



## Key Idea

The last chapters of Genesis emphasis the faithfulness of God to his promises. Even amongst a world of evil he is working for our good.

## Listen

This study is written to be used together with the sermon preached at Trinity Church which you can find on our church website.

[www.trinitybay.church/sermon-archive/](http://www.trinitybay.church/sermon-archive/)

## Talk About

1. What's one thing you love about belonging to the people of God?

## Explore

So much of the book of Genesis is dominated by Abraham and his descendants. Remember back in Genesis 12, God promised Abraham that he'd give him descendants, and that those descendants would have a land and be blessed. He also promised to bring blessing to the world through this family. In Genesis 15:12-16, God also reveals part of how he's going to bring that blessing to his people; he's going to have them spend time in Egypt (it's worth reading those verses quickly). As we get to the end of the Joseph story we're seeing that part of the plan playing out. Joseph has finally reunited with his brothers, and now the whole family, including old man Jacob, is on their way to Egypt where they can live safely in this time of famine.

Note - we've got a lot of reading again today. But again it's worth it and at a couple of points I've made suggestions on where you can skip bits to move a bit faster if needed.

## Read Genesis 46:28-47:12

2. How does Joseph react to seeing his father again after all these years?

3. How are we seeing God's faithfulness to his promises play out here?

## Read Genesis 47:13-31

(Or if you have less time, just note that through the passage we see how the famine ravages Egypt and what this looks like for your average Egyptian. They have to sell everything they have including themselves to keep eating. Have a look, though, at verse 27 and see how their fate compares to that of the people of Israel)

4. How does the fate of the Egyptians highlight God's blessings and faithfulness to his people?

## Explore

Genesis chapter 48 revolves around Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. Unlike the rest of Jacob's family they were born in Egypt, outside the land. There appears to be some question as to whether they'll be included in God's people and share in the promises given to Abraham.

5. Read Genesis 48:15-16. What name and blessing is given to the two boys? How has Jacob seen God's faithfulness through his own life? How does he describe this?

## Read Genesis 49

6. This chapter contains Jacob's final words to his twelve sons. This is in many ways the establishment of the nation of Israel, with its twelve tribes. What stands out to you from Jacob's various blessings?

7. The blessing given to Judah certainly grabs the attention. What sort of life can God's people look forward to when the 'one to whom the scepter belongs' comes?

## Read Genesis 50 (Or just 50:15-21)

8. How does the end of the Joseph story highlight that God's faithfulness is still the reality, even amongst an evil and broken world where sin is so prevalent?

## Application

9. Read Romans 8:28-30. What is revealed about God's faithfulness to believers today?

10. Are there times or situations where you are finding it hard to believe that God is faithful?

11. How have you seen God's faithfulness play out in your life? If you were to give a little short testimony like the one Joseph gives in 48:15, what would yours include? If you're willing, share this with the group and finish by spending some time thanking God for his faithfulness to us.

## Some Extra Notes

Although there's lots more we could go into from these chosen chapters of Genesis, in this study I want us to notice and celebrate God's faithfulness to his promises. He's brought his people to Egypt, as he said he would, and he's blessing them as he said he would. Through these chapters we see him blessing the people of Israel even as Egypt goes through a time of loss and difficulty, we see Jacob reflect on how he's seen God's faithfulness in his life, we see that God will be faithful to the tribes of Israel, and we see that God is faithful even amongst evil. It's worth leaving a bit of time at the end to really reflect and share with each other about how you've seen God's faithfulness in your own life.

- Question 3: Note the blessings this family is beginning to receive.

- Question 4: Note the contrast - the Egyptians are losing property while the Israelites are gaining it.

- Question 5: Jacob's had a pretty up and down sort of life, and as we saw a few weeks ago, he didn't always do a great job of trusting God through the ups and downs. But here, he is able to say that God has been his shepherd his whole life. That's certainly evident from his story - he wasn't always faithful to God, but God was always faithful to him. Fun fact - this is the first time in the Bible God's compared to a shepherd. What a theme that will be throughout Scripture!

- Question 7: Some interesting imagery here. If you're living in a place where vines are so plentiful that you're happy to tie your donkey to a vine (imagine - the donkey's going to be munching that vine), and if you've got so much wine that you're happy to wash your clothes in it - you're living in a place of blessing.

- Question 9: Note that God is working for our good. But also note what that good is - he's making us like Christ.