

prayer requests

Share prayer requests with the small group. Ask someone to take notes and share the requests with group members after the meeting.



Sermon Study

Sons of Blessings
Genesis 49:1-33

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



study notes



AUTHOR'S NOTE (summary of key points for this study)
What drama! Jacob the deceiver was transformed to Israel the father of the 12 tribes of God's people. It's a mixed up, messed up family filled with good stuff and not so good stuff. Sound familiar? It's true of all of God's people.

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

1. Ever had any family drama at Thanksgiving or Christmas? How do you deal with family fussing?
2. Do you ever see God at work in and through the drama?
3. What blessings have come from accepting people for who they are and "hanging in there" with family?

Go

(your group on mission)

How can you speak truth and blessings into the lives of children (yours and others)?

Pray to put on the characteristics of Jesus and to put off those not consistent with His character.

Grow (your group growing as Christ-followers)

1. Take time to read all of Genesis 49 (perhaps, take turns and read out loud).

2. Recall any thoughts or notes from the Sunday sermon.

3. As a group, go back through Genesis 29 and note each time a reference to (or characteristic of) Jesus is made. In particular, look at the following references and ask: Where else in Scripture do you find Jesus referred to as these things?

Verse 3 – Firstborn, sign of (worthy of) strength, honor and power

Verse 9 – Lion (of Judah)

Verse 11 – Wash His garments in wine; in the blood of grapes; obedience of the nations to Him

Verse 16 – Provider of justice

Verse 22 – The vine

4. All of Scripture points to Jesus in some way. In Genesis 49 it's important to note Jesus is the provider of all blessings and the keeper of covenant promises.

-Discuss the importance of seeing Jesus in the Old Testament (everywhere).

-Also discuss the traits in a number of Jacob's sons that are not consistent with Jesus' character.
(Hint: weapons of violence, anger, fury, cruelty, forced labor, plunderer, etc.)

5. Some brothers received blessings and others received tough truths. Our lives are all a combination of the blessings of Christlikeness and of tough truths about where we fall short.

-How does it feel to know God accomplishes His purposes through all of us as "His people?" No one is without value of usefulness.

-How might our family drama benefit from seeing the blessings and the tough truths of our circumstances – especially if we know God can use it all?

-What was Jacob's legacy?

-What is the legacy you are creating and living out?

Give

(your group serving each other)

Pray to put on the characteristics of Jesus and to put off those not consistent with His character.

Consider serving as a group in ways that help end suffering caused by violence, anger, fury, cruelty, etc.