbly at the head of his bed.

Genesis 48

1 One day not long after this, word came to Joseph, “Your father is failing rapidly.” So Joseph went to visit his father, and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. 2 When Joseph arrived, Jacob was told, “Your son Joseph has come to see you.” So Jacob gathered his strength and sat up in his bed. 3 Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me. 4 He said to me, ‘I will make you fruitful, and I will multiply your descendants. I will make you a multitude of

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nations. And I will give this land of Canaan to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.⁵ “Now I am claiming as my own sons these two boys of yours, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born here in the land of Egypt before I arrived. They will be my sons, just as Reuben and Simeon are. ⁶ But any children born to you in the future will be your own, and they will inherit land within the territories of their brothers Ephraim and Manasseh. ⁷ “Long ago, as I was returning from Paddan-aram, Rachel died in the land of Canaan. We were still on the way, some distance from Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). So with great sorrow I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath.” ⁸ Then Jacob looked over at the two boys. “Are these your sons?” he asked. ⁹ “Yes,” Joseph told him, “these are the sons God has given me here in Egypt.” And Jacob said, “Bring them closer to me, so I can bless them.” ¹⁰ Jacob was half blind because of his age and could hardly see. So Joseph brought the boys close to him, and Jacob kissed and embraced them. ¹¹ Then Jacob said to Joseph, “I never thought I would see your face again, but now God has let me see your children, too!” ¹² Joseph moved the boys, who were at their grandfather’s knees, and he bowed with his face to the ground. ¹³ Then he positioned the boys in front of Jacob. With his right hand he directed Ephraim toward Jacob’s left hand, and with his left hand he put Manasseh at Jacob’s right hand. ¹⁴ But Jacob crossed his arms as he reached out to lay his hands on the boys’ heads. He put his right hand on the head of Ephraim, though he was the younger boy,

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and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, though he was the firstborn. 15 Then he blessed Joseph and said, “May the God before whom my grandfather Abraham and my father, Isaac, walked— the God who has been my shepherd all my life, to this very day, 16 the Angel who has redeemed me from all harm— may he bless these boys. May they preserve my name and the names of Abraham and Isaac. And may their descendants multiply greatly throughout the earth.” 17 But Joseph was upset when he saw that his father placed his right hand on Ephraim’s head. So Joseph lifted it to move it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head. 18 “No, my father,” he said. “This one is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head.” 19 But his father refused. “I know, my son; I know,” he replied. “Manasseh will also become a great people, but his younger brother will become even greater. And his descendants will become a multitude of nations.” 20 So Jacob blessed the boys that day with this blessing: “The people of Israel will use your names when they give a blessing. They will say, ‘May God make you as prosperous as Ephraim and Manasseh.’” In this way, Jacob put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh. 21 Then Jacob said to Joseph, “Look, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will take you back to Canaan, the land of your ancestors. 22 And beyond what I have given your brothers, I am giving you an extra portion of the land that I took from the Amorites with my sword and bow.”

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Genesis 49

1 Then Jacob called together all his sons and said, “Gather around me, and I will tell you what will happen to each of you in the days to come. 2 “Come and listen, you sons of Jacob; listen to Israel, your father. 3 “Reuben, you are my firstborn, my strength, the child of my vigorous youth. You are first in rank and first in power. 4 But you are as unruly as a flood, and you will be first no longer. For you went to bed with my wife; you defiled my marriage couch. 5 “Simeon and Levi are two of a kind; their weapons are instruments of violence. 6 May I never join in their meetings; may I never be a party to their plans. For in their anger they murdered men, and they crippled oxen just for sport. 7 A curse on their anger, for it is fierce; a curse on their wrath, for it is cruel. I will scatter them among the descendants of Jacob; I will disperse them throughout Israel. 8 “Judah, your brothers will praise you. You will grasp your enemies by the neck. All your relatives will bow before you. 9 Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? 10 The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor. 11 He ties his foal to a grapevine, the colt of his donkey to a choice vine. He washes his clothes in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. 12 His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk. 13 “Zebulun will settle by the seashore and will be a harbor for

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ships; his borders will extend to Sidon. 14 “Issachar is a sturdy donkey, resting between two saddlepacks. 15 When he sees how good the countryside is and how pleasant the land, he will bend his shoulder to the load and submit himself to hard labor. 16 “Dan will govern his people, like any other tribe in Israel. 17 Dan will be a snake beside the road, a poisonous viper along the path that bites the horse’s hooves so its rider is thrown off. 18 I trust in you for salvation, O LORD ! 19 “Gad will be attacked by marauding bands, but he will attack them when they retreat. 20 “Asher will dine on rich foods and produce food fit for kings. 21 “Naphtali is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns. 22 “Joseph is the foal of a wild donkey, the foal of a wild donkey at a spring— one of the wild donkeys on the ridge. 23 Archers attacked him savagely; they shot at him and harassed him. 24 But his bow remained taut, and his arms were strengthened by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob, by the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel. 25 May the God of your father help you; may the Almighty bless you with the blessings of the heavens above, and blessings of the watery depths below, and blessings of the breasts and womb. 26 May my fatherly blessings on you surpass the blessings of my ancestors, reaching to the heights of the eternal hills. May these blessings rest on the head of Joseph, who is a prince among his brothers. 27 “Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, devouring his enemies in the morning and dividing his plunder in the evening.” 28 These are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said as he told his sons good-bye. He blessed each one

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GENESIS 47:27-31; 48 & 49 – PROMISES

with an appropriate message. 29 Then Jacob instructed them, “Soon I will die and join my ancestors. Bury me with my father and grandfather in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite. 30 This is the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre in Canaan, that Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as a permanent burial site. 31 There Abraham and his wife Sarah are buried. There Isaac and his wife, Rebekah, are buried. And there I buried Leah. 32 It is the plot of land and the cave that my grandfather Abraham bought from the Hittites.” 33 When Jacob had finished this charge to his sons, he drew his feet into the bed, breathed his last, and joined his ancestors in death.

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SERMON TAKEAWAY FOR THE WEEK:



GENESIS 47:27-31; 48 & 49 – PROMISES

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to teach us as we study God's Word.

LOOK UP

Read the Text. Repeat the text in your own words (for Group study, have one member do this aloud).

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- What does it say about how He relates to us?

GENESIS 47:27-31; 48 & 49 – PROMISES

6. Who do I think needs to know this?

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to help us do what the Bible says and share what we learned with one person.

S.O.A.P.S.

Sunday – Genesis 47:27-31; 48:1-22

Thursday – Matthew 28:16-20

Monday – Genesis 49

Friday – Psalm 103

Tuesday – Matthew 3:13-17

Saturday – 2 Peter 1:12-21

Wednesday – Matthew 17:1-13

Instructions on using S.O.A.P.S. is in the front of the book

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WEEK 10

GENESIS 50 – BUT GOD

1 Joseph threw himself on his father and wept over him and kissed him. 2 Then Joseph told the physicians who served him to embalm his father's body; so Jacob was embalmed. 3 The embalming process took the usual forty days. And the Egyptians mourned his death for seventy days. 4 When the period of mourning was over, Joseph approached Pharaoh's advisers and said, "Please do me this favor and speak to Pharaoh on my behalf. 5 Tell him that my father made me swear an oath. He said to me, 'Listen, I am about to die. Take my body back to the land of Canaan, and bury me in the tomb I prepared for myself.' So please allow me to go and bury my father. After his burial, I will return without delay." 6 Pharaoh agreed to Joseph's request. "Go and bury your father, as he made you promise," he said. 7 So Joseph went up to bury his father. He was accompanied by all of Pharaoh's officials, all the senior members of Pharaoh's household, and all the senior officers of Egypt. 8 Joseph also took his entire household and his brothers and their households. But they left their little children and flocks and herds in the land of Goshen. 9 A great number of chariots and charioteers accompanied Joseph. 10 When they arrived at the threshing floor of Atad, near the Jordan River, they held a very great and solemn memorial service, with a seven-day period of mourning for Joseph's father. 11 The local residents, the Canaanites, watched them mourning at the threshing floor of

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Atad. Then they renamed that place (which is near the Jordan) Abel-mizraim, for they said, “This is a place of deep mourning for these Egyptians.” 12 So Jacob’s sons did as he had commanded them. 13 They carried his body to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre. This is the cave that Abraham had bought as a permanent burial site from Ephron the Hittite. 14 After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father’s burial. 15 But now that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers became fearful. “Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him,” they said. 16 So they sent this message to Joseph: “Before your father died, he instructed us 17 to say to you: ‘Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.’ So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin.” When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. 18 Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. “Look, we are your slaves!” they said. 19 But Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. 21 No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.” So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

22 So Joseph and his brothers and their families continued to live in Egypt. Joseph lived to the

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GENESIS 50 – BUT GOD

age of 110. 23 He lived to see three generations of descendants of his son Ephraim, and he lived to see the birth of the children of Manasseh's son Makir, whom he claimed as his own. 24 "Soon I will die," Joseph told his brothers, "but God will surely come to help you and lead you out of this land of Egypt. He will bring you back to the land he solemnly promised to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." 25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath, and he said, "When God comes to help you and lead you back, you must take my bones with you."

26 So Joseph died at the age of 110. The Egyptians embalmed him, and his body was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

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SERMON TAKEAWAY FOR THE WEEK:



GENESIS 50 – BUT GOD

6. Who do I think needs to know this?

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to help us do what the Bible says and share what we learned with one person.

S.O.A.P.S.

Sunday – Genesis 50

Monday – 1 Samuel 23:10-18

Tuesday – Luke 16:14-17

Wednesday – Psalm 52

Thursday – Romans 5

Friday – Psalm 60

Saturday – Ephesians 2:1-10

Instructions on using S.O.A.P.S. is in the front of the book

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NEXT STEPS

DECISION FOR JESUS



STARTING POINT



JOIN A GROUP





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