



# THE BOOK OF GENESIS *& ME*

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BIBLE STUDY. DEVOTIONAL. PRAYER JOURNAL. PLANNER

J.T. Reece



CityGenesis.org  
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## Dedication

To the pillar of strength and resilience who is my mother.  
Thank you. It is because of your life, your energy, your  
spirit of perseverance, and your steadfastness, that I am  
strong. God has truly blessed me with your life.



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## Acknowledgements

*Thank you to my grandmother, who is now with God, for raising her children with the knowledge of God, and setting them on a path with deep love and reverence for God and the truth of Jesus Christ.*

*My mother and my aunts, who are grounded in their faith, have helped me to grow in Christ. I observe them and their relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they share their knowledge and understanding with me, and I am blessed by it.*

*Thank you to my Aunt G for helping with editing this book.*





## Preface

An important question to always ask yourself is *“who am I?”* If you don't know who you are, more than likely, you are unsure of yourself. You may feel uninspired, fearful, and powerless. You may be without clear direction.

Who you are is revealed to you by God. This revelation is given through a soul searching, spirit led, connection to God.

**“The Book of Genesis & Me”** is a guided, all-in-one, Bible study, devotional, prayer journal, and planner. This book is one book of a series that is a tool to help you in your desire to draw near to God. To connect to God. To align. Through each book in the Bible, draw near to God, and let God show you who you are.

Using this tool: Bible Study- Devotional- Prayer Journal- Planner.

1. First- turn to the **Bible Study** and read a lesson selection. Read, and seek wisdom in the stories.
2. Next- turn to the **Devotional** with the matching chapters from your bible study reading. Here you will connect/relate/align. Use these questions to gain a deeper understanding of your relationship with God.
3. Then- turn to the **Prayer Journal**. This is your time to pray/meditate/journal. Utilize what you've learned in the matching bible study reading and the matching devotional to make the requests of your heart known to God.
4. Finally- after completing the bible study, devotional, and prayer journal sections, turn to the **Planner**. This is where you capture the message and plan your vision. Identify an overarching message for yourself from the book of Genesis. Use this message to create a daily vision for your future.

(After completing this book continue with other books in the series. “The Book of Exodus & Me”, “The Book of Leviticus & Me”, “The Book of Numbers & Me”, all the way through to “The Book of Revelation & Me”. Every book of Bible.)





## Introduction

Studying the word of God and connecting to God through His word is the successful way toward enlightenment and revelation of who we are, and who God is in our lives. This is how we are able to see our relationship with God and experience God speaking to our hearts. This is how we learn to follow God and honor Him. This is how we receive harmony in our lives. The word of God is where we find the great truth.

*“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12*

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1*

*“For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:6*

*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” II Timothy 3: 16-17*

*“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teachings and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”*

*Matthew 7: 24-27*

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” Psalms 119:105*

*“It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4*

Bible Study

## Read

*Seek wisdom in the stories*



Devotional

## Connect/ Relate/ Align

*Use the questions in the devotional sections to gain a deeper understanding of your relationship with God*

## Bible Study

**Lesson: Genesis 1-3**

When you think of a home, do you think of a place that is safe and comfortable? A place that is filled with wonderful things that cater to your needs and make you happy? Possibly a place you built into a loving home with your loved ones? Well, in these chapters, this is what we see. We see God creating a home for His loved ones. A place that is safe, filled with beauty, food for nourishment, and God's love. What more could you ask for! We also see God giving His loved ones responsibility to “be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Genesis 1:28). God entrusted Adam, the first human kind of His creation, with the responsibility to name every beast of the field and every bird of the air, “and whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name” (Genesis 2:19). The responsibilities that were bestowed was a show of love. God looked on us as His creation with pleasure and approval. When God allowed Adam and Eve to eat freely from every tree except from the tree of good and evil, that command to follow was another awesome responsibility.

## Bible Study

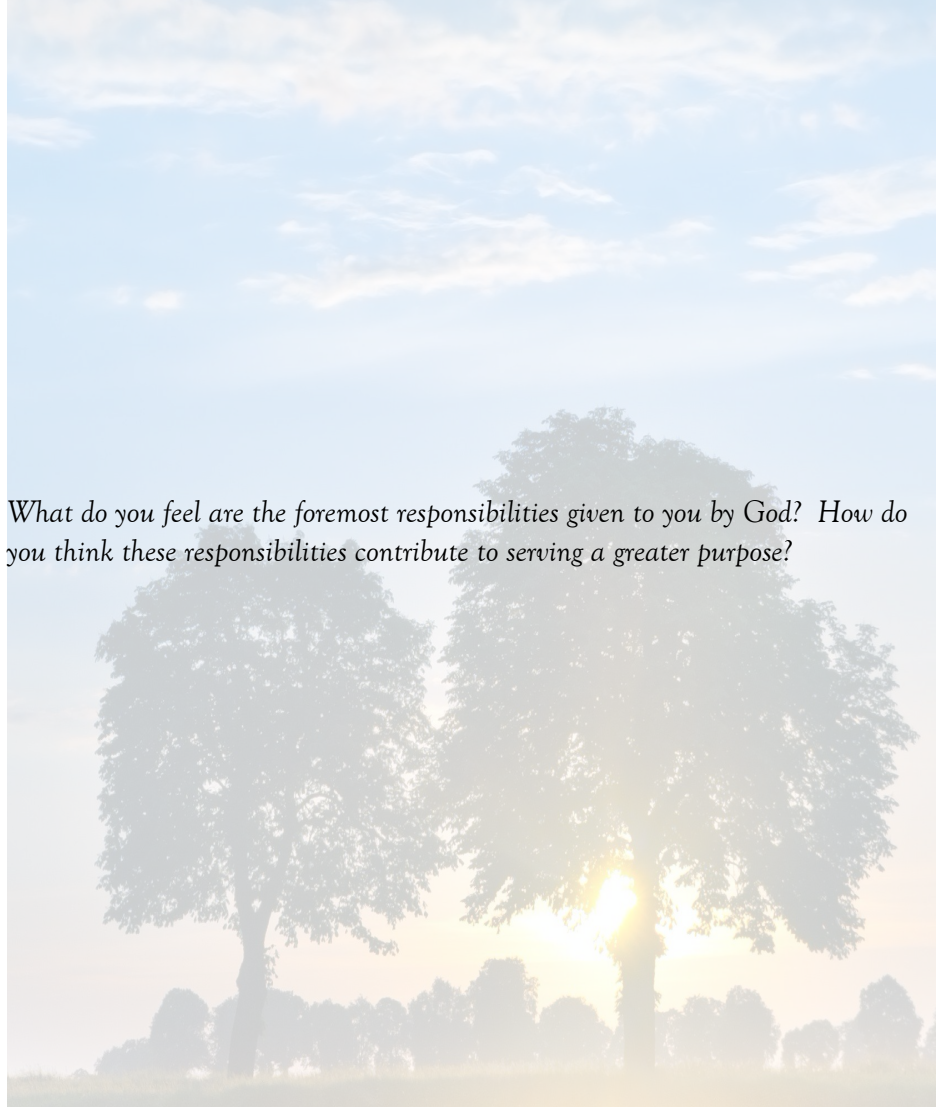
Although Adam and Eve failed in that moment, in that very momentous lesson, God's love still transcended and is with us to this very day, in every trial and in every struggle that we now experience.

**Take-away:** God approves of us as His creation and He delights in us/ God desires to protect us and take care of us/ God expects us to obey Him to show our love for Him.

*Notes:*

**Genesis 1-3**

*What are the things God has provided for you in your life that make you feel safe and loved?*



*What do you feel are the foremost responsibilities given to you by God? How do you think these responsibilities contribute to serving a greater purpose?*

## Devotional

*How do you know God still loves you through your mistakes? Think about how this proof of God's love has manifested in your life for examples.*

*Why is it important to obey the principals & instructions given to us by God?*



**Lesson: Genesis 4-6**

From a place of harmony, beauty, happiness, and all things good... to fallen. You might say, what a devastating and disgraceful decline, but isn't the best part the road to redemption? Redemption is powerful and empowering and worthwhile and satisfying, all at the same time. There is Joy in the journey of overcoming. This journey of overcoming started so long ago with Adam and Eve and started for us individually when born. If we can find God's grace in Adam and Eve's failure we can see God's grace and have hope in everything.

In these chapters we see that evil tries to take a foothold, to secure position for further failure, to swallow up the light and hide the truth of God and God's awesome love. We see this demonstrated when jealousy and anger arose from Cain. When God did not accept Cain's offering, Cain's emotions took hold. Cain was deceived into believing that God did not love him because God did not accept his offering. But this was not so. God loved Cain, but God knows our hearts, and God warned Cain to not let sin trap him, "You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master" (Genesis 4:7).

## Bible Study

We see how evil and negativity took a foothold by deceiving Cain into thinking God does not love him (and into the future of humanity we see this lie turn from God doesn't love you to there is no God) and yes, these tricks, lies, and deception of the enemy still persists today. We also see how this deception put Cain against his brother Abel leading to Abel's death by Cain's hands. From here we see the influence of evil continue to persist and grow as the world filled with more and more people. As the world grew more dysfunctional, God grew more upset "The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time"(Genesis 6: 5), but our God is a God of order and His light will shine in the darkness, "God saw how corrupted the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth" (Genesis 6:12-13).

So, we see God's order and righteousness, and we also see His grace when He redeems Noah and his family from being destroyed in the flood. Noah walked with God and so found favor with God, and God established a new covenant with him.

**Take-away:** Evil and negative forces have been around since the beginning of man and is opposed to God's truth and love/ Evil seeks to deceive, trap, and destroy us, and turn us against one another/ There is always hope in a brighter future with God/ God sees our redeeming qualities when we walk with Him/ God is righteous and merciful.

**Genesis 4:6**

*How does evil and negative forces try to affect your daily life?*

*What direct or indirect impact has evil, and negative forces had in your life?*

## Devotional

*What is your experience with redemption and overcoming?*

*What are your redeeming qualities?*

**Lesson: Genesis 7-9**

We should never forget how powerful and mighty God is. His grace and mercy are never ending but let us not forget His righteousness. God is just and lawful and He commands order because of His love for us. In these chapters we see that God causes a flood to destroy all those on the earth because evil was rampant and caused disorder. People had turned away from what is right and good “So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive” (Genesis 7: 23).

In God's wrath His righteousness prevailed and the wicked were punished. God is omniscient, and He knows our hearts and the good in us even when we don't know it, but God also knows evil. He knows what it is and where it is. He knows the unrepentant- those showing no regret for their wrongdoings, and the defiant, and He will always seek out wickedness and destroy it.

After the flood, Noah showed reverence to God by building an alter to God and sacrificing burnt offerings (Genesis 8: 20) and God was pleased with Noah's show of love and respect. The soothing aroma of the burnt offering soothed God, “Then the Lord said in His heart, I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth” (Genesis 8: 21). God is so very

## Bible Study

deserving of our love and respect and He deserves to be shown how much we love Him not only in our hearts but with out loud expressions of love and respect as Noah did. We no longer need to present animal sacrifices because of the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins. But let us pour out the love in our hearts for Him with outward praise and worship. Let's honor Him and proclaim His name out loud.

After Noah's offering, we see the blessing of Noah and his family with a new covenant. We see God presenting us with responsibility and control and instructions to have order among ourselves. God placed the animals in our power, instructed us to respect lifeblood, punish murder, and to respect the life of mankind because we are made in His image (Genesis 9: 2-6). And God established his covenant with us to never destroy the earth with flood waters as He did before, "Yes, I am confirming my covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth" (Genesis 9: 11). God then provided us with a beautiful reminder of His promise, "I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures for all generations to come. I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life" (Genesis 9: 12-15). What an awesome way to reveal His presence to us with this reminder, and how wonderful that God desired to provide confirmation of His promise to us and Himself, showing that we're in this together with Him.

**Take-away:** God destroys evil/ God restores order/ God is soothed by our show of love and respect toward Him/ God honors His promises.

Genesis 7-9

*How do you know that God's power destroys evil?*

*What is the importance of order and why does God demand it in life?*

## Devotional

*How do you feel about honoring God? Is it something your heart is drawn to do to offer thanks and praise to Him and to declare your love for Him?*

*What promises has God honored in your life?*



**Lesson: Genesis 10-12**

The generations after Noah grew and filled the earth and their nations all spoke the same language. In these chapters we see that people came together with a plan to build a city with a tower, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11: 4). Such hubris and ambition, right? What exactly were their motives? Was it for God's glory? Was it a longing to be closer to God? Or was it for their own self-serving glory and self-importance, to demonstrate their prowess? The end result of the people's efforts to build the tower was that God confused their language. In turn they stopped building the city, and were scattered over the face of the earth (Genesis 11: 7-9). God detests pride. Pride says we can do things on our own without God, even though, in truth, God is our source. Pride says we're wise in our own eyes and don't need to learn from God. Thinking that we don't need God and that we are powerful in our own right can lead us into the hands of the enemy who is always ready to use pride and arrogance to produce evil. All our wisdom and our strength come from God; a God that is mighty, powerful, great, and all knowing; a God who loves us enough to depart His throne,

## Bible Study

make the ultimate sacrifice and die in flesh for our sins. Acknowledging that awesome truth is where we can shed pride and find the humility which God desires.

Next, we see the genealogy of Abraham the patriarch. When Abraham lived with his family in his native land Ur of the Chaldeans, the Lord chose him for a very special purpose, “The Lord had said to Abram, go from your country, your people and your father's house hold to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12: 1-3). Abraham was a very faithful man and that is why God chose him. Faith is why God chooses many of us to lead and accomplish things in His name. As it says in Hebrews 11: 1, faith is the substance of hope, the evidence of things not seen. When we connect with God in our hearts, souls, and minds, and believe in Him because we feel our in born connection to Him, that faithfulness can move mountains. That same faithfulness that is within us is what God saw in Abraham and used for His divine purpose. Because of Abraham's faith, Abraham followed God's instructions, left his native land, and went to the land that God promised, and even though he saw that the land was inhabited by the Canaanites, he did not doubt what God said to him, “To your descendants I will give this land” (Genesis 12:7). Abraham trusted God, and Abraham's faithfulness led him to receive his inheritance and the blessing of his descendants, which lead to our savior Jesus Christ.

**Take-away:** God detest pride/ God needs faithful people/ God uses faithful people for His divine purpose/ Faith leads to monumental impact and achievements.

Genesis 10-12

*What is your experience with pride being a detrimental thing?*

*We all struggle with pride, some a little, some a lot. Are you more of a humble person or a prideful person? How can you practice being more humble?*

## Devotional

*What is your faith level on a scale of 1-10, and why did you choose the number you chose?*

*What would you do with more faith in God? How would your life be different?*

**Lesson: Genesis 13-15**

Abraham calls on God for direction often. As Abraham waits for God's promise we see times where he would build an altar and call upon the name of the Lord. Abraham called on God for direction when he saw that the land God promised was inhabited by Canaanites. Abraham needed direction on where to go because it wasn't time to enter into the promised land yet, so he built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord. From there he was led to Egypt due to a famine in the land where he was waiting (Genesis 12: 8-10). When he went to Egypt the circumstances there contributed to Abraham becoming wealthy (Genesis 12: 10-20). Abraham was led to Egypt, to a place where he feared for his life and the safety of his wife. But by God's grace a path was made available for Abraham to leave Egypt with his life and his wife safe, and also with prosperity. God will always lead us on the best path for our benefit. He can turn circumstances around for good, and turn wrong into right. He does this every day. The key is trust, patience, and faithfulness.

One of the first things Abraham did when he was told to leave Egypt was to go back to where he had first built the altar and there he called upon the name of the Lord again (Genesis 13:4)- That is Abraham depending on the Lord.

## Bible Study

Our connection to God is so very important and so is our discernment. We have to be able to acutely understand what is coming from God and what is not, so we are not confused about our direction. That is why it is important to have an ever-growing relationship with God through prayer and meditation. This is how we fine tune our discernment and are able to receive spiritual direction. One of the best projects we'll ever work on is growing our relationship with God.

After Abraham enters the land of Canaan, and Lot, Abraham's nephew, separates from him because of strife, we see that God continues to remind Abraham of the promise made to him, "The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the Land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you" (Genesis 13: 14-17). After Lot was captured during the battle of Siddim and was rescued and brought back by Abraham and his 318 trained and armed servants, God continued to remind Abraham of His promise. Even when Abraham questioned the possibility of having many descendants seeing that he had no offspring as yet, "And Abram said, You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir. Then the word of the Lord came to him: This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir. He took him outside and said, Look up at the sky and count the stars- if indeed you can count them. Then he said to him, So shall your offspring be. Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness" (Genesis 15: 3-6).

## Bible Study

There are many promises throughout the Bible that God makes to us, and as we see in these chapters, God makes promises to Abraham and Abraham has to wait patiently on Him. We also see that when God speaks these promises to Abraham, God repeats them, reminding Abraham that what He promised is real. Have you ever felt God speaking to your heart, directing you toward something, or maybe a whisper of a promise that regardless of the circumstance everything is going to be OK? God does speak to us. He speaks to our hearts, souls, and minds. God speaks to remind us of his promises, but we have to listen and pay attention to our life and how God is directing us. We also have to be faithful and patient, trusting that God has the best for us.

**Take-away: Calling upon God for direction will lead us on the best path/ God makes promises to us and He will remind us of His promises to help us wait patiently/ We can fine tune our discernment by calling upon God in prayer.**

*Notes:*

## Bible Study



**Genesis 13-15**

Think about how you arrived on the path you are currently on and in the goals you are pursuing. Was it by calling upon God? Did you feel led by God in this direction through the desires of your heart and circumstances that made this direction possible? Describe:

When God gives us direction He repeats it and reminds us that we're going in the right direction. Have you ever experienced this on your path? Describe:

## Devotional

Did you ever get redirected because what you thought was the right path wasn't? How did it happen and what did you learn from it?

What obstacles on your path have made you stronger and more prepared for the direction God is leading you in?

**Lesson: Genesis 16-18**

Why is it so hard for us to wait patiently? When things are not happening in the time frame we want it to, why do some of us resist waiting and try to force and manipulate life circumstances to get what we want faster, even when the act of forcing it to go our way looks and feels wrong?

Instead of waiting patiently to conceive a child of her own, Sarah, Abraham's wife told Abraham to conceive a child with their servant Hagar, "Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her"(Genesis 16: 1-2). Sarah was on her time frame and not God's. The result of Sarah trying to go ahead of God and not wait, was that Abraham conceived a child with Hagar and Sarah became upset and regretful of her decision (Genesis 16: 4-5). So the outcome of Sarah's action of not waiting patiently was not to her benefit.

We cannot understand all the workings of God, but who would you rather be in control of things knowing how great, powerful, mighty, merciful, omnipresent, and omniscient God is? God works on a different level, on a scale and time frame that our minds cannot grasp or measure.

## Bible Study

Although we are sometimes impatient because we may feel constricted by time, we have to learn the lesson of letting go and letting God. To surrender to God's great purpose in our lives and follow His direction, will lead us to the true desires of our hearts.

Abraham's relationship with God is remarkable. In these chapters we see how clearly God communicates with Abraham and how God reveals things to Abraham in a direct way. We also see how Abraham dialogues with God in His presence. We see this when God appears to Abraham and tells him that he will have countless descendants (Genesis 17: 1-2), when God tells Abraham that he and his descendants will receive the land of Canaan (Genesis 17: 8), and when God tells Abraham that he and Sarah will be blessed with a son and Sarah will be the mother of nations (Genesis 17: 16). We also see this very special relationship when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. When the Lord explains to Abraham that Sodom and Gomorrah will be destroyed because of their sin, Abraham came before the Lord with an inquiring mind, "And Abraham came near and said, Would You also destroy the righteous with wicked? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?" (Genesis 18: 23-24). Abraham came to God several times with questions as to the likelihood of the city's destruction, and Abraham continued reasoning with God and petitioning for saving the people of Sodom until he made a case for saving the city for the sake of 10 righteous people, "he said, Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there? And He said, I will not destroy it for the sake of ten" (Genesis 18: 32). In the exchange, when Abraham appeals to God for the people of Sodom,

## Bible Study

you can see the trust between God and Abraham in this open communication, and you can see the reverence Abraham has for God. God is not distant, His Spirit is right here for us to reach out to with questions, to seek the truth, information, and knowledge.

**Take-away:** Being patient and waiting for God's timing can be difficult but it is crucial for achieving God's great purpose in our lives/ God is available for our questions and is responsive to our appeals/ We can make intercessions for those to whom our hearts are heavy.

*Notes:*

## Bible Study

**Genesis 16-18**

*What lessons in being patient have shown up in your life to benefit you?*

*How has lessons of not being patient shown up in your life?*

## Devotional

*Our God is our Father and best friend, so we can have a free and open dialogue with Him about anything. What is your communication like with God?*

*What is your experience of communicating with God for answers to difficult questions or to appeal for someone else?*



**Lesson: Genesis 19-21**

The world is filled with billions of people. Billions of individual souls going about their everyday life on a billion different personal journeys. Can you imagine God being intricately involved in each one of our 7+ billion lives? Well, we know God is omnipresent- present everywhere at the same time, but it might still be hard to comprehend that God would be present in the details and specifics of our full and complicated lives. Well, in these chapters we get a glimpse of how intricately involved God is in the lives of His people: From the biggest to the most minute matters; from those who don't know God and those who are rebellious, to the followers of God. He is involved in it all because it all matters. Every single one of our stories from the beginning of man to the present day is part of God's redemptive plan for mankind. Nothing is done outside of God's control and no detail is unimportant.

God heard the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sin, and God intervened, "For we will destroy this place, because of the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it" (Genesis 19: 13). God allowed the cities to be destroyed but before He did so, God also intently watched over everyone's actions and reactions in order to provide a path for the most righteous outcome.

## Bible Study

We see this when the men of the city surrounded Lot's house in order to harm the guests in his home (Genesis 19: 4-5). The result of this was that the guests, who were angels sent by God, saw the evil in the city first hand and was subsequently justified in destroying it. The evil actions of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah unfolded as a lesson for generations to come. We now have this example of the consequences of evil and wickedness. This is how God weaves His messages. This is why He is involved in the details.

We also see how Lot's integrity saved him, because Lot took actions to protect the guests in his home against the people of the city (Genesis 19: 6-8). Lot was also looked upon favorably by God because of God's faithful servant Abraham "God had listened to Abraham's request and kept Lot safe, removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain" (Genesis 19: 29). The care God showed for Lot also depicts how personal God's involvement is in our lives. God considered Abraham's bond with Lot and saved Lot because of Abraham.

God continuously watches over Abraham as He does with all of us. God also oversees our interactions with each other. When Abimelek king of Gerar took Abraham's wife without knowing she was married to Abraham, God intervened, "God came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman" (Genesis 20:3). Through God's very specific guidance and influence, Abimelek had the conviction in his heart to not touch Abraham's wife and to return her to Abraham (Genesis 20: 4-7). After this Abraham and Abimelek had a relationship of understanding that offered them both some security and comfort.

Finally, when the son that God promised Abraham and Sarah was born,

### Bible Study

whose name is Isaac, we see God's hand clearing a way and making a path for the redemption of mankind. The decisions and actions of Sarah, Abraham, Hagar, and many others, along with God's divine involvement, has placed us where we are today.

**Take-away:** God is closely involved in each of our lives/ God's intricate involvement leads to our redemption/ Our interactions with each other is overseen by God, He influences us for good and convicts our hearts to do the right thing/ Our decisions and actions have led us to where we are today, which is exactly where God intended.

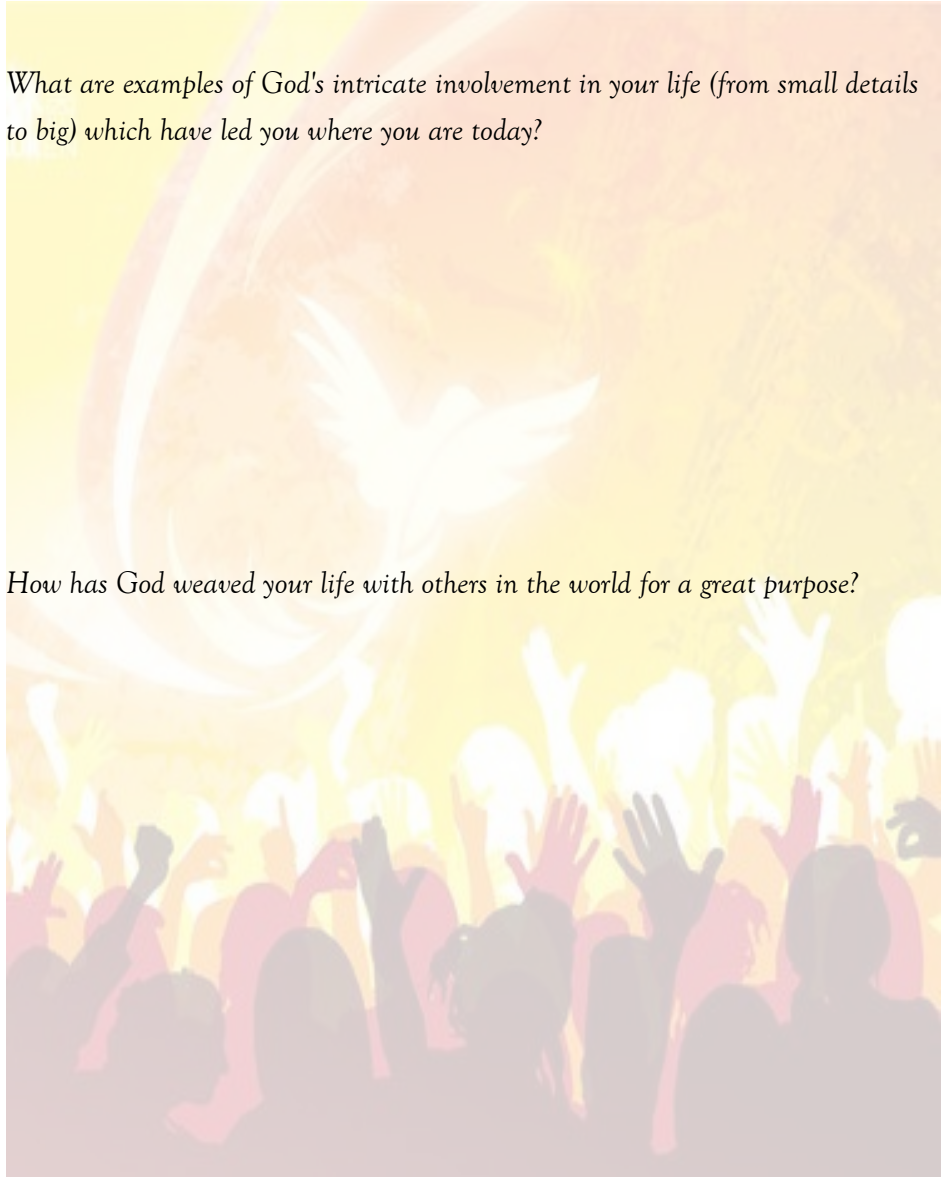
*Notes:*

## Bible Study

**Genesis 19-21**

*What are examples of God's intricate involvement in your life (from small details to big) which have led you where you are today?*

*How has God weaved your life with others in the world for a great purpose?*



## Devotional

*How has your life interacted with someone else's in a way that was life-changing?*

*How has your life intersected with someone else's in such a way that you saved them a lot of heartache and pain or even saved their life?*

**Lesson: Genesis 22-24**

God is good. Sometimes people question this truth with the thought “why do bad things happen to good people”, but God is indeed good, and we should remember that when God pushes us through difficult things it is to strengthen us for a greater purpose.

Abraham knows with all his heart that God is good, and we see an example of this in these chapters. God presents Abraham with a very fateful test, “God tested Abraham. He said to him, Abraham! Here I am, he replied. Then God said, Take your son, your only son, whom you love- Isaac- and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you” (Genesis 22: 1-2). With this request from God, Abraham immediately obeyed. Abraham headed to the place that God told him with his son Isaac, but before he left to go perform the sacrifice, Abraham told the two servants that came with them that he and Isaac will be back, “He said to his servants, Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you” (Genesis 22:5). Abraham did not doubt God's goodness, and because of Abraham's very close relationship with God, he knew that somehow Isaac his beloved son would not perish and that they both would be coming back.

## Bible Study

Abraham knew that although he could not fathom what God was asking, God would provide a way to do exactly what needed to be done, and indeed, God provided. Abraham was withdrawn from killing his son and God provided “Himself” a lamb for the sacrifice instead (Genesis 22: 10-13). Although this is an extreme example of a trust between God and His loved one, this is definitely also a lesson to behold in awesome wonder. Remember that God spoke to Abraham throughout Abraham's life. God guided him and protected him, and Abraham had insight and an incredible understanding of God. There was no question about who God was to Abraham. This is a relationship of trust we can hope to have with God.

As the years passed and Abraham and his wife Sarah grew older, Sarah passed away in old age, and he was now alone with Isaac his son and the servants of his household. In his old age he wanted to make sure his son had a wife from his native country in Mesopotamia and not from the land of Canaan where they lived (Genesis 24: 1-4). The Canaanites were not God-fearing people and Abraham wanted to look after his son and have him continue in God's path. So, Abraham sent a servant to find a wife for Isaac, and because of the continued blessings of Abraham, a way was made for the intended wife to be found for Isaac (Genesis 24: 10- 67).

God is good, and it is through His goodness that all things work together. Just as God had always been good in the ups and downs of Abraham's life and the life of his descendants, so is He in ours.

**Take-away:** God is good, and we should never doubt his goodness in any circumstance/ When we have a complete relationship with God, we can have incredible trust with God/ Our blessings from God are extended to our loved ones.



**Genesis 22-24**

*How do you know God is good, that within Him there is no darkness?*

*What is your biggest experience with trusting God in your life so far?*

## Devotional

*How has God tested you with difficulty, turning a trying time in your life for good?*

*How have you seen God's blessings extend to you from your parents and grandparents or guardians, and how do you think your blessings will transfer to the rest of your family?*

**Lesson: Genesis 25-27**

The story of Jacob and Esau is very thought provoking. Twin brothers, born to Isaac (Abraham's son) and Isaac's wife Rebekah, who were at odds with each other from the womb into adulthood. Jacob and Esau were significantly different from each other in character as well as in appearance, "when the time came to give birth, Rebekah discovered that she did indeed have twins! The first one was very red at birth and covered with thick hair like a fur coat. So they named him Esau. Then the other twin was born with his hand grasping Esau's heel. So they named him Jacob" (Genesis 25: 24-26). "As the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter. He was an outdoorsman, but Jacob had a quiet temperament, preferring to stay at home" (Genesis 25: 27). The stark differences between them allowed for two very different life paths based on the choices they made, and each of their choices/decisions and actions were made based on their nature or their inherent tendencies that direct conduct.

Each day we are faced with choices and decisions, and our actions have lasting effects. We make decisions based on our feelings, and out of wisdom or ignorance. The type of person we are also determines the choices we make and the actions we take. Are you kind, fair, thoughtful, or selfish, manipulative, stubborn? Analytical and tactful? A planner, or more spontaneous and impulsive?

## Bible Study

Are you someone who would choose instant gratification without thoughts of how it impacts the future?

When Esau sells his birthright to Jacob for some stew, we see that Esau was only thinking about feeding his hunger in that moment and not about all the privilege that came with being a first-born son or how giving up his birthright may affect his future. Jacob however seemed to be more of a planner, and very deliberate and calculated, “One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry. Esau said to Jacob, I'm starved! Give me some of that red stew! All right, Jacob replied, but trade me your rights as the first-born son” (Genesis 25: 29-31). So, Esau gave up his birthright to Jacob. Esau did not care about this precious right in the moment he was faced with the choice of instant gratification over future consequences.

Later, we again see Jacob plan and scheme against his brother Esau to get a blessing from his father Isaac. With Jacob's calculated deception he received the blessing that was meant for Esau (Genesis 27: 1-40).

We don't have a complete understanding of how God uses our different characteristics to fulfill His greater purpose and how He uses our strengths and weaknesses. We do however know that God is all seeing and all-knowing and that He can turn our wrongs into rights. The story allows us to consider how God uses our strengths, weaknesses, faults, and flaws and connects it all for good.

**Take-away: Who we inherently are determines the choices we make and actions we take/ Our choices and actions, whether negative or positive, have lasting effects that God has already prepared for and He has already connected it all for good.**

Genesis 25-27

*How would you describe your personality/character?*

*How has God used your strengths, weaknesses, faults, and flaws and connected it all for good?*

## Devotional

*How has your personality influenced major decisions and actions taken in your life?*

*What wrong have you done, in which the lesson from it humbled you the most?*

**Lesson: Genesis 28-30**

Everything happens for a reason. The family we're born into and how they raise us, the people we meet, how we meet them, our relationship with them- whether long or short, and what we learn from the people on our life journey is all a part of God's plan and His great purpose for us. Also, along this path, we have cultural norms and the imposing actions of others that impact our journey.

In these chapters we see that Jacob ultimately receives the blessing from his father Abraham and is directed to go to Padan Aram to find a wife for himself. On the journey God speaks to Jacob in a dream, “He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and He said: I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying” (Genesis 28: 12-13). So the blessing that Abraham gave to Jacob was confirmed by God. Jacob was indeed meant to receive the blessing over the first born son Esau even though the attitude of the times was that all the privilege goes to the first born. What we see as a disordered situation, as with Jacob and Esau's dilemma over blessings and birth right, happened for a very purposeful reason.

## Bible Study

It led to Jacob, a plain man, carrying on the lineage that led to Jesus Christ. God chose Jacob for His own divine reason.

Later, we see that Jacob meets Rachel and he loved her and wanted her for his wife, but the cultural norms of the time dictated that Jacob marry the oldest daughter of the family and Rachel was the younger. Because of Jacob's love for Rachel he made an arrangement with her father Laban to work for him in order to marry Rachel, "I'll work for you for seven years if you'll give me Rachel, your younger daughter, as my wife" (Genesis 29: 18). Laban agreed, but after Jacob worked for him for the seven years, Laban used trickery to have Jacob lay with the older daughter Leah and marry her instead (Genesis 29: 19-25). Jacob however later married Rachel also, and after all the folly of circumstances, Jacob ended up right where he was destined to be- the father of 12 sons, the twelve tribes of Israel- from which arise a myriad of generations and teachings of those that came before us; valuable history, and a precious narrative of all we hold dear, given to us from God to learn and grow.

**Take away:** There are so many things that impact our life's journey, but everything happens for a reason/ On our path we will meet many people and have many unexpected encounters. God will use them all in bringing us to our destiny and use our path to help others grow.

*Notes:*

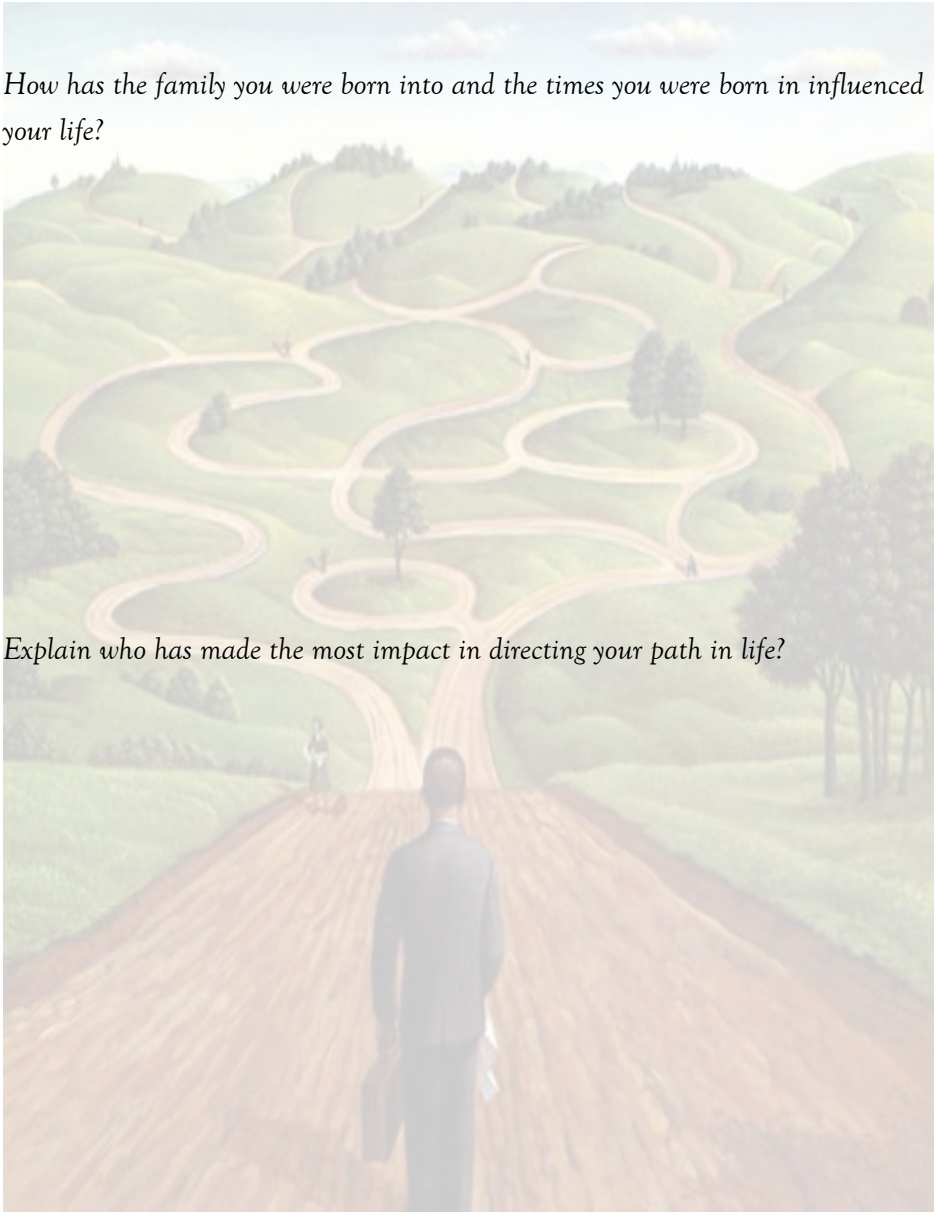


## Devotional

### Genesis 28-30

*How has the family you were born into and the times you were born in influenced your life?*

*Explain who has made the most impact in directing your path in life?*



## Devotional

*What has God revealed to you as your destiny, your directive for helping others?*

*What blessings has God placed on your life to accomplish your destiny?*

**Lesson: Genesis 31-33**

Jacob was a flawed man, but although flawed, God chose him for greatness. Why?

In these chapters we see that Jacob had an abundance of blessings in his life. He was blessed from his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac, and he had favor in God's eyes. After Jacob was blessed by Isaac and directed to leave his homeland to go in search of a wife, Jacob followed his father's instructions and went away. During his time away he became exceedingly prosperous with flocks of sheep and goats, camels and donkeys, servants, and a large family of his own. The Lord then spoke to Jacob and said to him, "return to the land of your father and grandfather and to your relatives there, and I will be with you" (Genesis 31:3). But Jacob had a big problem waiting for him back in his homeland. He had a brother named Esau who he had deceived, and whose birthright and blessing he had taken away. Jacob was terrified at the thought of Esau's anger because of the wrong he had done him. So, being afraid and distressed, Jacob prayed to God for help. Jacob said "O God of my grandfather Abraham, and God of my father, Isaac- O Lord, you told me, Return to your own land and to your relatives. And you promised me, I will treat you kindly. I am not worthy of all the unfailing love and faithfulness you have shown to me, your servant.

## Bible Study

When I left home and crossed the Jordan River, I owned nothing except a walking stick. Now my household fills two large camps! O Lord, please rescue me from the hand of my brother, Esau. I am afraid that he is coming to attack me, along with my wives and children. But you promised me, I will surely treat you kindly, and I will multiply your descendants until they become as numerous as the sands along the seashore- too many to count” (Genesis 32: 9-12). What Jacob did was humble himself before God and called on God's grace and mercy in prayer. Jacob knew the wrong he had done against his brother Esau, and he even knew his brother's anger was warranted. So, Jacob pleaded with God and leaned on God's promise.

Still being afraid, Jacob selected gifts from his possessions to present to his brother Esau, “Jacob thought, I will try to appease him by sending gifts ahead of me. When I see him in person, perhaps he will be friendly to me” (Genesis 32:20). Jacob sent his men ahead of him to deliver the gifts to Esau and told them to make sure to say it is from his servant Jacob. Jacob said to his men “be sure to say, look, your servant Jacob is right behind us” (Genesis 32:20). Jacob wanted to be referred to as a servant of Esau to demonstrate that he was humbly submitting to him and apologetic. When Jacob finally came face to face with his brother, Jacob bowed to the ground seven times before him, then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. And they both wept (Genesis 33: 3-4).

So, why was Jacob so blessed and favored? What did God see in this mild yet flawed man to bestow such blessings on his life? God had a very special and unique relationship with Jacob. Jacob is even said to have wrestled with God (Genesis 32:24-30). God has an insight and a divine understanding of who we each are. He knew us before we were born. He

## Bible Study

knows our inner most thoughts and ways and He connects with who we are from birth. He works with us through lessons in the ups and downs of life and brings out our best selves, one that is Christ like. As with Jacob, we are each very special to Him and He connects with us all in a unique way. With Jacob it was through an intense overnight struggle until the breaking of day, “a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, Let me go, for the dawn is breaking! But Jacob said, I will not let you go unless you bless me. What is your name? The man asked. He replied, Jacob. Your name will no longer be Jacob, the man told him. From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won” (Genesis 32:24-28). Although this moment between God and Jacob is unparalleled, God does meet us all in our own unique way. He meets us where we are and draws us closer to Him within each moment of life, if we face toward Him.

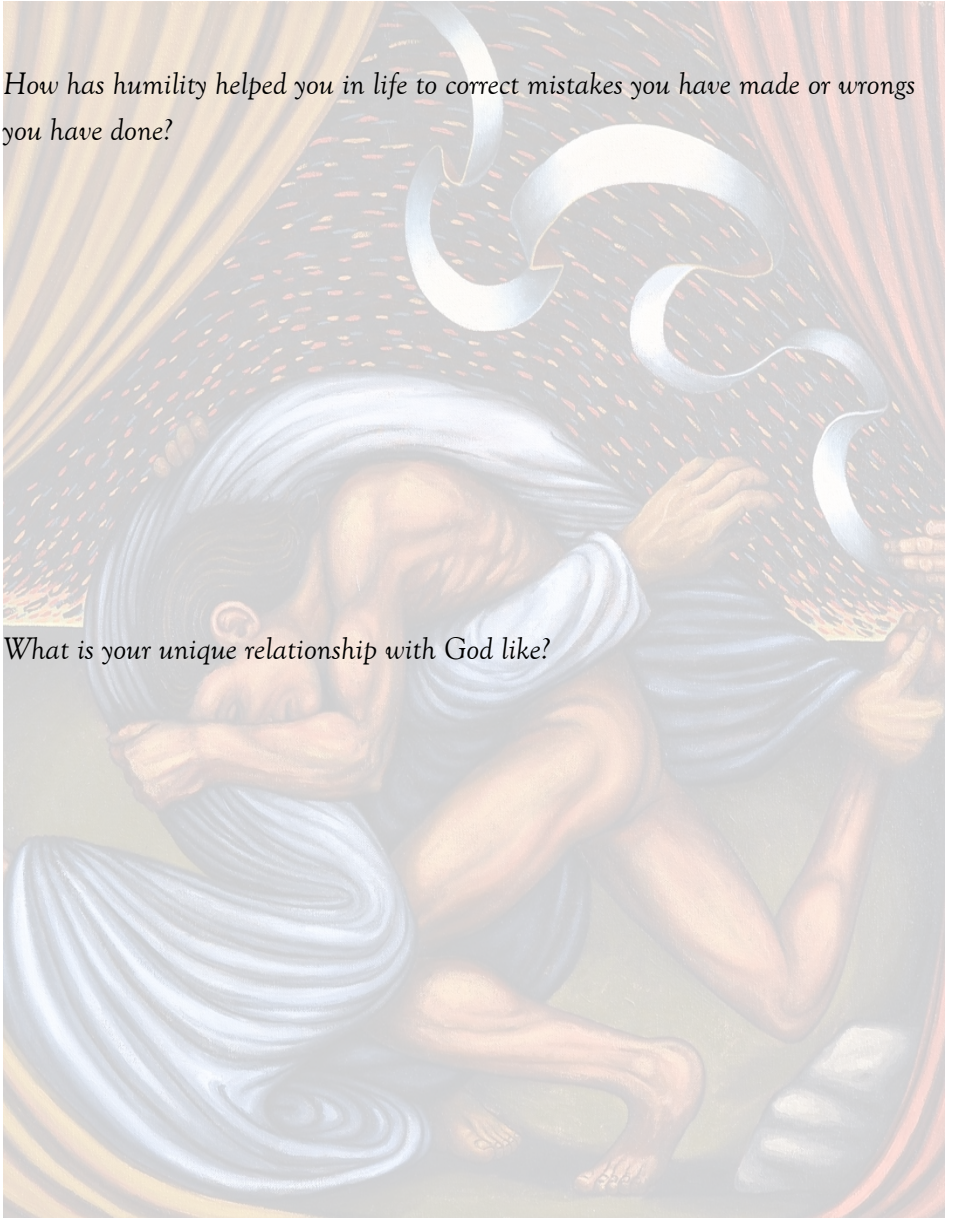
**Take away:** As children of God we are blessed/ It is good to be humble, to recognize when you're wrong, and to submit to mercy and grace/ God connects with each of us in a special and unique way, our special relationship with Him is unparalleled.

## Bible Study

Genesis 31-33

*How has humility helped you in life to correct mistakes you have made or wrongs you have done?*

*What is your unique relationship with God like?*



## Devotional

*Describe the prosperity in your life. How has God blessed you with abundance?*

*Pinpoint the moment you first connected with God. Describe:*



# Lesson: Genesis 34-36

Nations against nations... There have been conflict amongst peoples, tribes, religions, cultures etc. since the dawn of civilization. People who stand strong and proud in their heritage will take a stand to preserve it. Abraham and his descendants were entrusted to follow God in the midst of the pagan nations all around them, and as Abraham's lineage expanded, nations and tribes were formed from his line as well. And so, there were pagan nations with their beliefs, and followers of God, also with their core beliefs and values.

Time and time again, the followers of God are tempted to adopt the way of life of idolatry and are tested with hostility from pagan nations. When Jacob's daughter Dinah was defiled by Shechem the son of Hamor, a Hivite prince of the pagan country, Jacob's sons were furious and plotted to avenge their sister. Shechem's father Hamor tried to speak with Jacob and his sons to persuade them to give Dinah over to them, to live among them, and assimilate into their way of life. Jacob's sons instead took vengeance on behalf of their sister who was defiled, destroying Hamor and Shechem and the city (Genesis 34:7-29). After this conflict, God spoke to Jacob and directed him to move. So Jacob told his family to get rid of all their pagan idols, and purify themselves because they were moving to Bethel where God first answered Jacob's prayers when he was in distress (Genesis 35:2-3).

## Bible Study

God saw that they were becoming too influenced by the pagans they were living amongst and created a way for them to leave. And even when leaving the country, while having to walk through the hostile nations on their path to Bethel, God protected them so no one attacked Jacob's family (Genesis 35:5).

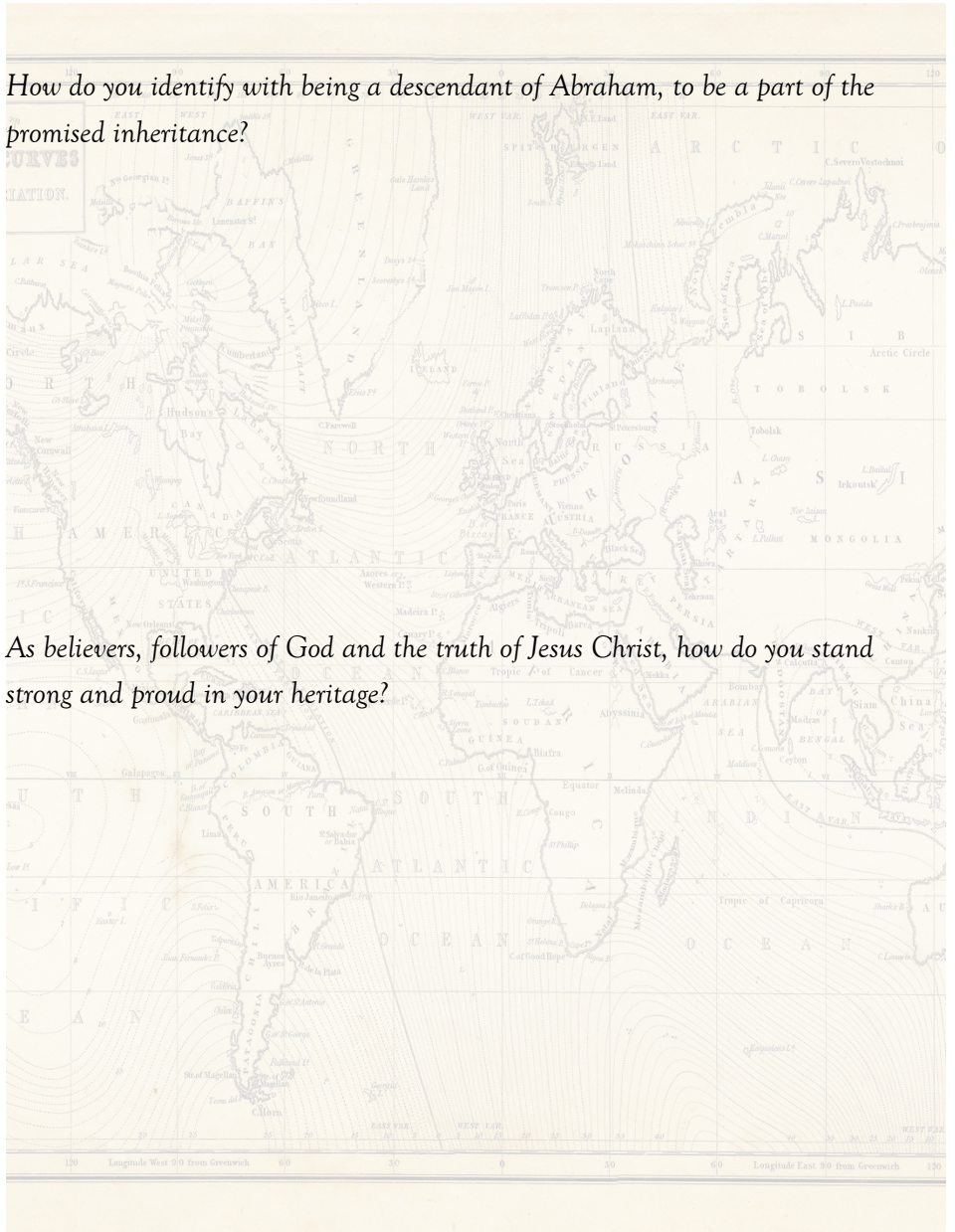
When God renamed Jacob Israel, God said, "I am El-Shaddai- God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply. You will become a great nation, even many nations. Kings will be among your descendants! And I will give you the land I once gave to Abraham and Isaac. Yes, I will give it to you and your descendants after you" (Genesis 35: 11-12). Accordingly, many nations indeed arose from Jacob's descendants, as did the King of all Kings Jesus Christ. Jesus is our glorious inheritance, Emmanuel, God with us. Our identity in Christ and the truth of Jesus Christ is our heritage and in that we stand strong and proud. Our belief as followers of Christ is our nation, and we can feel safe and protected from the hostility, aggression, and fighting around us.

**Take away:** Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are the fathers of many nations/ The followers of God have always faced the struggle of maintaining their faith among pagan influences and idol worshiping nations/ The different beliefs and values of many nations around the world have led to continuous conflicts/ Jesus Christ is our hope and shelter in the midst of these conflicts.

Genesis 34:36

*How do you identify with being a descendant of Abraham, to be a part of the promised inheritance?*

*As believers, followers of God and the truth of Jesus Christ, how do you stand strong and proud in your heritage?*



## Devotional

*What are some difficulties you have experienced with following God and maintaining your faith among influences of non-believers?*

*How do you hold on to your belief and values when your faith is being attacked or tested?*

**Lesson: Genesis 37-39**

God is always with us, and when we draw near to God and are close to Him we can overcome challenges in our lives even in the most dire circumstances.

Jacob had a favorite son named Joseph and he was hated by his brothers because he was thought to be loved more than they were. When Joseph told his brothers about his dream, which depicted his brothers bowing before him, his brothers hated him even more than ever. "Listen to this dream, he said. We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine! His brothers responded, so you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" (Genesis 37: 6-8). The envy that his brothers had for him caused them to plot against Joseph and sold him into slavery (Genesis 37: 18-28).

The men that the brothers sold Joseph to took him to Egypt where he was bought by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt (Genesis 39: 1). Although Joseph was betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery, Joseph found himself in a position where he took advantage of what his brothers set up for evil. Because the Lord was with Joseph, he succeeded in everything he did, even in the midst of bondage.

## Bible Study

Potiphar noticed that the Lord was with Joseph, and this pleased him, so he made Joseph his personal attendant and put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned (Genesis 39: 3-4). “From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished” (Genesis 39:5).

As Joseph was doing exceedingly well in spite of his unfortunate circumstance being away from his home and family and working for Potiphar, he was attacked with even more injustice. The wife of Potiphar falsely accused Joseph of coming into her room to sleep with her, “That Hebrew slave you've brought into our house tried to come in and fool around with me, she said” (Genesis 39: 17). Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph because day after day he refused her persistent request to sleep with him. “Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her. So, he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held” (Genesis 39:19-20). And even there in prison in the middle of his challenge, God's light shined on him for all to see. “The Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison” (Genesis 39: 21-22).

When we are faced with difficulty, in a world where people who we come across may not have the best intentions to treat others fairly, then as children of God, the best thing to do is to be Christ like. We should follow God's example of strength, resilience, goodness, and perseverance. We should be the light of God shining for others to notice and be influenced

### Bible Study

by God's goodness, as it was with Joseph. God was with Joseph and whatever he did, whether in bondage in pharaoh's service or in prison, the Lord made it prosper.

**Take away:** Being close to God makes it possible to rise above challenges, to master situations and turn problems around to your advantage/ Through difficult situations in life such as unfairness and hate we can set good examples for others influence.

*Notes:*

## Bible Study



**Genesis 37-39**

*What are some challenges that you have overcome and prospered through as a result of being close to God?*

*How has envy or jealousy from others impacted your life?*

## Devotional

*Describe a situation in which you succeeded at something that was meant for evil but was turned for good and to your advantage.*

*How has God's goodness toward you influenced others?*

**Lesson: Genesis 40-42**

There are a multitude lessons we can learn from Joseph, one of Jacob's 12 sons. From his ordeal of being sold into slavery by his brothers, and the circumstances that followed, we see hope, faith, endurance, patience, and forgiveness. We see Joseph overcoming trials when the odds were against him, and we see him suffer momentary hardship to be greater in purpose, influence, and strength. We see Joseph continuing to be honorable and doing good even when others disappoint him. We also see that God used something that was meant for evil and turned it into good.

God gave Joseph the spiritual gift to interpret dreams. This ability that Joseph was blessed with allowed him to help others and in turn succeed in his greater God given purpose. When Joseph was in prison he was given charge over the Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer and chief baker who were sent to prison for offending Pharaoh. One day Joseph interpreted their dreams which were causing them some distress, "Why do you look so worried today? He asked them. And they replied, we both had dreams last night, but no one can tell us what they mean. Interpreting dreams is God's business, Joseph replied. Go ahead and tell me your dreams" (Genesis 40:7-8). After interpreting their dreams, Joseph revealed to them that they will be released from prison within 3 days.

## Bible Study

Joseph then asked the cup-bearer to remember him when he is released, “Please remember me and do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place. For I was kidnapped from my homeland, the land of the Hebrews, and now I'm here in prison, but I did nothing to deserve it” (Genesis 40: 14-15). When Joseph's interpretation correctly came true and they were released from prison 3 days later, the chief cup-bearer forgot all about Joseph, and never gave him another thought (Genesis 40:23).

Two years later, it so happened that the Pharaoh became very distressed by dreams he had. The Pharaoh called for all the wise men of Egypt to help interpret his dreams, but they could not. Finally, the king's Chief cup-bearer remembered Joseph, “Today I have been reminded of my failure, he told Pharaoh.” “There was a young Hebrew man with us in the prison who was a slave of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he told us what each of our dreams meant. And everything happened just as he had predicted” (Genesis 41:9-13). Upon hearing this, the Pharaoh sent for Joseph and Joseph went about correctly interpreting the dreams, first saying to the Pharaoh, “it is beyond my power to do this, but God can tell you what it means and set you at ease” (Genesis 41:16). Joseph revealed to Pharaoh that his dreams meant that there will be seven years of prosperity followed by seven years of famine throughout the land. Joseph stated, “this will happen just as I have described it, for God has revealed to Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do” (Genesis 41:28). Joseph also advised that Pharaoh find a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the entire land of Egypt. Joseph gave Pharaoh specific advice on how to avoid the foretold famine. “Joseph's suggestions were well received by Pharaoh and his officials. So, Pharaoh asked his officials, can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God? Then

## Bible Study

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne will have a rank higher than yours. Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt'" (Genesis 41: 37-41).

As Joseph predicted, the land was prosperous for seven years followed by famine. Joseph, however, was prepared because, as he was in charge of the land, he stored huge amounts of grain during the prosperous years in preparation for the famine. The famine affected Egypt's surrounding countries also but there were plenty of food in Egypt because of Joseph. People from the surrounding countries had to travel to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph.

Joseph's brothers were affected by the famine, and these same brothers that threw him into slavery, had to travel to Egypt to buy grain. "Since Joseph was governor of all Egypt and in charge of selling grain to all the people, it was to him that his brothers came. When they arrived, they bowed before him with their faces to the ground" (Genesis 42:7), just as Joseph's dream depicted before he was betrayed by his brothers.

Joseph was strengthened tremendously through his trial. He went from being a naive young man to a discerning, tactful, and powerful authority, working on God's behalf. Joseph's God given spiritual gift put him in a position of influence because he was known to be close to God and that the Lord was with him in whatever he did. He faced challenges and rose to meet them, in turn strengthening his skills and abilities. This ultimately led to great success in his time as governor over the land of Egypt.

**Take away:** We are given spiritual gifts by God to help each other for a

## Bible Study

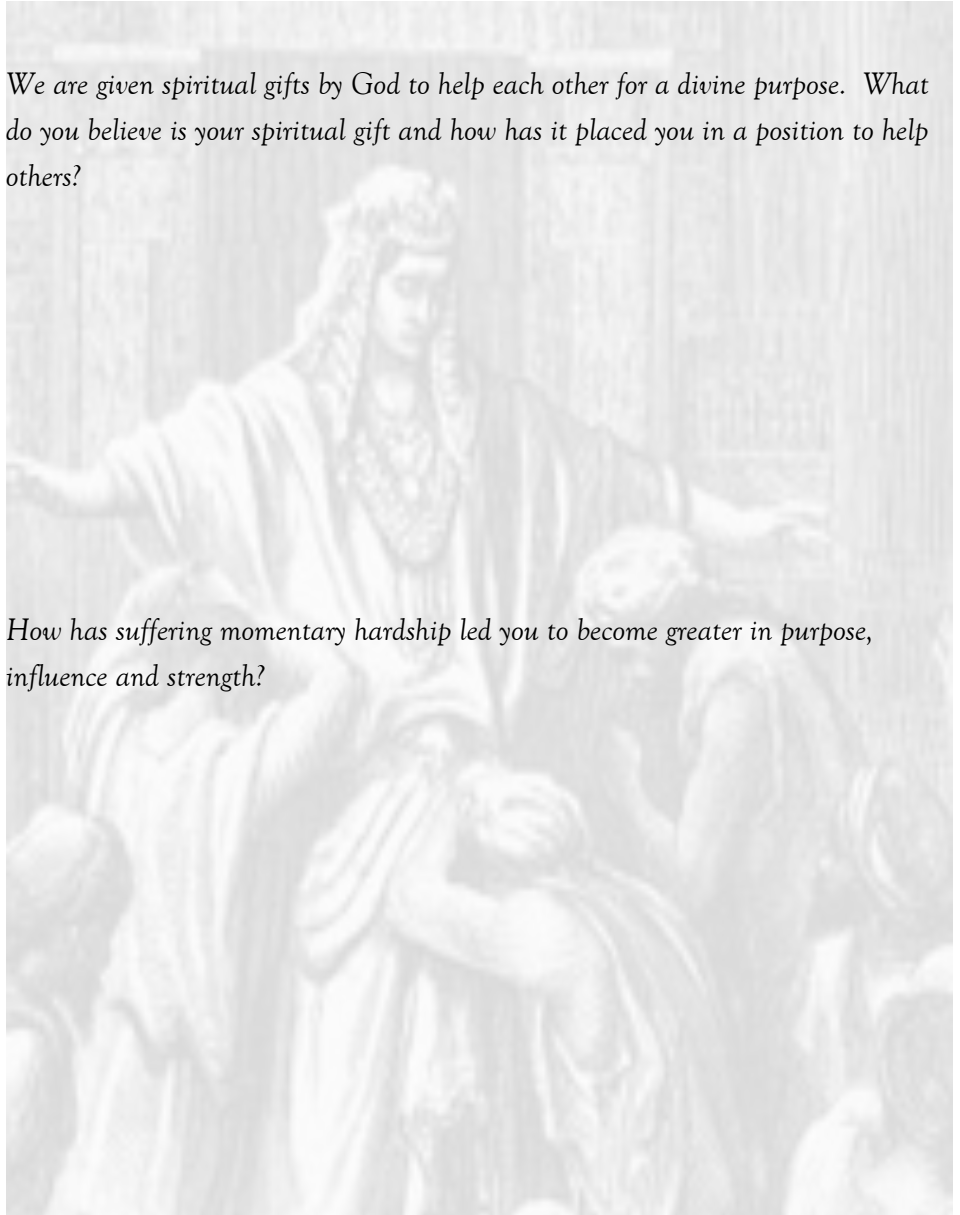
divine purpose/ God can do great works through us to prove who He is to others/ God will grow us through challenges and trials and reinforce our strengths/ All things work together for good and everything happens for a reason.

*Notes:*

Genesis 40-42

*We are given spiritual gifts by God to help each other for a divine purpose. What do you believe is your spiritual gift and how has it placed you in a position to help others?*

*How has suffering momentary hardship led you to become greater in purpose, influence and strength?*



## Devotional

*What do you now understand after enduring a trial that you didn't know before?*

*How has God reinforced your strengths, making you less naïve and more discerning, tactful, and a powerful authority, working on God's behalf?*



Lesson: Genesis 43-46

Knowing who you are in Christ, understanding your purpose, and trusting God that all things work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose, are extremely important for mastering challenges and also important for overcoming the binding emotions of anger, fear, bitterness, jealousy, powerlessness, envy, inadequacy, unforgiveness, and the like.

In these chapters we see how Joseph showed remarkable forgiveness and compassion to his brothers who sold him into slavery because they envied him. Because of his brothers' jealousy toward him, Joseph suffered hardship and the burden of being away from his home. He was taken away from his father who loved him, unfairly put in prison, punished, and betrayed, because of his brothers' evil intentions. Joseph, however, knew that God was with him. Joseph had trust in God, obeyed God's guidance in fulfilling his purpose, and proved God's greatness to everyone who saw that God was with him. The forgiveness and compassion Joseph showed to his brothers came from a place of knowing God's love and standing strong and secure in the truth of God's love for him. This freed him from feelings of fear and powerlessness during his trial, and freed him from anger and unforgiveness toward his brothers.

## Bible Study

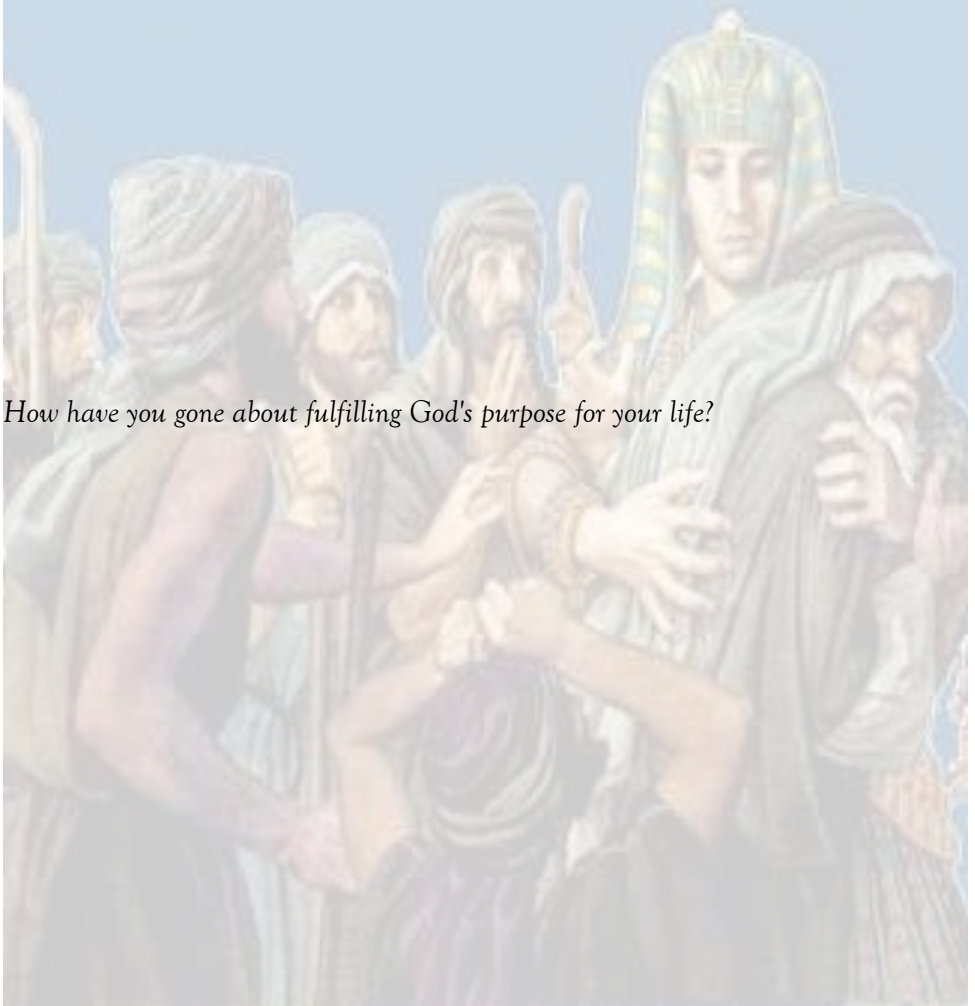
When Joseph, who rose from prisoner to now governor of Egypt, revealed who he was to his brothers, he said, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. So, it was God who sent me here, not you! And He is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh- the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt” (Genesis 45: 4-8). What an incredible awareness and understanding Joseph had of God's glory. Joseph was blessed with greatness, ultimately- becoming a ruler to help others, being reunited with his family and having their love and respect, having sons of his own, being prosperous, and a blessing to others.

**Take away: Mastering challenges and overcoming the bondage of fear, anger, and unforgiveness, among others, means standing strong in knowing that you are a precious child of God that is continuously being made greater and greater in every moment for a divine purpose.**

**Genesis 43-46**

*Are you listening to God? Are you keenly aware of His Guidance in your life?  
Have you connected with God in such a way that you have identified the purpose  
He has for your life? Describe:*

*How have you gone about fulfilling God's purpose for your life?*




## Devotional

*How have feelings like anger, fear, bitterness, powerlessness, inadequacy, and unforgiveness, impacted your life?*

*Knowing who you are in Christ and knowing God's love for you, allows you to master and overcome challenges. How do you stand strong in knowing that you are a precious child of God and how is this truth expressed in your life?*


## Bible Study

### Lesson: Genesis 47-50



Jacob moves to Egypt with his twelve sons and all their family. Before he moved to Egypt God spoke to Jacob in a vision saying, “I am God, the God of your father, He said. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there” (Genesis: 46:3). So Jacob followed God's direction and went down to Egypt to be with his son Joseph who God had made prosperous, favored, and influential in Egypt.

Knowing what we know about the bondage suffered by the Hebrews in Egypt, one would say, why would God move His people to Egypt, and why would He say I will make you a great nation there, when they ended up in slavery? Well, what does it mean to be great? Great means: large in numbers; numerous, considerable in power, notable, exceptionally outstanding, distinguished, important, much in use or favor, etc., and what builds greatness is strength through overcoming obstacles and conquering the enemy. That the children of Israel indeed did with the Exodus.



## Bible Study

In these chapters we see the Israelites settle into Egypt, Pharaoh welcomed them, and they were given the best of the land to dwell in as a family, “the people of Israel settled in the region of Goshen in Egypt. There they acquired property, and they were fruitful, and their population grew rapidly” (Genesis 47:27). And shortly before Jacob's death he told his son Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me. He said to me, I will make you fruitful, and I will multiply your descendants. I will make you a multitude of nations” (Genesis 48:3).

Jacob and his sons, the twelve tribes of Israel, indeed became a great nation. Through the tribe of Judah and the line of King David, Jesus Christ, Messiah, was given to us. Through their descendants came Jesus who is our saving grace, our Savior, our redeemer, and we conquer the evil plan of the enemy, through the blood of Jesus Christ.

**Take away: Through God's plan, His people were strengthened and became a great nation. A nation whose descendants led to the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.**

*Notes:*

**Genesis 47-50**

*God's purpose for your life is great. How do you know this?*



*God has a plan for your life. How do you know this?*

## Devotional

*To be great you have to overcome obstacles. How do you know this from examples in your life?*

*To know who you are and to understand your purpose you have to connect to God. What is your practice for doing this?*



# Pray/ Meditate/ Journal

*Based on what you've learned in the Bible study chapters and the devotional, make the requests of your heart known to God*



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## Capture/Vision

*Identify an overarching message for yourself from the book of Genesis.  
Use this message to create a daily vision for your future.*

## Planner

## Planner

My overarching message from the book of Genesis (*write the overarching message you captured*):

How will this overarching message from the book of Genesis impact my vision for my future?

What is the one thing I can do this **year** to align with my vision, based on this message?

What is the one thing I can do this **month** to align with my vision, based on this message?

## Planner

What is the one thing I can do this <i><b>week</b></i> to align with my vision, based on this message?	
What is the one thing I can do <i><b>today</b></i> to align with my vision, based on this message?	
What is the one thing I can do right <i><b>now</b></i> to align with my vision, based on this message?	

## Planner

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