

PILGRIM GROUP STUDY

4

GENESIS

PILGRIM GROUPS

The Village Pilgrimage...

The spiritual disciplines create a path from our physical, material world into the new world of the kingdom of God, a world which is breaking in around us. On this path, we learn to think about and respond rightly to God. We open space in our lives to become aware of God interacting with us. We begin to see his beauty unfolding in and around us, and His work accomplished through us. This is the pilgrimage we are presently undertaking.

This Village journey has several objectives: first, to further develop community within the Village. Pilgrim Groups are a specific discipleship structure of the Village, and we ask that people who participate in them be active participants in the community, attending worship services at the Village and so forth during their time in the Pilgrim Group. Within this context, the Pilgrim Group is designed for the practice of some of the disciplines of the faith together (these may vary depending on the topic & structure of the particular study & group); to discuss our sexuality in healthy ways; to confess sin, pray for each other, and experience healing; to develop leaders (if you are part of a Pilgrim Group, you should expect to lead one in the future); to grow in knowledge and application of the Bible; and finally, to further the discussion of our vocation in the Kingdom of God.

The Discussion...

In response to another person's sharing, group members should refrain from giving advice or telling their own stories as a way of instruction. This is a time to pursue one another by asking open-ended questions and practicing active listening. Try to use clarifying statements like, "What do you mean by ____?" or, "Tell me more about ____." Instead of offering answers to people's problems, consider praying together with the laying on of hands as a default solution.

The Confession...

Confession is about our struggle to live "in the world but not of the world." This may include admitting to overt sins, but it may just as well be telling other people about our worldly patterns of thought that need to be transformed (Romans 12:1-2). Any way of thought or action that is not based on God's goodness and the life to which He calls us is fair game for confession. This should be followed by people praying for the confessee, as in James 5:16 and 1 John 1:9. God wants to renew our minds, and He does this when we ask in prayer. Sometimes areas of sin in our life seem subtle, or we hold them in denial, so conversation in your pilgrim group may also include helping guide someone toward seeing their own hidden sin and the impact it has. We need to be open to the voices of people in our community as they gently point out areas that need to be healed.

Discussing Sexuality...

As we consider our stories and tell each other about the experiences which have shaped us, our sexuality may be an evident force. God has designed us as sexual beings. Sexuality, however, which He created for good, has been twisted and abused in the dark world around us. We are each in the process of growing into wholeness in this area of our lives. Some of us struggle with addictions to pornography, some have long histories of sexual abuse, some have lived sexually impure lives, and most of us struggle to reconcile the worldly messages about sexuality with our own bodies, desires, and experiences.

As we seek to better understand God's view of sexuality and to become more comfortable with our sexual selves in Christ, it is important for us to create a safe space for each other where we can head toward the freedom from shame which God offers. Please honor sensitive conversations with appropriate confidentiality as well as gentle, active listening.

Chapter One: The Beginning

by Layne Trinkley

Genesis is derived from the Greek word “origins”. The first four chapters of the entire Bible tell about the beginning of the physical world, mankind, and our relationship with God.

Read Genesis 1 – 2:3

Based on the following passages, explain why God created the universe:

Psalm 19:1; Psalm 136; Colossians 1:16; Romans 1:20; Revelation 4:11

How do you think God felt about what He created?

What does this say about how God feels about us?

What does the creation account tell us about who God is?

Genesis 1:26 contains the first reference to God’s Trinitarian nature. The fact that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were present at creation is echoed throughout Scripture.

“And God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’” [If you wish to study the Trinity further, consider 2 Chronicles 15:3; Jeremiah 10:10; John 17:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; and Isaiah 48:16.]

Creating Mankind

Genesis 1:27 says that God created us, as humans, in His own image.

What are some implications of this idea?

Read Genesis 2:4 – 3:24

What was Adam's first job as a man?

What do you think is the importance of naming and being named?

How does that illustrate how *men* specifically reflect the image of God?

What was God's purpose in creating Eve?

How does this illustrate how *women* specifically reflect the image of God?

The Fall

What did God specifically command Adam and Eve regarding the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?

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Satan tempts Adam and Eve physically (good food), visually (seeing beautiful fruit), and intellectually (challenging God's goodness and offering wisdom).

[Their response to him results in what we call "the fall" – their disobedience toward God and the consequence of a curse and a sinful nature for all humanity.]

Satan continues to tempt us in these same ways today.

How does this play out in your own life?

Physically	
Visually	
Intellectually	

How does the curse impact image bearing for men?

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How does the curse impact image bearing for women?

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How does the curse affect men and women's relationships with each other? And with God?

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Adam and Jesus

Read Romans 5:12-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:45-49.

Write out a prayer of thanks directed to Jesus in response to these two passages.

Chapter 2: Noah, the Ark, and Jesus . . .

By Eric Cepin

The Bible is always pointing toward Jesus. If we consider the Scripture carefully, we can find Him on every page. This is not just true for the New Testament, but also in the Old Testament. *“Here I am,” our Lord said, “it is written about me in the scroll.”* (Heb 10.7)

Jesus often appears in the Old Testament as a “type.” A type is an example or illustration that points to a person or an event. Discovering how Jesus is foreshadowed the Old Testament is a rewarding and exciting study. Proverbs 25.2 says *“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, and it is the glory of a king to search out a matter.”*

Read Genesis 6:1 – 9:17

The Ark: a *type* of Jesus

So the Lord said, “I will wipe humankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—everything from humankind to animals, including creatures that move on the ground and birds of the air, for I regret that I have made them.” But Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord. This is the account of Noah. Noah was a godly man; he was blameless among his contemporaries. He walked with God. -- Genesis 6:7-9

Noah found favor with God. **Discuss:**

1. What do you think it is like to find favor in the sight of the Lord? How would God treat you?

2. Noah was a godly man. **Read Psalm 1.** What are the ways of a godly man? Which of these do you most struggle with?

3. Noah was blameless among his contemporaries. Would your friends say you are blameless? In our modern age, what does it mean to be blameless?

“God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark...” Genesis 6:13-14

How is the Ark a picture of Grace? **Reflect on Ezekiel 33:11 and John 3:16**

The Ark’s design was revealed in advance

“And this is how you shall make it...” Genesis 6:14-15

God gave Noah very specific instructions as to how the ark was to be built. Similarly, in the Old Testament, God gives very specific details about Jesus’ life and mission. We refer to these details as Messianic Prophecies. **Write out how each of the following verses points to Jesus:**

Psalm 2:7	
Isaiah 7:14	
Micah 5:2	
Isaiah 53:10	
Psalm 16:10	

The Ark's window reflects salvation

"Leave an 18-inch opening below the roof all the way around the boat." – Genesis 6:16

Noah and his family were not to look down for their salvation; the very design of the ark required them to look up towards heaven for their only view outside the boat. In the same way the follower of Jesus is to keep his eyes focused on the Lord and not on the world around him or hell below him (Col. 3:1-3). Jesus is always taking our eyes off the temporary and refocusing them on the eternal.

Reflect on Titus 2:11-15

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

How do you think salvation teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions?

Reflect on Noah and his family's experience of the upward facing window and our waiting for the appearance of Jesus to make all things new. How might the process of waiting purify us?

The Ark had rooms

"make rooms in the ark..." – Genesis 6:16

Reflect on John 14:2.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

What does the idea of 'rooms in God's house' mean to you?

The Ark had only one door

"...and set the door of the ark in its side." – Genesis 6:16

There were two groups of people during the time of the flood – those who survived and those who didn't. The ark was the only way means of salvation. Those who survived walked into the ark through the one door.

Reflect on John 14:6-7

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

What is the meaning of Jesus being our door? How does that impact our relationship with him?

The Ark was a refuge from the storm

"...I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Genesis 6:17-19

Read Romans 5:9-10. How is God our refuge?

People were invited into the refuge of the Ark

"Then the Lord said to Noah, "Come into the ark..." – Genesis 7:1

In Matthew 11:28, how does Jesus invite us in to rest?

People found security in the Ark

"So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in." Genesis 7:16

Reflect on Ephesians 1:13-14 and John 6:37. How are we secure in Christ? Why is this important?

Chapter 3: The Tower of Babel

By Susan Cepin

The Genesis account of the Tower of Babel is a strange but important story near the beginning of the Bible. It is unique in comparison to other biblical narratives, because it has no specific point person. While other stories we look at involve a person interacting with God and making choices as he/she negotiates circumstances, this story describes the joint activity of what at first glance seems a rather faceless group of people.

Let's consider the context.

The people who decide to build the Tower of Babel are direct descendants of Noah and are close enough to the flood event to now share a common language with everyone in their region. These settlers are in the line of Noah's son *Ham*, who has been cursed to slavery for exposing Noah's shame (Gen. 9:20-27). Further, they are in the line of Ham's grandson *Nimrod*, who founded many cities in the area of modern-day Iraq, including some known specifically for their wickedness, including Babylon and Ninevah (Gen. 10:8-10). While Nimrod is referred to as a great hunter or mighty warrior, his name literally means, "let us revolt." So, while the people living in the region of the tower of Babel are close enough to the flood that they should know the importance of worshiping God, they have turned away to follow Ham and Nimrod down a rebellious path.

A High Tower: Let's Make A Name

Read Genesis 11:1-9

What reason do the people give for wanting to build a high tower?

What would making a name for themselves accomplish?

How might making a name for themselves have distracted from God's glory?

How have people been making a name for themselves ever since?

What are some ways that people in our society seek to make a name for themselves?

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How do you try to make a name for yourself?

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A Strong Tower: Trusting in God's Name

*"The name of the Lord is like a strong tower;
the righteous person runs to it and is set safely on high."* – Proverbs 18:10

Reflect on 1 Peter 2:4-10. How does following Jesus (the "living stone") give us:

A Name	
Immortality	
A Legacy	

Unified by Fear for Man's Purposes

Psalm 127:1 *"Unless the Lord builds a house, the workers labour in vain."*

Note how many times the people say, "let us ____." Before God confuses their language, the people are very unified in purpose -- their purpose, however, is to accomplish their own plans together. After the tower of Babel, these same people were unable to work together.

Unified by the Holy Spirit for God's Purposes

Once God sends His Spirit, His people are unified to declare and live out the gospel. In Acts 2:1-11, the confusion of the tower of Babel is reversed in the context of people speaking many languages. **Read this post-crucifixion account.**

What is the purpose of the believers speaking many languages in Acts?

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How is this accomplished?

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Chapter 4: The Call of Abraham

By Ryan & Andrea McCulley

History

Abraham is a central figure in all three major monotheistic religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. These religions consider Abraham to be foundational. Christians, Jews, and Muslims all consider themselves “children of Abraham.”

Abraham (“father of many”) was originally Abram (“exalted father”), and he grew up in Ur, also known as Babylon, in present-day Iraq. He lived there some hundreds of years after God confused the languages of the people of Babel. At that time people had largely forgotten the Lord God, and were pagan, following household gods of their own imagining.

Abram’s father, Terah, and his family were pagan and worshipped the gods of Mesopotamia. Abram at some point became a believer of the one true God, and God told him to leave his homeland when he was 75 years old.

Read Genesis 12:1-9

What does God tell Abram to do?

What does God promise to Abram?

Are there any conditions on God's promise to Abram?

What did Abram do after God commanded him to leave? Did Abram hesitate?

Who does God want to bless through Abram?

About God's promise to Abram

When God proposes to bless Abram, it parallels closely the blessings that God had bestowed upon Adam and Eve at creation. In that blessing God (1) gave them a fruitful place, (2) endowed them with fertility to multiply, and (3) made them rulers over creation. That was all ruined at the fall. Now God begins to build his covenant people; in Gen 12-22 he promises to give Abram (1) a land flowing with milk and honey, (2) a great nation without number, and (3) kingship.

The Apostle Paul's Insights into the Call of Abraham

In the book of Hebrews in the New Testament, the apostle Paul talks extensively about the faith of great Biblical figures. He devotes more attention to Abraham than any other figure.

Paul highlights the parts of the story that relate to Abraham's faith:

- a) Abraham was asked to leave everything behind and live as a foreigner
- b) God promised Abraham many descendants, though he was unable to father children with his wife Sarah
- c) At the time of his call, Abraham and Sarah were technically too old to have children regardless of their former infertility.

Read Hebrews 11:8-12

What did God require of Abraham when He called him out of his homeland and family? Was God entirely forthcoming about where Abraham would go?

Considering that he and his wife could not bear children, what must it have been like for Abram to hear God tell him that he would become a great nation, and that his descendants would possess the land of Canaan? Have you heard God tell you that he would do something that seemed impossible?

What have you had to leave behind in order to follow God? Family? Jobs? Coping skills?
Have you left these as easily as Abram did?

Abram was no spring chicken when he left his homeland behind. What must it have been like for an old man to leave behind everything he had ever known and give it up for something he knew nothing about, just on a promise from God?

A Descendant of Abraham by Faith

Paul, in his epistle to the Romans, talks extensively about Abraham and what it means to be a child of Abraham. The Jewish people have considered themselves descendants of Abraham by blood; their connection to Abraham is one of strong cultural identity. They saw themselves as the true children of Abraham and therefore the true heirs of God's promises to Abraham. Jesus criticized the Jewish leaders who rejected Him because they felt it was sufficient merely to be heirs of God's promises (John 8:31-59). Jesus, in fact, asserted that they were not children of Abraham at all, because if they really were, they would have recognized and accepted Him.

The apostle Paul expounds on this in Romans 4, where he develops the idea that being a child of Abraham is a matter of faith

Read Romans 4:13-25

Paul states that Abraham's faith in God was credited to him as righteousness, and that this is true not just for Abraham's sake, but for all those who believe in the One who raised Jesus from the dead... that is, those who believe God.

According to this passage, what has God promised you?

Do you believe God will fulfill these promises to you?

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How does your faith in these promises affect the way you live your life?

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What life choices have you made that were directly motivated by your faith in God?
(That is, if you did not have faith in God, you would not have made the choice.)

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Chapter 5: THE PROMISE OF ISAAC

By Mike Wise

When God called Abraham away from his people, He also promised to make this childless man a father of many nations. Isaac was thought to be the sign of God's miraculous fulfillment of this promise.

Read Genesis 22:1-19.

How does Abraham respond to God's command of him?

Recall a time in your life when you feel that God called you to do something. Did you respond as readily as Abraham? What hesitations did you have that might have stopped you from following God?

God's command to Abraham is to sacrifice his son as a burnt offering. Sometimes it seems that God is asking us to give up the very thing that he has blessed us with. In Abraham's case, it was the son who God had promised and for whom Abraham had faithfully waited 20 years.

What is something in your life that God has blessed you and that you feel he is asking you to give back?

What would it look like for you to offer this back to God?

One of the fascinating things about this story is that not only does Abraham have no hesitation in serving God but he also stops to worship him in the process. We were made to worship; it is embedded in our DNA. Whether it's cheering on our favorite sports team, listening to our favorite band or the way in which we love our spouse and family, we are creatures of worship. The Bible warns us that any worship we give that is not for God is idolatry.

What are some of the things in your life that you are worshiping other than God? These don't have to be specifically "bad" things like pornography or gambling. They can actually be "good" things like food or family.

What would it look like for you if you lost these things? How would that affect your emotional well-being? What would it do to your relationship with God?

Abraham tells his son that "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering." This is true not only in the literal sense of this story but also in the ultimate revelation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. At the Village, we refer to three ideas when we speak of the gospel of Jesus—the **story** of Jesus Christ, the **identity** that people receive when they embrace His story, and the **kingdom** of God that is emerging as a result of this story.

Relate these three parts of the gospel (story, identity, and kingdom) to this story of Abraham and Isaac when answering the next 3 questions:

How do you see Jesus in Abraham's story?

How is God's identity revealed? Abraham's?

How does this story advance the kingdom?

God tested Abraham. This is an important and theologically demanding text. Historically, child sacrifice was common among the Canaanites and in surrounding cultures. The tradition of the people of Israel proclaims that the Lord God is bent on saving His children and on abolishing pagan child sacrifice. However, even though the tragedy is averted by God's intervention in the end, the mystery of God's initiating this dire test is unresolved. God not only creates the crisis for Abraham; He also puts the fulfillment of his own promise at risk. No reason is given and Abraham doesn't ask for one; the sparse narration is unconcerned with human emotion. God calls. In trust, Abraham announces his readiness three times (v. 1, 7, 11), ever faithful to the inscrutable demand of God who both tests and provides. This child, Isaac, was pure gift, born beyond the time of human possibility. The unfolding of the future is gift as well. Abraham learns, and so must we, that life with God is an ongoing journey that demands both fearful and grateful response. Abraham's obedience here is born of a life of deep trust in the God who calls new futures into being. The way of God may well be mysterious, yet God remains faithful. Ultimately the God who tests will be the same God who graciously provides.

Is there a place in your life where God has tested you but has also provided your salvation through it? Discuss it here.

This story concerns not only worship but obedience. Abraham is blessed because he OBEYED. Which do you think comes first: Obedience or worship? Why?

Abraham was blessed because he had faith. Instead of going through with sacrificing his son, the Lord provided a ram. Are there areas in your life where you have been blessed because you acted in faith? Are there areas where you feel like God wants to bless you if you do?

Spend some time in prayer and reflect on not only the areas of idol worship in your life but also the areas that God has provided a lamb on your behalf. Write down your prayer reflections here.

Chapter 6: THE STORY OF JACOB & ESAU

By Ron & Tamaki Layman

We are the children of promise... a chosen people

Read Genesis 25:19-26.

The story of Jacob and Esau begins with God declaring the older brother (Esau) will serve the younger (Jacob). He says this even before either of the brothers has done anything good or bad. If we viewed this story through a microscope such that all we saw were the family and their immediate circumstances, this would seem like an unfair and arbitrary thing for God to decide. But if we were to look through the wider Old Testament lens we would recognize that Jacob, his father, and his grandfather are the founders of the nation of Israel. God makes it clear to them and all who follow that this is no worldly dynasty: it's by the path he lays out that the chosen people inherit his promises. And if we zoom out even further, the historical implications echo in our own relationship with God. Jacob didn't deserve the blessings and inheritance of a firstborn, but God chose to give them to him. Similarly we did not deserve God's favor, but he chose to offer us grace through Jesus. In Romans 9:14-16 Paul wrote:

¹⁴What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵For he says to Moses,

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

¹⁶It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

See also Ephesians 2:8-9.

List some of the ways has God chosen to extend mercy and compassion to you.

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God declared Jacob's role and identity in advance, and it was something the characters in the story had to wrestle with because it didn't make sense and was sometimes hard to believe. Although we still have signs of brokenness, God declares our role and identity in Christ. Read 1 Peter 2:9-12 and/or refer to the appendix "Identity in the Kingdom." What identities and/or roles touch your heart as being one of God's chosen people? If you struggle to claim any of the identities God gives you, ask him to make it clear to you, and ask your Pilgrim Group members to weigh in and pray for you.

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How does it feel to be given the above identity(ies) by God?

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Trusting God's promise and acting accordingly

Read Genesis 25:27-34 and 27:1-45.

From reading the passages, what can you say about the characters of Esau and Jacob? List as many physical and/or personality attributes as you can.

Esau	Jacob

In this time when physical strength and vigor were valued, Esau might have been viewed as the one with a promising future in many people's eyes. Rebecca might have doubted God's promise that he would make Jacob lead his brother Esau. Instead of trusting God's promise, what did Rebecca choose to do to ensure Jacob's future?

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The consequence of Rebecca's action only led her family to separation in the fear that Esau might kill Jacob (Gen. 25:42-45). Her fear was clearly expressed in what she said before sending him off—"Why should I lose both of you [Esau & Jacob] in one day?" She sent Jacob to her brother Laban in Harran where Jacob lived, married, had children, and gained his wealth. He stayed there for 20 years!

In what ways do you struggle to trust God in his plans for you?

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Can you think of a time when this mistrust damaged any of your relationships (with people or God)?

Broken relationship rebuilt

Read Genesis 32:1-19 and 33:1-11

In Genesis 31:3, God said to Jacob while he was still in Harran: "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you." Why was this difficult and frightening for Jacob?

Among the identities and roles you listed on the first page, which are difficult/frightening? Why?

Jacob obeyed God in spite of his fear. He had God's promise of companionship as well as the promise that God would prosper him. In verse 32:9-12 Jacob approached God in his anxiety and recounted God's promises. It is important to remember what God has promised us when we are anxious in living out the role he gave us. Write a prayer below, recounting to God the things he has promised you.

Let's step back and imagine the 20 years of Esau's life after Jacob stole his blessing. Esau was enraged and planning to kill his brother. This kind of betrayal and rage can easily lead someone to make a strong vow and harden his/her heart. Here, Esau could have said to himself, "I will NEVER let him into my life and let him hurt me again!" If God didn't soften his heart from this point, he wouldn't have welcomed Jacob back. Instead, Esau not only came out to meet him, but he embraced his brother. For 20 years while the brothers were apart, God must have worked in both of their lives to make this reconciliation possible.

When you are wronged you may make vows that inhibit reconciliation. Think of situations when your actions, whether in avoidance or attack, have prevented restored relationship. What does God call you to do in these relationships?

When Jacob meets Esau, affection and joy replaces resentment and fear. The good news of this story is that God came through with his promise in spite of Jacob's shortcomings and doubt. It was God who restored what the sinful people in the story had broken.

Just as God carried out the plans he had for Jacob, so will he keep the promise he made to you in Jesus. This doesn't depend on your ability to follow him perfectly. Philippians 1:6 says, "he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." In the space below, thank God for the good things he has in store for you.

Chapter 7: THE STORY OF JOSEPH

By Layne Trinkley

A Brief History

Joseph is introduced in Genesis 37, and the rest of the book of Genesis is devoted to his story. He is part of the family from whom God will build the Jewish nation. Joseph's father is Jacob and is also known by the name "Israel". This is where the term "the Israelites" originates as a nickname for God's people. Joseph's grandfather was Isaac, and his great-grandfather was Abraham. Jacob/Israel's twelve sons are the men who become the "Twelve Tribes of Israel", and all the descendants of these twelve men will make up the Jewish people (though the tribes split and merge throughout history). It is through Jacob's family that Jesus will eventually come, though he will be a descendent of Joseph's brother, Judah. Joseph's story is explicitly detailed and is an important piece of the story of God's people; it is also an excellent exposé of human nature. We can learn much about God's redeeming power, our own human nature, and the history of God's people from studying Joseph's story.

Read Genesis 37 – 50 (Yes, it's 13 chapters, but you're about to read a soap opera – it'll go quick).

What is Joseph's relationship like with his father? With his brothers?

How has favoritism in your family impacted you?

-OR- How have you been tempted to show favoritism with your own children? (Answer either question.)

God gives Joseph an understanding of the future through an ability to interpret Joseph's own dreams and the dreams of others. We can use our gifting from God to impact those around us both negatively and positively, due to our own selfishness and pride or love and humility.

What are some examples of how Joseph uses his gifting both positively and negatively?

Positively	Negatively

What gift(s) are you aware that God has given you?

(For further study see Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-31, Ephesians 4:7-13, and 1 Peter 4:10.

If you feel unsure about what your particular gifts might be, ask other believers in your family or pilgrim group.)

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How do you see yourself using your gifts both negatively and positively?

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How did Joseph win favor with the people he served (his father, Potiphar, the prison warden, Pharaoh), enabling him to rise to positions of extreme importance, responsibility, and power?

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Redemption

The Old Testament is part of a larger story to show that God is the God who pursues and redeems the people he loves, culminating with the gift of Jesus. Because we will not completely live in the kingdom of God until Jesus fully returns, we live in the kingdom of Satan under his reign as a false king where sin is ever-present. This sin brings pain and darkness into the world. Joseph's story illustrates the deep and devastating cost of sin and loss, but it also shows how God redeems circumstances which are beyond our control. Redemption (Latin: "to buy back, take back, or ransom") is a key way God protects Joseph and redirects and restores what Satan intended for evil in Joseph's life.

Where do you see God being the God of redemption in Joseph's story?

Where do you see God's redemption in your own story?

Forgiveness

If anyone had reason to be bitter and not forgive, it was Joseph. When he finally tells his brothers who he is, what does Joseph tell them is the reason for his forgiveness, for his lack of resentment?

Why do you think Joseph waited to tell his brothers who he really was? Do you think it was right or wrong for him to wait?

In Genesis 44:16-33, Judah steps forward to answer Joseph's accusations. Judah is Joseph's oldest brother, and the one who orchestrated Joseph's sale into slavery. For nearly twenty verses we hear Judah fearfully respond to the man who will decide his family's fate. This is the moment where Joseph gets to see what is truly in his brother's heart.

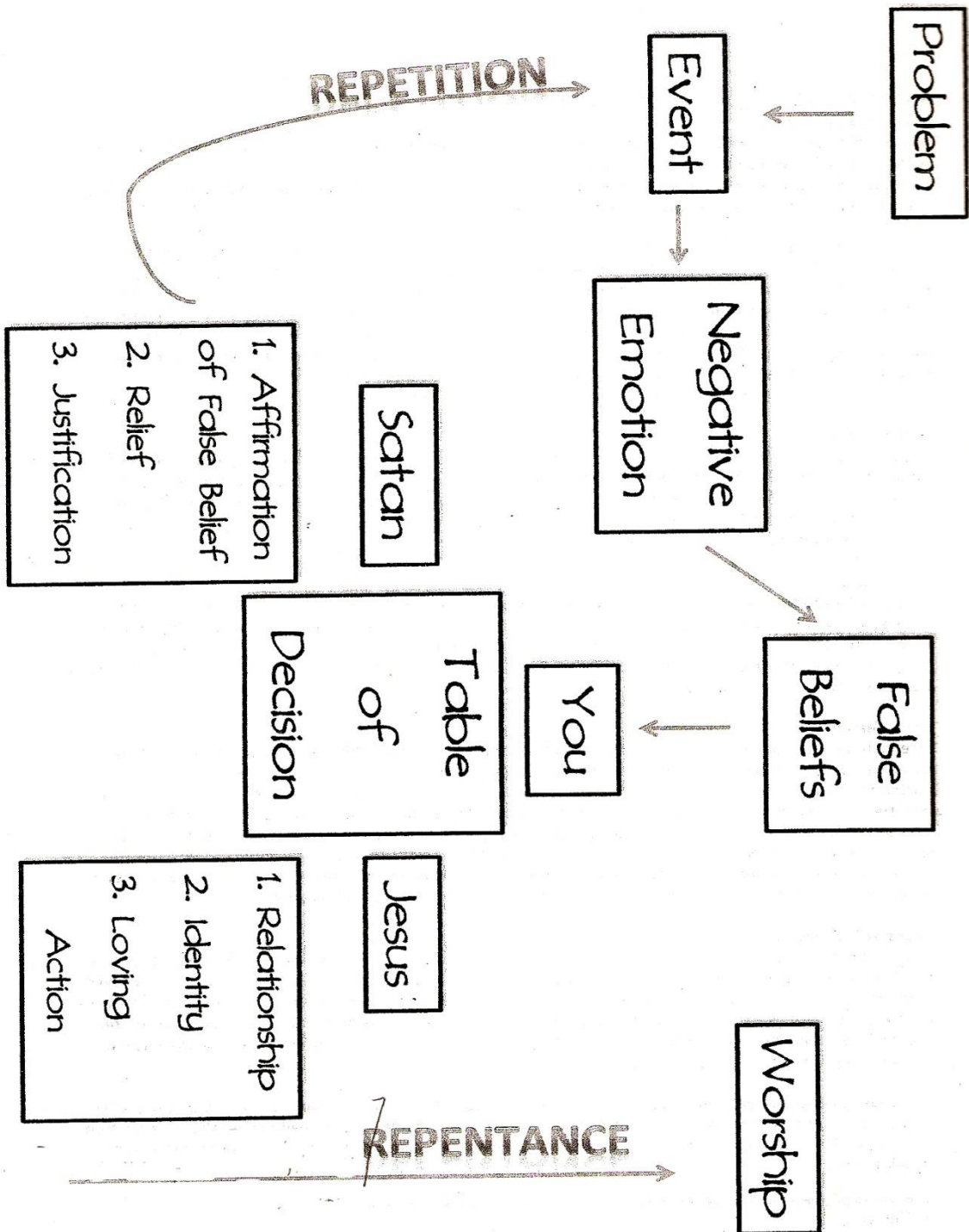
What kind of man was Judah before this? Give some examples to illustrate.

It is through Judah's family that Jesus will be born. What parallels exist between the Judah in chapter 44 and Jesus?

How is Joseph a portrait of who Jesus is?

At the end of Genesis, we now understand how the Hebrew people came to be in Egypt, rather than living in God's promised land of Canaan. This sets the stage for God to again deliver the Israelites once the Egyptians enslave them. These patterns of need and deliverance further point toward the God's ultimate plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.

Hot Seat Model Appendix A



APPENDIX B: IDENTITY IN THE KINGDOM

MY RELATIONSHIP

I am reconciled to God - 2 Cor 5:18
I'm a child of God - He is my Father - 1 Jn 3:1,2
I am a saint - Eph 1:1; 1 Cor 1:2; Phil 1:1
I am Christ's friend - Jn 15:15
I am a fellow citizen in God's kingdom - Eph 2:19
I am born of God - 1 Jn 4:7
I have been brought near to Christ - Eph 2:13
I have been adopted by God - Rom 8:15
I'm to be righteous and holy like God - Eph 4:24
I have direct access to God - Eph 2:18

MY INHERITANCE

I am a citizen of heaven - Phil 3:20
I am an heir of God - Rom 8:17
I've been rescued from Satan's domain - Col 1:13
I am a joint heir with Christ - Rom 8:17; Gal 4:7
I am hidden with Christ in God - Col 3:3
I am blessed with every spiritual blessing - Eph 1:3
I am chosen of God - holy, beloved - Col 3:12
I am a child of promise - Rom 9:8; Gal 3:14
I am a child of light, not darkness - 1 Thess 5:5
I've been given great promises - 2 Pet 1:4
I am a partaker of Christ - Heb 3:14
I'm one of God's living stones - 1 Pet 2:5

MY TRANSFORMATION

I'm a member of a royal priesthood - 1 Pet 2:9
I'm redeemed and forgiven - Eph 1:6-8
I'm to be a stranger to this world - 1 Pet 2:11
I've been justified - made righteous - Rom 5:1
I'm an enemy of the devil - 1 Pet 5:8
I have eternal life - Jn 5:24
I died w/Christ to the power of sin - Rom 6:1-6

MY CALLING

I am free from condemnation - Rom 8:1
I am to be salt on the earth - Mt 5:13
I have received the Spirit of God - 1 Cor 2:12
I am to be light in the world - Mt 5:14
I have been given the mind of Christ - 1 Cor 2:16
I'm chosen and appointed to bear fruit - Jn 15:16
I have been crucified with Christ - Gal 2:20
I am called to do the works of Christ - Jn 14:12
I am a new creation - 2 Cor 5:17
I am to do what Christ commanded His disciples - Mt 28:20
I have been made alive with Christ - Eph 2:5
I have been given spiritual authority - Lk 10:19
I am God's workmanship - Eph 2:10
Signs should accompany my work - Mk 16:17-20
I have received fullness in Christ - Col 2:10
I am a minister of a new covenant - 2 Cor 3:6
I am a minister of reconciliation - 2 Cor 5:18,19

MY POSITION

I am to be an expression of life in Christ - Col 3:4
I am connected to the true vine - Jn 15:1,5
I am a partaker of a heavenly calling - Heb 3:1
I'm a willing slave of righteousness - Rom 6:18,22
I am a temple of God - 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19
I am one spirit with the Lord - 1 Cor 6:17
I am a member of Christ's body - 1 Cor 12:27

Appendix C:

Hot Seat Rules of Thumb

Things to Practice

- Open-ended questions
- Reflective listening
 - “It sounds like. . .”
 - “I hear you saying. . .”
- Questions about emotions
(e.g. “How did you feel when. . .”)
- Questions about underlying beliefs
(e.g. “What belief is this rooted in?”)

Things to Avoid

- “Why” questions
- Stories about yourself
- “Yes” or “No” Questions
- Advice

Listening to Jesus Together

- How does his story impact this situation?
- What is your true identity in Christ?
- What would it look like if you trusted Him here?
- How have you been finding relief?
- How is Jesus inviting you into relationship?