



Rescued - Genesis 48-49

Week Twenty-five: Eternity Awaits

1. In the end, eternity _____
2. God's _____ are everlasting
3. God's _____ are everlasting
4. God's _____ are everlasting
5. Your _____ is everlasting

I feel like I'm going to get really emotional now. We only have one week to go after this lesson, and it's just fitting that we would wind down our study in Genesis with Jacob's last words!

I so hope and pray that you have enjoyed our time together this year. I hope that you have grown in your relationships with the gals in your Small Group. I pray that your relationship with the Lord has deepened and that you are just a little more in love with Jesus today than you were a year ago.



Day One: Aging

Eventually every good thing comes to an end. Eventually every life comes to an end. Jacob is hitting his home stretch. What a life this man has lived. Oh, the lessons we've learned from his life and example and failures and victories.

Read Genesis 49:1-11.

Exploring the Text

1. Verse 1 tells us the dreaded words every son or daughter hates to hear. What happened to Jacob?
2. How bad was Jacob's illness? How can you tell from God's word?

3. Jacob reviewed the promises God had made to him in his life. Can you list them here?

verse

4. Who did Joseph bring with him to see Jacob?

Genesis 48:11

I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also.

5. In vs.10, who did Jacob remind you of a generation earlier?

6. Jacob was quite overwhelmed in vs.11. Describe why as you let that feeling wash over you.

[illegible]

7. Have you ever felt overwhelmed by God's goodness to you? Take a few minutes and remember how God has overwhelmed you with his love and blessings. Write down your thoughts.

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Day Two: A Blessing

Jacob knows all about upside down blessings. He's about to bless Joseph's boys, but it's not the way Joseph would have expected. Just like Jacob takes Joseph by surprise, God never works in the ways we expect, and He always has a reason for it!

Read Genesis 49:12-22.

Exploring the Text

1. How old do you think Joseph's boys were in this chapter?
2. Who was Joseph's first born, and second born?
3. Normally, who would get the blessing, the elder or the younger brother?

4. In this case, who did Jacob bless first? Who does that remind you of back in Genesis 25 and 27?

verse

Genesis 48:15

The God who has
been my shepherd
all my life long to
this day.

5. How did Joseph feel about the upside down blessing?

6. What spiritual significance have you learned by now about God's desire to bless the second born?

7. In vs.21, what was Jacob sure of when it came to God's promise being fulfilled in future generations?

Personal Application

8. Describe how God has been working in your life.
9. I love the words in vs.15. “The God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day.” List some ways you too can say the same thing about God.

Application for
your life?
Record your
thoughts here.

[illegible]



Day Three: Last Words

Jacob now gathers all of his boys and starts giving his last words and blessings on his kids. Remember when God promised Abraham he would give him descendants as many as the stars in the sky? We can already see God fulfilling his promise only 2 generations later!! Never doubt God's promises. They are sure and steadfast.

Read Genesis 49:1-12.

Exploring the Text

1. Why did Jacob gather his children to him?
2. Reuben. How did Jacob describe him positively?
3. Unfortunately vs.4 also pertains to Reuben. What was Reuben's great sin that caused Jacob to call him unstable?

4. Simeon and Levi. Do you remember the terrible incident related to these two young men?
5. In what way were they not let off the hook for committing their terrible crime back in Genesis 34?

verse

6. Jacob said a lot about anger in vs. 5-7. Make a list of the negative effects of anger.

Psalm 103:12

As far as the east
is from the west,
so far does he
remove our
transgressions
from us.

7. Judah. Although he had his own share of skeletons in the closet (can you think of one?), he ended up receiving a great blessing by Jacob. Why do you think that is?

Application for
your life?
Record your
thoughts here.

8. Do you know which of Jacob's sons end up carrying the line of Jesus Christ?

9. Which verse in today's reading alludes to Christ's sacrifice on the cross?

Personal Application

10. Though God forgives us completely, we bear the consequences of our sin for longer than we'd like. Can you think of some negative consequences of your past sins?

11. Alternatively, God often blesses us far more than we deserve. Describe how he has done that in your life.



Day Four: More Last Words

Four kids down, eight to go. I love this chapter in Genesis that summarizes so much about each of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Don't you love the fact that God knows you so well too - the good stuff and the bad, and is still eternally committed to you?

Read Genesis 49:13-27.

Exploring the Text

1. We haven't heard much of the 5th son of Jacob. What was his name?
2. What seemed to be his strength?
3. Which of the sons gets compared to a donkey? Was that meant to be a good or bad thing?

4. Dan. What did Jacob say will be his role in the history of Israel?

verse

Genesis 49:22

Joseph is a fruitful
bough, a fruitful
bough by a spring;
his branches run

5. Next is Gad. How would he handle the
raiders that would come against him?

6. Asher. Look up what that beautiful name means.

7. Naphtali and Benjamin get compared to what animal?

8. Finally we get to Joseph. How does the blessing Jacob gives
Joseph show that he knew all that Joseph had been through?

Personal Application

9. As you look at the names given to God in vs.24-25, which have special meaning to you?

Application for
your life?
Record your
thoughts here.

[illegible]



Day Five: Jacob's Death

This entire chapter makes me so tearful each time I read it, but the death of Jacob feels like I'm losing a dear friend. I hope you feel the same way. This man has been such an encouragement in my life. I hope he's encourage you too.

I'm so glad we get to meet him in heaven, aren't you?

Read Genesis 49:28-33.

Exploring the Text

1. How many tribes are in Israel?
2. How did Jacob bless each of his children?
3. What does the individual blessing to each child tell you about God's character?

4. Where did Jacob want to be buried?

5. Who else was buried in that place?

verse

Genesis 49:33

When Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

6. Specifically, which wife did Jacob want to be buried near? Comment.

7. How would you describe Jacob's death?

8. How did Jacob's last words demonstrate the faith and hope with which he finished the course of his life?

Application for
your life?
Record your
thoughts here.

Personal Application

9. I'm so moved by how every situation and every incident comes to full closure with the Lord. What do you need closure in? Will you trust God to do it in your life too?