

God's surprising plan to bless the world

Genesis 48-49 – God will bless the world through his surprise choice - Judah.

We can be blessed through Judah's family too – through Jesus who saves the whole world.

If you've got time, try and read the whole thing! We're mostly going to be concentrating on two bits in chapter 49.

But what we learn about what God does is all in the context of **who God is**. We get a bit of insight into that from Jacob in chapter 48...

Read Genesis 48: 15-16

Jacob here is blessing Joseph's sons and officially bringing them into the family.

1. How does Jacob describe God? (v15b) What does he mean by this, do you think?

2. What has God done? (v16a) _____

3. So why do you think Jacob has confidence in asking God to bless Joseph's sons?

Judah's blessing - Read Genesis 49:8-12

4. What does Jacob say will happen in v8? What does that remind you of (from chapter 37)?

5. A sceptre is something belonging to a king: what does v10 say about what kind of person will be in Judah's family? Who do you think that is? (The verse is tricky to understand, but the answer is who you'd expect!)

Joseph's blessing – Read Genesis 49:22-26

6. Imagine you were Joseph – how would you feel being blessed like this? Why?

7. Who will be responsible for Joseph's and his family's life being so good? (v24-25) _____



1. What's surprising about which family Jesus is born in?

2. How are we eventually blessed through Jacob's family?

3. Why does God **not** need us to be 'good' like Joseph for him to save us?

(Joseph might have been the best of the bunch, but he wasn't perfect! He wasn't 'good' enough to be saved based on how he lived his life. No one is!)

Genesis 49

s y z z x h y l j f m p m r y
l e b j p x g s u o d k u t u
s u s e n i v e d p j l h r g
o z s s s u p i a c e g p b v
j o u g e q s r h r i n e v y
j b x s s l n x i m z l e b a
b s i c a e b b l n o q s p i
l s s e b z c a o n c x i x l
m c s p d v z n g w k e a j u
b r o t h e r s e t d y r w f
h f x r a u c j h i d o p u t
k s t e a d y j x y d x w d i
t u i f s n o i t a n e u n u
k l a x m k b m a b m l b s r
o q j d e m y l l i s i i o f

Judah

obedience

steady

praise

nations

Almighty

bow down

Joseph

blesses

sceptre

fruitful

prince

ruler

vine

brothers

belongs