

Joseph: Blessings and Deaths

Genesis 49-50

Read Genesis 49:1-28.

Jacob blessed each of his 12 sons.

- Which son's blessing is encouraging to you? Why?
- Which of God's promises gives you hope for the future?

Principle: God can redeem the past and give hope for the future.

Read Genesis 49:29-50:21.

Jacob gave instructions for his burial before he died, and Joseph reassured his brothers.

- Was Jacob afraid of death? How do you know?
- How is the way Joseph treated his brothers a picture of how God treats believers in Christ?

Principle: God promises forgiveness and eternal life through His Son, Jesus.

Read Genesis 50:22-26.

Joseph died in faith when he was 110 years old.

- What request did Joseph make?
- Which of Joseph's words would comfort you if you faced the death of a family member?

Principle: God's children live by faith in God's promises.

Review Genesis 49-50.

- How does God's involvement in the lives and deaths of Jacob and Joseph encourage you?

Main truth: God's promises will be fulfilled for His glory.

Scripture Memory Verse

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."
— Genesis 50:20

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Exploring the Christian Faith

An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

Faithful

God knows and loves each of His own. He will do all He has promised; care for and make strong; forgive and make new; protect and purify. From the beginning, He has had a plan to restore the world that sin broke, and God is faithful to His own plan. We know God is faithful because He sent His Son to the cross to keep His promise. Now nothing can separate God's people from His love. He is faithful to Himself and to His Word. We can trust Him to keep all of His promises.

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A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

Where does faith in Jesus Christ come from?

Faith in Jesus Christ is a gift from God through the Holy Spirit.¹ We do nothing to earn or deserve this gift.² Faith comes to us by God's grace when we hear the message of the gospel³ and turn from our sins to Christ.⁴

Ephesians 2:8-9¹; Titus 3:4-6²; Romans 10:17³; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10⁴

Think About It

What does it mean that faith is a gift from God?

God makes us able to believe. Because all are sinful to the core, on our own we do not want God or believe in Him; we do not love and trust God (John 3:5-6 and 6:63). God speaks the gospel of Jesus Christ to us through the Bible and other people. As we hear the gospel, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts to produce faith in Christ (Romans 10:17). God gives faith so we can turn to Him and receive all Christ has for us.

If faith is a gift from God, what part does our repentance play?

True faith in Christ always includes repentance. When we turn to Christ by faith, we let go of sinful actions, thoughts and attitudes (Acts 20:21). This is repentance – we recognize our guilt before God and turn from our sin. Faith and repentance cannot be separated. Repentance is a fruit of faith. Repentance honors Jesus and brings us joy, because Jesus relieves us of the heavy burden of sin.

What happens if I have questions and doubt my faith??

A growing believer in Jesus Christ will often have questions. Sometimes, even when we want to believe God, we struggle (Mark 9:24). When we bring honest questions to God, He will answer us. John the Baptist brought his questions to Jesus, and Jesus answered him with truth from God's Word (Matthew 11:1-6). The Bible is strong enough to stand up to our questions.

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