STUDY GUIDE 11

Genesis 35 & 36

Study warm up: What’s the best way to recover from failure – your own or someone else’s?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Take a moment before you dig into the Text to prayerfully ponder qualities of God that are especially meaningful to you.

Psalm 105:4-6
Seek the Lord and His strength;
Seek His face continually.
Remember His wonders which He has done,
His marvels and the judgments spoken by His mouth,
You descendants of Abraham, His servant,
You sons of Jacob, His chosen ones!

1. Review page 10-1 from this Study Guide. Jacob is near Shechem, but where is he supposed to be? _________________________

Skim Genesis 34 to refresh the events preceding chapter 35.

2. With what you have observed of Jacob since we first met him in chapter 25 and his encounters with God (Genesis 28:10-17, 31:3, 32:24-32) thus far, what’s your evaluation of Jacob’s personal progress/character development?

Read Genesis 35. (Skim Genesis 36, and when you’ve completed the study of chapter 35, review the chart summary of chapter 36 on page 11-11.)

3. Briefly summarize what happens in each section. (Please include details on item c.)
   a. Genesis 35:1-4

   b. Genesis 35:5-8
c. Genesis 35:9-15 (Include everything God reaffirms.)

d. Genesis 35:16-21 (if needed, use the information here to complete your chart on page 6-2.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name Meaning</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allon-bacuth</td>
<td>a monumental tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben-oni</td>
<td>son of my sorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>son of the right hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>house of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canaan</td>
<td>lowland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah</td>
<td>bee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eder</td>
<td>tower of the flock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephrath</td>
<td>ash heap: place of fruitfulness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>God prevails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob</td>
<td>heel holder, supplanter, layer of snares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luz</td>
<td>almond tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shechem</td>
<td>back, shoulder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

e. Genesis 35:22-26

f. Genesis 35:27-29

**INTERPRETATION** – Lord, help me to understand it.

Let’s explore two themes present in this chapter: *covenant* and *worship*.

4. ___ Review the paragraphs about covenant on pages 1-1 and 1-2 of Study Guide 1.

Jacob/Israel seemed to reach a pivotal moment in chapter 33 after his encounter with Esau when he named the altar he built, El-Elohe-Israel (God, the God, of Israel.) The horrible events of chapter 34 could have easily wrecked any hope for Jacob’s family, but our covenant-keeping God steps in once again.
5. What does God reassert with Jacob in Genesis 35:9-12?

6. This next exercise might seem a little taxing, but try to approach it with a sense of wonder about our God, Whom from the beginning, provided a means to restore humanity and creation to Himself. Review the following verses and trace the Abrahamic Covenant starting from the Fall in the Garden of Eden. Mark any references to God’s mention of the Abrahamic Covenant elements (Seed, nation, land) and make any notes of things that stand out to you.

**Tracing the Abrahamic Covenant: Seed – Nation – Land**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genesis 3:15</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 And I will make enemies Of you and the woman, And of your offspring and his descendant; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel,”</td>
<td>literally, “Seed” The promised Seed that will defeat the serpent!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genesis 12:1-4</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you into a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”</td>
<td>Abram, 75 years V1, 4: LORD = YHWH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genesis 13:1-17</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now raise your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward, and eastward and westward; 15 for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants forever. 16 I will make your descendants as plentiful as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can count the dust of the earth, then your descendants could also be counted. 17 Arise, walk about in the land through its length and width; for I will give it to you.”</td>
<td>V14: LORD = YHWH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genesis 15</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.” 2 But Abram said, “Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 Abram also said, “Since You have given me no son, one who has been born in my house is my heir.” 4 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one</td>
<td>V1, 4, 18: LORD = YHWH v2, 8: Lord God = Andonai YHWH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
who will come from your own body shall be your heir.” 5 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He credited it to him as righteousness. 7 And He said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it.” 8 But he said, “Lord GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?” 9 So He said to him, “Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” 10 Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds. 11 And birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away.

12 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. 13 Then God said to Abram, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. 14 But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. 15 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. 16 Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the wrongdoing of the Amorite is not yet complete.”

17 Now it came about, when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, a smoking oven and a flaming torch appeared which passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying,

“To your descendants I have given this land,
From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:
the land of the Kenite, the Kenizzite, the Kadmonite,
the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Rephaim, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Girgashite, and the Jebusite.”

Genesis 16:15, 16
15 So Hagar bore a son to Abram; and Abram named his son, to whom Hagar gave birth, Ishmael. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

Genesis 17:1-8, 17-19
Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,

“I am God Almighty;
Walk before Me, and be blameless.
2 I will make My covenant between Me and you,
And I will multiply you exceedingly.”

3 Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,

“As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you,
And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.
4 No longer shall you be named Abram,
But your name shall be Abraham;
For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.
5 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. 6 I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations as an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. 7 And I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land where you live as a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

…

15 Then God said to Abraham, “As for your wife Sarai, you shall not call her by the name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”
17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man a hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, give birth to a child?” 18 And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before You!” 19 But God said, “No, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

When the LORD renames Abram and Sarai, he gives a piece of His name to each of them:

- **YHWH** (יהוה) → ** Abram** (אברם) (exalted father)
- **Sarah** (שרה) → **Isaac** (אליakin) (father of nations)

(Hebrew reads from right to left!)

(ah sound is added!)

Genesis 18:10
10 He said, “I will certainly return to you at this time next year; and behold, your wife Sarah will have a son.”

Genesis 21:1-13
Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the **LORD** did for Sarah as He had promised. 2 So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him. 3 Abraham named his son who was born to him, the son whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac. 4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5 Now Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. 6 Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” 7 And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have given birth to a son in his old age.”

8 And the child grew and was weaned, and Abraham held a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

9 Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking Isaac. 10 Therefore she said to Abraham, “Drive out this slave woman and her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be an heir with my son Isaac!” 11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son Ishmael. 12 But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and your slave woman; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.

Genesis 22:9-18
9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 And Abraham reached out with his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the **LORD** called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12 He said, “Do not reach out your hand against the boy, and do not do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in the place of his son. 14 And Abraham named that place The **LORD** Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “On the mountain of the **LORD** it will be provided.”

15 Then the angel of the **LORD** called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the **LORD**, because you have done this...
thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand, which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

**Genesis 25:21-23**

21 Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was unable to have children; and the LORD answered him, and his wife Rebekah conceived. 22 But the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If it is so, why am I in this condition?” So she went to inquire of the LORD. 23 And the LORD said to her,

“All nations are in your womb; And two peoples will be separated from your body; And one people will be stronger than the other; And the older will serve the younger.”

**Genesis 26:1-5**

Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines. 2 And the LORD appeared to him and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. 3 Live for a time in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. 4 I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, 5 because Abraham obeyed Me and fulfilled his duty to Me, and kept My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

**Genesis 35:9-12**

9 Then God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him. 10 God said to him,

“Your name is Jacob; You shall no longer be called Jacob, But Israel shall be your name.”

So He called him Israel. 11 God also said to him,

“I am God Almighty; Be fruitful and multiply; A nation and a multitude of nations shall come from you, And kings shall come from you. 12 And the land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give to you, And I will give the land to your descendants after you.”

When the God renames Jacob, part of the new name, Israel, includes a piece of God’s name:

God (Elohim) (God (plural)) Ἰσραήλ
Israel (God prevails) יִשְׂרָאֵל

Now summarize in a few sentences any impressions that reviewing these verses has given you about God, covenant, etc.
7. Recall what Jacob did at Bethel in Genesis 28:18, and compare it to what he does in 35:14. (There is a similarity and a difference.)

These are the only mentions of oil in Genesis. Oil became an important part of the Israelites’ lives and rituals. Let’s take a look at the different uses of oil to determine Jacob’s intentions.

8. Review the following cross references, and complete the table below:
(A couple of the references pertain to the Levitical sacrifice system. An overview of the five voluntary offerings is on page 11-10. For this question it is helpful to notice how the Grain Offering differed from the others.)

From dictionary.com:

**anoint** [uh-noint’] *verb*
1) to rub or sprinkle on; apply an unguent, ointment or oily liquid to.
2) to smear with any liquid.
3) to consecrate or make sacred in a ceremony that includes the token applying of oil.
4) to dedicate to the service of God.

**consecrate** [kon’-si-kreyt] *verb*
1) to make or declare sacred; set apart for dedicate to the service of a deity.
2) to make (something) an object of honor or veneration; hallow.
3) to devote or dedicate to some purpose.
4) to admit or ordain to a sacred office, especially to the episcopate.
5) to change (bread and wine) into the Eucharist.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oil? Yes/No</th>
<th>If oil was used in the situation, how was it used and for what purpose? If oil was forbidden, why?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>Exodus 29:21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>Leviticus 2:1-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>---</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>Leviticus 5:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>Leviticus 8:10-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>Numbers 8:11-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>2 Kings 9:2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>Psalm 23:5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>Now review (in context) once more Jacob’s use of oil in Genesis 28:18 and 35:14. What is Jacob signifying and recognizing by pouring the oil on the stones?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Take another look at verse 22 and recall some past details that aren’t mentioned here: (your chart on page 6-2 may help.)
   a. Reuben’s mother is: ______________
   b. Reuben is _____ in the birth order of Jacob’s sons.
   c. Bilhah is ________’s servant.
   d. Given that verse 22 happens after the death of Rachel, what is Reuben trying to assert? Leviticus 20:11 may help. (Also, comment on the state of Jacob’s family’s disfunction at this time, on the heels of the events of chapter 34.)
APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

10. With chapter 34 in mind, reflect on the sequence of events in verses 1-21 of chapter 35: God tells Jacob to go to Bethel to live and set up an altar ➔ Jacob instructs his household to purify themselves ➔ Jacob’s company safely travels to Bethel ➔ God appears to Jacob at Bethel and reaffirms the Abrahamic Covenant with him ➔ Jacob worships. What, if any, of Jacob’s actions as an example to recover from our own failures?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) In the New Testament, oil is often a symbol of the Holy Spirit. In Luke 4:18-21, Jesus reads from the Isaiah scroll in the Nazareth synagogue that, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor….” In 1 Corinthians 20:21, 22, Paul says “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.” Since believers are anointed (consecrated, dedicated to God’s service) with the Spirit, how then shall we live?

II) Jesus’ blood at the cross is associated with a drink offering (Luke 22:20) and the Last Supper is a covenant meal; today when we partake of communion we do so in remembrance of His atoning work on the cross. How has the study of covenant and worship in this guide informed your understanding of communion?

III) In ancient Rome, the victor in an athletic contest received a white stone engraved with his name; this stone was his admission ticket to the awards banquet. In Revelation 2:17, Christ gives the overcomer a white stone with a new name written on it. What might the white stone of Revelation 2:17 signify for the follower of Jesus?
Five Voluntary Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offerings</th>
<th>Purpose(s)</th>
<th>Notes about the offering:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Burnt Offering** | - Atonement for sins                | - Male animal without defect from the herd or flock. (Dove or pigeon also allowed.)  
- Worshipper places his hand on the animal’s head, imputing his sin to it.  
- Worshippers slays the animal; Levitical priests sprinkle the blood on the brazen altar.  
- Worshippers skins the animal and cuts it into pieces.  
- Priests burn pieces (entrails and legs washed first) on altar.  
- Accompanied by drink offering.  
- Priests allowed to keep the animal skin. |
| Leviticus 1        |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| **Grain Offering** | - Acknowledge God’s provision        | - Unleavened cakes of fine flour mixed with oil or unleavened wafers spread with oil. Accompanied by drink offering.  
- Priest offers up a memorial portion (handful) of the offering on the altar; the remainder belongs to the priests.  
- May not contain leaven or honey. Must contain salt. |
| Leviticus 2        | - Worship                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                    | - Remembrance                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| **Peace Offering** | - Thanksgiving                      | - Male or female animal without defect from the herd or flock.  
- Worshipper lays his hand on the animal’s head and slays it.  
- Priests sprinkle the blood on the brazen altar.  
- Priests burn the fat, entrails, kidneys, liver on the altar.  
- Priests may eat the breast and thigh meat.  
- Flesh of the offering was a meal for the conflicting parties as a sign of their commitment to their mutual well-being.  
- If offered for Thanksgiving, could include bread.  
- If presented as a vow offering, the flesh must be eaten the same day or the next. Leftovers are burned on the third day. |
| Leviticus 3        | - Vow                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                    | - Wave                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                    | - Freewill                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| **Sin Offering**   | - Atonement for unintentional sins  | - a.k.a. Purification Offering.  
- Bull without defect. (Dove/pigeon or flour allowed for poor.)  
- Worshippers places his hand on the bull’s head, imputing his sin to it. Worshippers then slays the bull.  
- Priest brings some of the blood into the tent of meeting; dips his finger in the blood and sprinkles it 7 times before the veil of the sanctuary.  
- Priest also puts blood on the horns of the altar; the remaining blood is poured out on the base of the altar  
- Priests burn fat, kidneys and liver on the altar.  
- Bull’s hide and flesh are burned outside the camp. |
| Leviticus 4        | - Purification                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| **Guilt Offering** | - Reparation for one’s sin          | - a.k.a. Trespass Offering or the Reparation Offering.  
- Ram without defect from the flock.  
- Could be paid in silver.  
- A 20% fee went to the priest who handled the offering.  
- Priest sprinkled ram’s blood around the altar.  
- Priest burned ram’s fat, kidney, and liver on the altar.  
- Priests permitted to eat the flesh. |
| Leviticus 5        |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
Chart Summary of Genesis 36

Chief of Edom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adah</td>
<td>ornament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amalek</td>
<td>dweller in a valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basemath</td>
<td>spice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliphaz</td>
<td>my God is gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esau</td>
<td>hairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gatam</td>
<td>a burnt valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaalam</td>
<td>concealed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeush</td>
<td>assembler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenaz</td>
<td>hunter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korah</td>
<td>bald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mizzah</td>
<td>fear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nahath</td>
<td>rest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oholibamah</td>
<td>tent of high place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omar</td>
<td>speaker, eloquent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reuel</td>
<td>friend of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shammah</td>
<td>astonishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teman</td>
<td>south</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timna</td>
<td>restrained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zepho</td>
<td>watch-tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zerah</td>
<td>rising</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary:
The sons of Esau became the Edomites. They lived in the hill country of Seir, named after Seir the Horite. According to Deuteronomy 2:12, 22 the Edomites took over the territory from the Horites.

Question 5c from Study Guide 3 contains a timeline of some of the interactions the Israelites had with the Edomites.

The chart on this page shows the origin of the Amalekites. The Amalekites were a long-term enemy of the Israelites. The Amalekites were the first enemy the Hebrews encountered in the exodus from Egypt (Exodus 17, ~1400BC.).

Haman the Agagite (the troublemaker in the book of Esther, ~475BC) was a descendant of Amalek.
Scripture for Guide 11

- **Exodus 29:21**
  Then you shall take some of the blood that is on the altar and some of the anointing oil, and sprinkle it on Aaron and on his garments, and on his sons and on his sons’ garments with him; so he and his garments shall be consecrated, as well as his sons and his sons’ garments with him.

- **Leviticus 2:1-10**
  ‘Now when anyone presents a grain offering as an offering to the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour, and he shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it. 2 He shall then bring it to Aaron’s sons the priests; and he shall take from it his handful of its fine flour and of its oil, with all of its frankincense. And the priest shall offer it up in smoke as its memorial portion on the altar, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD. 3 The remainder of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons: a most holy part of the offerings to the LORD by fire.
  4 ‘Now when you bring an offering of a grain offering baked in an oven, it shall be unleavened cakes of fine flour mixed with oil, or unleavened wafers spread with oil.
  5 And if your offering is a grain offering made on the griddle, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened, mixed with oil; 6 you shall break it into bits and pour oil on it; it is a grain offering. 7 Now if your offering is a grain offering made in a pan, it shall be made of fine flour with oil.
  8 When you bring in the grain offering which is made of these things to the LORD, it shall be presented to the priest, and he shall bring it to the altar. 9 The priest then shall take up from the grain offering its memorial portion, and shall offer it up in smoke on the altar as an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD. 10 The remainder of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons: a most holy part of the offerings to the LORD by fire.

- **Leviticus 5:11**
  ‘But if his means are insufficient for two turtledoves or two young doves, then for his offering for that which he has sinned, he shall bring the tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a sin offering; he shall not put oil on it or place incense on it, for it is a sin offering.

- **Leviticus 8:10-13**
  10 Moses then took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and everything that was in it, and consecrated
them. 11 He also sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times and anointed the altar and all its utensils, and the basin and its stand, to consecrate them. 12 Then he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron’s head and anointed him, to consecrate him. 13 Next Moses had Aaron’s sons come near, and he clothed them with tunics and wrapped their waists with sashes, and bound caps on them, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Numbers 8:11-15
11 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 12 “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘If any man’s wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him, 13 and a man has sexual relations with her and it is hidden from the eyes of her husband and she remains undiscovered, although she has defiled herself, and there is no witness against her and she has not been caught in the act, 14 if an attitude of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife when she has defiled herself, or if an attitude of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife when she has not defiled herself, 15 the man shall then bring his wife to the priest, and shall bring as an offering for her a tenth of an ephah of barley meal; he shall not pour oil on it nor put frankincense on it, because it is a grain offering of jealousy, a grain offering of reminder, a reminder of wrongdoing.

2 Kings 9:2-4
2 When you arrive there, then look there for Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in and have him get up from among his brothers, and bring him to an inner room. 3 Then take the flask of oil and pour it on his head, and say, ‘This is what the LORD says: “I have anointed you king over Israel.”’ Then open the door and flee, and do not wait.”

Psalm 23:5
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

Leviticus 20:11
If there is a man who sleeps with his father’s wife, he has uncovered his father’s nakedness. Both of them must be put to death, they have brought their own deaths upon themselves. (“uncovered his father’s nakedness” is to dishonor the father)
This page intentionally left blank.
Study warm-up: When you think about how God views you – cleansed from sin, His child, His chosen, His beloved, righteous, holy, to name just a few – are there truths that are difficult to accept as true? What lies are easier to believe instead?

Observation – Lord, help me to discover it!

As you enter your time of study, ask the Spirit to reveal God’s truth to you.

1 John 2:20
And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him remains in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you remain in Him.

Jacob’s eleventh son Joseph, the first son born of his beloved Rachel, will shortly become the primary character of the Genesis narrative. As we journey with Joseph, keep an eye out for the ways Joseph’s life and character remind you of Jesus Christ’s.

Read Genesis 37.

1. Reread Genesis 37 and list how the various family members viewed Joseph.

2. How did Joseph view his brothers?
3. Record your observations about Joseph’s two dreams. Include whom Joseph tells and their response.

Sheaves Dream | Sun, Moon, and Stars Dream

4. From Genesis 37:12-17, note the places Joseph travels, then find these locations on the map provided with your study packet.

(starting location) → →

5. What happens in Genesis 37:18-28? (Be sure to capture what Reuben and Judah each do and say.)
6. Finally, what happens in Genesis 37:29-36? Be sure to capture Reuben’s reaction and the falsehood the brothers perpetrate on their father and how they do that. (If anything else in particular snags your attention, note what it is and why it stands out to you.)

---

**INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.**

7. What do Joseph’s dreams indicate? Why does his family react to them as they do?

---

8. Considering all that you know about this family and Jacob’s life story, are the events in this chapter surprising or par-for-the-course? Explain. (What, if any, generational sin has Jacob passed on to his sons?)

---

9. What effects do you expect the deception (of verses 31-33) to have on the lives of:
   a) the brothers (who perpetrated it)?
b) Jacob (who believed it)?

c) Joseph (a victim of it)?

In an 1855 sermon Charles Spurgeon said, “If you want truth to go round the world you must hire an express train to pull it; but if you want a lie to go round the world, it will fly; it is as light as a feather, and a breath will carry it. It is well said in the old proverb, ‘A lie will go round the world while truth is pulling its boots on.’”

10. There is no mention of God in chapter 37, but how do you see Him at work?

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

11. Look over the chapter one more time to identify when the brothers sinned against Joseph. How does this inform you to deal with your own sin?

12. What lies (if any) periodically run through your mind about God or yourself? (“God can’t really forgive me for ____.” “I have no self-control.” “God can’t use me for ____.”
“Nobody sees me.”) What Truth counters those lies? How can you combat the lies when they begin to replay themselves?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:
I) What do you make of Reuben’s actions in this chapter, given his behavior in Genesis 35:22?
II) Considering the response Joseph’s brothers had to hearing of the first dream, why do you think Joseph shared the second dream with them?
III) What about Joseph’s situation parallels Jesus’ life? What of Joseph’s character (in this chapter) is similar/different to Jesus’?

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Study warm-up:  Have you experienced disappointment that later turned out to be exactly what you needed?  What happened?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Ask our wonderful Father to fill your mind with wonder at the ways in which He works.

*John 1:16*

For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

Read Genesis 38.

1. Let’s step through the Text again:
   a) ___Locate Adullam on the map provided with your study packet.
   b) Complete the spaces (★) of the family tree:

   ![Family Tree Diagram]

   **Name Meanings**
   - Adullam – justice of the people
   - Canaan – zealous
   - Chezib – false
   - Enaim – place of a fountain
   - Er – awake
   - Hirah – a noble family
   - Judah – praise
   - Onan – strong
   - Perez – breach
   - Shelah – a petition
   - Shua – wealth
   - Tamar – palm tree
   - Timnah – portion
   - Zerah – rising

   With wife, daughter of _____

   Marries _______________

   Born at Chezib (Achziv), about 3 miles to the southwest of Adullam.
c) To the right of Er and Onan’s names on the family tree, note what happens to each of them.

d) List everything you observe about Tamar from verses 6-14.

e) Summarize what transpires from Genesis 38:15-30.

**INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.**

Reviewing a few of cultural concepts will help in understanding this chapter. We need to have in mind a few concepts:
- Sons – their role and value in a family
- Firstborn and birthright together with levirate marriage
- Women in an honor/shame culture
- Kinsman-Redeemer
Sons

The Hebrew word for son is *ben*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nun</th>
<th>Beit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seed, fish/life, continue</td>
<td>Tent, house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Hebrew word for daughter is *baht/bath*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chet</th>
<th>Beit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To protect, grace, quiet &amp; secure, fence</td>
<td>Tent, house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bible translators often translate *ben* as *children* rather than son/sons, but there are other Hebrew words for the words *child/children*, such as *taph*. Note what the letters for *ben* represent.

2. Consider the following cross-references and note what you learn about the value of sons in biblical times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implications about sons:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Destitute Naomi returns to her people after having lost her husband and both of her adult sons in the land of Moab. She tells the town people to call her Moira, which means <em>bitterness</em>. Her daughter-in-law Ruth, who accompanies her, finds a kinsman-redeemer in Boaz. After Ruth and Boaz marry and have a son, the townswomen celebrate with Naomi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ruth 4:14, 15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Then the women said to Naomi, &quot;Blessed is the Lord who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel. 15 May he also be to you a restorer of life and a sustainer of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) <strong>Genesis 30:1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Now when Rachel saw that she had not borne Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister; and she said to Jacob, “Give me children, or else I am going to die.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literally: “Give me <em>ben</em>…”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Absalom, the third son of King David, who launched a failed coup against his father, is recorded as having three sons and one daughter (2 Samuel 14:27). The verse which follows may describe an event that happened before the birth of his sons or it may suggest that his sons did not survive into adulthood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 Samuel 18:18</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up for himself a memorial stone, which is in the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
King’s Valley, for he said, “I have no son to continue my name.” So he named the memorial stone after his own name, and it is called Absalom’s Monument to this day.

d) Psalm 127:3-5

3 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.  
4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
So are the children of one’s youth.  
5 Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them;  
They will not be ashamed  
When they speak with their enemies in the gate.

The Hebrew word translated as children in these verses is ben.

e) How does the value of sons impact our narrative for Judah? For Tamar?

Firstborn and Birthright Together with Levirate Marriage

In a levirate marriage, a childless widow marries the brother of her late husband. The union is intended to provide her a son, an heir in her late husband’s place.

3. We touched on this in Study Guide 1, but look again at Deuteronomy 21:15-17. Now read Deuteronomy 25:5-10 with Judah’s family tree in mind. How do the concepts concerning inheritance factor into our narrative for Onan? For Tamar?
Women in an Honor/Shame Culture
4. Review the section Understanding Honor/Shame Culture at the end of Study Guide 5 and the section Women and Honor in the interpretation portion of Study Guide 10. Compare (and contrast) the behavior of Judah and Tamar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judah</th>
<th>Tamar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Kinsman Redeemer
Once Tamar married Er, she belonged to the family of Judah. Upon the death of Er, Onan was expected to act as ga’al, or kinsman-redeemer to Tamar. With a kinsman-redeemer Tamar would be spared from a life of destitution and shame. Ideally, she would be a mother to a son who would provide for her in her old age and he would inherit all that would have been her late husband’s. Without a kinsman-redeemer, Tamar had no hope and her late husband had no legacy.

A kinsman-redeemer was to act out of love and loyalty to his relative.

5. Tamar didn’t have a willing ga’al in Onon; she remedied her situation in the only way within her power. The Word doesn’t provide us with information about the remainder of her life, but what do you speculate her life was like? (Think about how she would be viewed by Judah’s relatives and by the Canaanite women in the land.)
6. Read Matthew 1:1-11 and see Figure 13-1 at the end of this study guide. How did God view Tamar? How did He honor/redeem her?

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

7. Which of God attributes are evident in this chapter, particularly in Tamar’s story? How does this inform you about God’s work in your story?

8. The ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer, Jesus Christ – our own Ga’al – includes the Canaanite woman Tamar in his genealogy. Tamar is one of four women mentioned in Matthew 1:1-16. What does this tell you about our Lord and how does it impact you personally?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) What warnings may be gleaned from this chapter?

II) Jacob’s sons married Canaanite women. The remaining chapters of Genesis relay circumstances by which the tribes of Israel came to reside in Egypt for a time. What do you think would have happened if the tribes had remained in Canaan?

III) If you face the opportunity to participate in the restoration of someone, how has this chapter influenced your view of it?
Scripture for Guide 13

Deuteronomy 21:15-17

15 “If a man has two wives, the one loved and the other unloved, and both the loved and the unloved have borne him sons, and the firstborn son belongs to the unloved, 16 then it shall be on the day that he wills what he owns as an inheritance to his sons, he is not allowed to treat the son of the loved wife as the firstborn, at the expense of the son of the unloved, who actually is the firstborn son. 17 On the contrary, he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved wife, by giving him a double portion of everything that he owns, for he was the beginning of his strength; to him belongs the right of the firstborn.

Deuteronomy 25:5-10

5 “When brothers live together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be married outside the family to a strange man. Her husband’s brother shall have relations with her and take her to himself as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. 6 It shall then be that the firstborn to whom she gives birth shall assume the name of his father’s deceased brother, so that his name will not be wiped out from Israel. 7 But if the man does not desire to take his brother’s widow, then his brother’s widow shall go up to the gate to the elders, and say, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to establish a name for his brother in Israel; he is not willing to perform the duty of a husband’s brother to me.’ 8 Then the elders of his city shall summon him and speak to him. And if he persists and says, ‘I do not desire to take her,’ 9 then his brother’s widow shall come up to him in the sight of the elders, and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face; and she shall declare, ‘This is what is done to the man who does not build up his brother’s house!’ 10 And in Israel his family shall be called by the name, ‘The house of him whose sandal was removed.’

Matthew 1:1-16

The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

2 Abraham fathered Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, and Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers. 3 Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez fathered Hezron, and Hezron fathered Ram. 4 Ram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, and Nahshon fathered Salmon. 5 Salmon fathered Boaz
by Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth, and Obed fathered Jesse. 6 Jesse fathered David the king.

David fathered Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. 7 Solomon fathered Rehoboam, Rehoboam fathered Abijah, and Abijah fathered Asa. 8 Asa fathered Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat fathered Joram, and Joram fathered Uzziah. 9 Uzziah fathered Jotham, Jotham fathered Ahaz, and Ahaz fathered Hezekiah. 10 Hezekiah fathered Manasseh, Manasseh fathered Amon, and Amon fathered Josiah. 11 Josiah fathered Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel, and Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel. 13 Zerubbabel fathered Abihud, Abihud fathered Eliakim, and Eliakim fathered Azor. 14 Azor fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Achim, and Achim fathered Eliud. 15 Eliud fathered Eleazar, Eleazar fathered Matthan, and Matthan fathered Jacob. 16 Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.
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STUDY GUIDE 14

Genesis 39

Study warm-up: If you have ever been wrongly accused about something, how did you respond?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

As the Lord to reveal Himself to you as you enter your study time this week. He wants you to know Him!

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a CHOSEN PEOPLE, a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, a HOLY NATION, a PEOPLE FOR GOD’S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Skim Genesis 37 and look over your Study Guide 12 to refresh what you know about Joseph.

1. What are your first impressions about Joseph?

Read Genesis 39.

2. List what the Text tells you about each of the characters? (Include what you see about actions, behaviors, and attitudes.)
   a) Joseph
b) Potiphar

c) Potiphar’s wife

3. How was the LORD “with Joseph”?

4. Describe Joseph’s different stops along his life journey thus far:

   Genesis 37:2-4
   - Joseph age 17 living in the Valley of Hebron
   - His father’s favorite, gifted a multi-colored tunic
   - Dreaming of reigning over his family

   Genesis 37:12-36
   - Sent to check on his brothers near Shechem
   - Stripped of his tunic and thrown in a pit by his brothers
   - Sold to Midianite traders and later to Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh’s bodyguard

   Genesis 39:1-18

   Genesis 39:19-23
**INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.**

5. Does Joseph model righteous behavior in this chapter? Let’s investigate. Look at the following cross references about Jesus and then note whether and how Joseph’s behavior compares.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jesus</th>
<th>Joseph</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Luke 2:52</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and people.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mark 10:45</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hebrews 4:15</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 Peter 2:19-23</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 For this <em>finds</em> favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person endures grief when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this <em>finds</em> favor with God.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps, 22 HE WHO COMMITTED NO sin, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT found IN HIS MOUTH; 23 and while being abusively insulted, He did not insult in return; while suffering, He did not threaten, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges rightly;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. How do you see Joseph demonstrating the instruction given to believers in 2 Timothy 2:22-26?
APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

7. How does Joseph’s behavior in this chapter encourage you in a situation you are facing?

8. Reflect: How does my behavior demonstrate that I know the LORD is with me to those around me (believers as well as non-believers)?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) What parallels do you see between Joseph losing his garment to Potiphar’s wife and his losing his tunic to his brothers in chapter 37?

II) What additional aspects of Joseph’s situation that remind you of Jesus’s life on earth?

III) Joseph was likely just over seventeen years old when he arrived in Egypt. He reflects significant spiritual maturity in Genesis 39. How do you think he came by that maturity?

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2021

Scripture for Guide 14

2 Timothy 2:22-26

22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24 The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, skilful in teaching, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.
Study warm-up: Recall a situation in which you had to wait patiently. Was the outcome worth the wait?

**OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!**

Prepare and open your heart to hear from the Lord as you study.

*Philippians 4:8*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

Read Genesis 40:1 – 41:49.

1. Briefly, what happens in Genesis 40:1-8?

2. List details of the chief cupbearer’s and chief baker’s dreams, together with the interpretation God provides Joseph.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dream</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief cupbearer’s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief baker’s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. What happens in Genesis 40:20-23?

4. Let’s examine Pharaoh’s dream.
   a) In the chart below list the dream details given in Genesis 41:1-7.
   b) Add any additional information Pharaoh gives Joseph in verses 41:15-24 about the dreams.
   c) Finally, record the interpretation of the dreams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dream</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First dream</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second dream</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. How does Joseph advise Pharaoh in Genesis 41:33-36?

Name Meanings
Asenath – gift of the sun-god
Joseph – Jehovah has added
Potiphar – whom Ra gave
Zaphenath-paneah – the god speaks and he lives
6. How does Pharaoh respond in Genesis 41:37-45?

7. What happens in Genesis 41:46-49?

INTERPRETATION – “Lord, help me to understand it.”

8. His name isn’t mentioned, but who is the captain of the bodyguard in Genesis 40:2? _________
   (Refer to the beginning of Genesis 39 if you need a reminder.) Based on what happens in Genesis 40:4, what does this tell you about Joseph? About the captain of the bodyguard?

9. The Hebrew phrase, lift up your head appears 3 times (Genesis 40:13, 19, 20) in the Text. As an idiom it means “to have your case considered by the king, then be restored.”
   Joseph says this to both the cupbearer and the baker – how is it a truthful statement in both cases?

---

10. Two years passed before the cupbearer remembered Joseph’s case. Why is this time the right time? (Ecclesiastes 3:9-11 may give perspective.)


APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

12. Think about Joseph’s life thus far. He is in a land that is not his home. He was held in great esteem by his father Jacob; now he serves followers of pagan gods. As a believer, the earth is not your home. What aspects of Joseph’s character do you wish to emulate in your own walk on this earth?

13. In the parable of the talents, Jesus gives picture of what it means to serve one’s master. (Matthew 25:14-30) How has Joseph’s life of service demonstrated the truth of the parable? How can you apply this truth to a situation in your life? (Please be specific!)

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) What does Joseph understand about Canaan from Genesis 40:15?

II) Is Genesis 41 a cause for celebration? Isn’t Joseph still a slave?

III) Is anything from Joseph’s life reminding you of the prophet Daniel?

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Scripture for Guide 15

Ecclesiastes 3:9-11

9 What benefit is there for the worker from that in which he labors? 10 I have seen the task which God has given the sons of mankind with which to occupy themselves.

11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, without the possibility that mankind will find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

Matthew 25:14-30

14 “For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. 16 The one who had received the five talents immediately went and did business with them, and earned five more talents. 17 In the same way the one who had received the two talents earned two more. 18 But he who received the one talent went away and dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money.

19 “Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have earned five more talents.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master.’

22 “Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have earned two more talents.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master.’

24 “Now the one who had received the one talent also came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed. 25 And I was afraid, so I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you still have what is yours.’

26 “But his master answered and said to him, ‘You worthless, lazy slave! Did you know that I reap where I
did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter seed?  
27 Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, 
and on my arrival I would have received my money 
back with interest. 28 Therefore: take the talent away 
from him, and give it to the one who has the ten 
talents.’

29 “For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and 
he will have an abundance; but from the one who does 
not have, even what he does have shall be taken 
away. 30 And throw the worthless slave into the outer 
darkness; in that place there will be weeping and 
 gnashing of teeth.
STUDY GUIDE 16
Genesis 41:50-42:38

Study warm-up: When you have reason to mistrust someone, how can you best discern if they are telling the truth?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!
Ask the Spirit to guide your discovery of your Father’s truth.

Psalm 57:10
For Your goodness is great to the heavens
And Your truth to the clouds.

Read Genesis 41:50-42:38

1. In just a few sentences, describe what happens in the following passages:
   a) Genesis 41:50-52
   b) Genesis 41:53-57
   c) Genesis 42:1-5
   d) Genesis 42:6-17

Name Meanings
Ephraim – double land
Manasseh – one who forgets
2. What struggles do you observe in this week’s passage? (Include who struggles and how!)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Struggles</th>
<th>Relational Struggles</th>
<th>Spiritual Struggles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

  e) Genesis 42:18-25

  f) Genesis 42:26-38
3. How do you see God working in the lives of:
   a) Joseph?

   b) Joseph’s brothers?

   c) Jacob?

4. Estimate how long it has been since Joseph has seen his brothers: ______ years. (Helpful verses: Genesis 37:2; 40:4; 41:1; 41:46; 41:53,54)

5. What character growth do you see in the brothers since the events of chapter 37?

6. Why do you think Joseph does not reveal himself to his brothers at this time? (Instead, Joseph tests them – list the different tests you see and evaluate whether the brothers pass them.)
7. Are the brothers’ actions in Genesis 42:6 a [complete] fulfillment of Joseph’s dreams in Genesis 37? How might this be a factor in Joseph testing his brothers?

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

8. If you have any relationships that need reconciliation, are there any lessons from how Joseph handled his brothers that you want to take to heart, whether you are in the position of the one wronged, or the one who committed the offense?

9. Reflect. Joseph is looking for evidence that his brothers have transformed their lives – if the transformation is legitimate, there should be fruit. What fruit is evidence of Christ’s transformational work in my life?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:
   I) What does Genesis 42:21 contribute to your understanding of the events of chapter 37?
   II) Does Jacob trust his sons?

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2021
STUDY GUIDE 17

Genesis 43

Study warm-up: Do life’s hardships make you more aware of God’s mercy and grace? Why or why not?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Ask God to reveal His heart for His people (like you!) as you enter into your time in His Word.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:9

God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Read Genesis 43.

1. What, if anything, seems different about Jacob in Genesis 43 compared to the previous chapter? (Genesis 42:1-5, 35-28)

2. What instructions and what blessing did Israel give his sons as they prepared to leave for Egypt?

3. Describe the brothers’ response when they are invited to dine with Joseph for the mid-day meal. What do they expect to happen?
4. What, if anything, of Joseph’s house steward’s actions would have reassured the brothers?

5. Summarize what happens after Joseph comes home. If any details particularly stand out, make a note of them. If you have any questions about the encounter, list them as well.

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

6. Israel refers to God as God Almighty when he blesses his sons before their journey. This is the fourth occurrence in the Bible of God’s name as El Shaddai. What might Israel be reminding his sons (and himself!) by using this name? Consider the previous three occurrences as you answer: Genesis 17:1-2, 28:3, and 35:11.
7. Think about the different tests which Joseph set for his brothers in chapter 42 (Study Guide 16, question 6). How does the brothers’ return to Egypt in this chapter answer some of those questions? What remaining questions does Joseph seem to have and how does he further test his brothers in Genesis 43:16-34? The table below may help you organize the information. (Not all questions may be answerable at this point.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Joseph’s possible questions</strong></th>
<th><strong>The tests</strong></th>
<th><strong>The answers</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genesis 42:12-16, 18-20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Are his brothers mistreating Benjamin? Do they resent him?</td>
<td>The younger brother must come to Egypt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Is Benjamin still alive?</td>
<td>Someone must remain behind as collateral. (Joseph selects Simeon.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Are the brothers trustworthy?</td>
<td>The brothers’ grain payments are hidden in the sacks of grain.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Are the brothers truthful?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genesis 43:16-34</th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
8. What do Joseph’s actions tell you about his character, his heart, his intentions, his hopes?

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

9. Identify a time of “famine” in your own life. (Perhaps you are in one now!) How might God have been/be using the time to shape your character? How did/do you see Him at work?

10. Identify God’s mercy, compassion, and on display through Joseph. How does that encourage you today?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) Joseph’s steward knows of the God of the Hebrews. What do you imagine it was like to serve Joseph?

II) How might this situation have gone differently if Joseph had revealed his identity and exacted revenge on his brothers? What would have been the far-reaching ramifications?

III) [Geeky observation alert!] The probability that Joseph would correctly seat the brothers by age and birthright (Genesis 43:33) is one in $(11 \times 10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1)$ or about 1 in 39.9 million. If you were one of the brothers, what would you be thinking?
Scripture for Guide 17

- **Genesis 17:1-2**
  Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,
  
  “I am God Almighty;  
  Walk before Me, and be blameless.
  2 I will make My covenant between Me and you,  
  And I will multiply you exceedingly.”

- **Genesis 28:2-4**
  Arise, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father; and from there take to yourself a wife from the daughters of Laban, your mother’s brother.
  3 May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, so that you may become a multitude of peoples. 4 May He also give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your descendants with you, so that you may possess the land where you live as a stranger, which God gave to Abraham.”

- **Genesis 35:11-12**
  11 God also said to him,
  “I am God Almighty;  
  Be fruitful and multiply;  
  A nation and a multitude of nations shall come from you,  
  And kings shall come from you.
  12 And the land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac,  
  I will give to you,  
  And I will give the land to your descendants after you.”

Notes: