

The Year in Review – Questions to Consider

Week 3: Genesis 31-45

Small Group Warm Up Question:

What are some of your favorite things about your family?
Least favorite things about your family?

1. What was one of your biggest takeaways from this week's reading? How do you like following the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? What is challenging about this part of the Bible? How is God growing you through these readings and study?
2. Read Genesis 31:3. What does God command Jacob? How does God reassure Jacob? Read Matthew 28:18-20. What does Jesus command His disciples and us? How does God reassure them and us?
3. Although Jacob has been wronged by Laban (Genesis 31:7), Jacob reiterates the good that the Lord has shown him by saying to Leah and Rachel "God did not permit him to harm me." Jacob not only sees God's protection and presence; he also sees God's provision (Genesis 31:9). When we are suffering why is it so easy to focus on the wrongs we have suffered rather than the rights God has blessed us with? What are some of God's continued blessings on your life that you may sometimes take for granted? What practical steps can you take to be more regularly grateful.
4. Rachel's theft of her father's "household gods" (Genesis 31:19) both dishonors God, her father, and her husband. Her actions show her distrust of God for her future. What are some modern-day ways we might show that we don't fully trust in God's presence, protection, or provision?
5. Even after hearing God's voice directly (Genesis 31:3) and encountering God's angels (Genesis 32:1-2) he still fights fear and anxiety over meeting his brother Esau (Genesis 31:7). He takes things into his own hands before he goes to God in prayer, asking God to save him (Genesis 31:11). Have you ever had an experience when you should've gone to God in prayer sooner? When you should have not been afraid or anxious? How did you grow through that experience?
6. How is Jacob's statement to God that "I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant" (Genesis 32:10) instructive to us all?

More questions @ www.southfork.church/discussion-guide

How to Thrive While Suffering: *Seeing the Gospel in the Life of Joseph*

Genesis 45 (ESV)

www.trustworthyword.com/joseph

1. F_____ those Who Made You Suffer

www.trustworthyword.com/forgiveness

- Genesis 45:5 "And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life."
- Genesis 45:15 "And he kissed all his brothers & wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him."
- Genesis 50:19 "But Joseph said to them, 'Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?'"

2. See the Positive Side of God's Work in & through You While Suffering

www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-suffering-worry-death-life-and-heaven

- Genesis 45:7 "And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors."
- Genesis 50:20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

3. Trust God's S_____ H_____ While Suffering

Genesis 45:8 "So it was not you who sent me here, but God."

What Are the Sources of Suffering?

Satan/Demons – Evil Spirits (Job 1 & 2)

Fallen World – Evil Place

Fallen Humanity – Evil People

Fallen Me – Evil Actions (Romans 7:18-19)

God - "God sent me" (Genesis 45:5)

4. Praise God for Who He Has Made You to Be

www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-christian-identity

- Genesis 45:8-9 “He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ...God has made me lord of all Egypt.”
- Genesis 41:16 “Joseph answered Pharaoh, ‘It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.’”
- Genesis 41:51–52 “Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. ‘For,’ he said, ‘God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house.’ [52] The name of the second he called Ephraim, ‘For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.’”

5. Be C_____ in God’s Now & Forever Presence, Provision & Protection

- Genesis 45:17–20 “And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Say to your brothers, ‘Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, [18] and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.’ [19] And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, ‘Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. [20] Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.’”
- Genesis 50:21 “‘So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.’ Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”

6. A_____ Earthly Distractions and P_____ Your Spiritual Journey & Calling

- Genesis 45:24 “Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, **‘Do not quarrel on the way.’**”
- 2 Timothy 2:1–7 “You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, [2] and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. [3] Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. [4] No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. [5] An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. [6] It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. [7] Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”
- Matthew 16:23 “But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.’”
- Colossians 3:1–2 “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. [2] Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

This Next Week’s Old Testament Reading Plan:

Week 4: Genesis 46-50 ~ Job 1-10

- **Read the Old Testament w/Us:** www.southfork.church/2024
- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo

How to Thrive While Suffering: Seeing the Gospel in the Life of Joseph

Genesis 45 (ESV)

www.trustworthyword.com/joseph

1. Forgive those Who Made You Suffer

www.trustworthyword.com/forgiveness

- Genesis 45:5 “And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.”
- Genesis 45:15 “And he kissed all his brothers & wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.”
- Genesis 50:19 “But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?’”

2. See the Positive Side of God’s Work in & through You While Suffering

www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-suffering-worry-death-life-and-heaven

- Genesis 45:7 “And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.”
- Genesis 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

3. Trust God’s Sovereign Hand While Suffering

Genesis 45:8 “So it was not you who sent me here, but God.”

What Are the Sources of Suffering?

Satan/Demons – Evil Spirits (Job 1 & 2)

Fallen World – Evil Place

Fallen Humanity – Evil People

Fallen Me – Evil Actions (Romans 7:18-19)

God - “God sent me” (Genesis 45:5)

4. Praise God for Who He Has Made You to Be

www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-christian-identity

- Genesis 45:8-9 “He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ...God has made me lord of all Egypt.”
- Genesis 41:16 “Joseph answered Pharaoh, ‘It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.’”
- Genesis 41:51–52 “Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. ‘For,’ he said, ‘God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house.’ [52] The name of the second he called Ephraim, ‘For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.’”

5. Be Confident in God's Now & Forever Presence, Provision & Protection

- Genesis 45:17–20 “And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Say to your brothers, ‘Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, [18] and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.’ [19] And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, ‘Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. [20] Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.’”
- Genesis 50:21 “So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.’ Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”

6. Avoid Earthly Distractions and Prioritize Your Spiritual Journey & Calling

- Genesis 45:24 “Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, ***‘Do not quarrel on the way.’***”
- 2 Timothy 2:1–7 “You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, [2] and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. [3] Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. [4] No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. [5] An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. [6] It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. [7] Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”
- Matthew 16:23 “But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.’”
- Colossians 3:1–2 “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. [2] Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”