

Joseph: Manages Famine and Honors Jacob

Genesis 47:13-48:22

Read Genesis 47:13-27.

Joseph managed Egypt's response to the famine.

- What were the three stages of Joseph's famine management?
- Is there one of God's promises that you need to act on?

Principle: God's children act on God's promises.

Read Genesis 47:28-31.

Jacob requested to be buried with his fathers.

- What did Jacob do after Joseph promised to do as he asked?
- How is the certainty of God's promises for your future impacting the way you live today?

Principle: God's children can be certain of their future.

Read Genesis 48.

Joseph honored Jacob's blessing.

- What special privilege did Jacob give to Joseph's sons?
- What words from this passage do you think Jacob's grandsons always remembered?

Principle: God fulfills His promises.

Review Genesis 47:13-48:22.

- What do you need to remember about God and His promises today?

Main truth: God always fulfills His words.

Scripture Memory Verse

"Israel said to Joseph, 'I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too.' " —
Genesis 48:11

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Exploring the Christian Faith

An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

Perfect

Everything God is, does and says – all His attributes, His revelation and His works – is completely free of fault or defect. Because God is unchanging and faithful, the measure of perfection begins with God. What God wills is good and perfect; His ways are flawless; His judgments are upright; His Word is without error. Therefore, everything God is, does or says is right, including His Word in Scripture.

To learn more Attributes of God, visit mybsf.org.

A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

How can people know how to please God if they are born sinful?

God's Word shows us what pleases Him.¹ His Word also reveals our sinfulness and need of a Savior because we cannot keep His laws perfectly.² We see God's instructions in the Ten Commandments³ and all other commands in the Bible. Jesus summarized the heart of His teachings this way: to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.⁴

Deuteronomy 30:15-18¹; Romans 3:20²; Exodus 20:1-17³; Mark 12:28-31⁴

Think About It

Why should we even care about pleasing God?

God is the only one truly worth pleasing. His Word reveals His character to us. If we live to please ourselves or others, we please only sinful people. But when we please God, who is perfect, we are satisfied and experience lasting happiness. Pleasing people draws us to sinfulness. Pleasing God calls us to godliness. Our highest purpose is found in loving and obeying God.

How can an old book like the Bible help us know how to live today?

Other books become old, but the Bible is always relevant in every age and to all people. The Bible is the living Word of God. Through the Bible, God speaks to us today. Unless we know the Bible, we can never love and please God as He calls us to do. The Ten Commandments reveal God's character and standards for all people in all times.

Can anyone ever really keep God's commands and please Him?

On our own, we can only break God's Word and cannot please God. When we place our trust in Jesus Christ, who perfectly obeyed God's law, God gives us His Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, we are able to hear and understand God and desire to please Him. With the Holy Spirit's help, we are able to love and obey God. It always pleases God to see Jesus' character reflected in His children.

To learn more Basic Truths of the Christian Faith, visit mybsf.org.