

Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, or individuals

"JOSEPH & the Gospel of Many Colors: God of Promise"

Genesis 48-49

March 15-16, 2014

Getting Started

1. What is one of the greatest promises you have ever made to someone else? Were you able to keep it?
Why do we struggle in keeping our promises?

Digging In

1. What does Genesis 48:1-3 show us about the love between Jacob and Joseph?
1. Read Genesis 48:3-4 and Genesis 28:10-17. What is the promise that God makes with Jacob? Does this promise come true in Jacob's lifetime?
2. How is Jacob clinging to the promises of God as he faces his death? Read Genesis 48:22 and Psalm 119:50 to help think through where Jacob's heart is at this time.
3. Read Genesis 49:29-33. Where does Jacob desire to be buried? What does this say about his love for his family and his faith in the promises of God?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 2:18-22. How does Jesus Christ connect with the promises of God? Why should these verses give us great hope during our lives?
5. How do the "precious promises of God" in 2 Peter 1:4 provide us the power for godly living in the present age and secure us in the age to come?

Bringing it Home

1. As a parent or grandparent (or uncle/aunt) how are you living your life to bless your children or grandchildren (or nephews/nieces) as Jacob did with his children and grandchildren?
2. The power for holy living is found not in our own effort, but through laying hold of the promises of God. Can you name some of the promises God makes to His children throughout the Scriptures?
3. Are you regularly calling to mind the promises of the Lord? Are you living for the sake of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit? (See 2 Corinthians 1:18-22 & 2 Peter 1:3-11). If not (and we all struggle with this!) how can we encourage each other to live in the power of God's promises more?
4. God is not simply after our salvation, but our transformation (see Judah & Jacob especially). Where do you sense God either transforming you, or wanting to transform you right now?

Digging Deeper

Read Hebrews 11:8-16. What (or who) are the people mentioned longing for? And how does longing for this ultimate "promised land" guide us in the "present land"?

BELONGING TO A SMALL GROUP IS A GREAT WAY TO GROW SPIRITUALLY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN A GROUP OR GET MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT Heather Hudson at hhudson@doorcreekchurch.org.