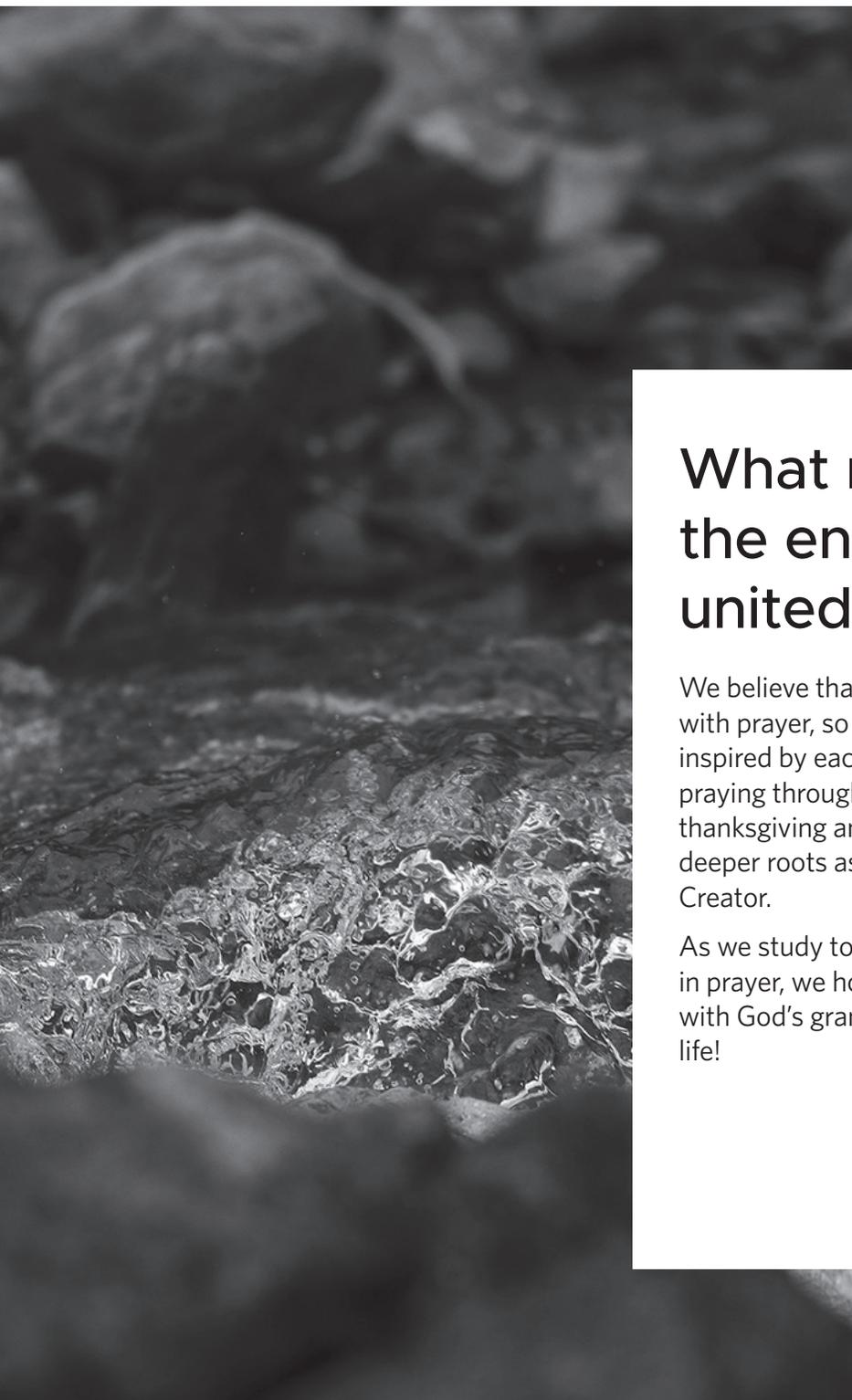


# BEGINNINGS®

## GENESIS PRAYER GUIDE



### What might happen if the entire BSF family united in prayer?

We believe that genuine, world-changing revival starts with prayer, so we've provided a 30-week prayer guide inspired by each week's lesson from the *Genesis* study. By praying through the ACTS model - adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication - may your BSF lesson take deeper roots as you humbly kneel before your Almighty Creator.

As we study together this book of beginnings and unite in prayer, we hope this prayer guide will align your heart with God's grand redemptive plan and purpose for your life!



# The ACTS prayer model is a simple way to approach God by keeping our focus on Him.

This is more than a prayer checklist. It presents an opportunity for renewed gospel-focus and true heart-change.

**ADORATION** - (n.) The act of paying honor as to a divine being; worship

We praise what we love. Over the decades many have written, “we become what we love.” To love God is to praise God. As we praise Him, we experience Him more deeply, we love Him more and become more like Him. That brings Him glory!

Adoration of God motivates all other aspects of prayer. When we see God’s holiness, we see our sin, which leads to confession.

**CONFESSION** - (n.) A formal acknowledgment or admission of guilt

Confession admits that sin is first and foremost against a holy God. With godly sorrow, the Holy Spirit moves us into repentance. Repentance is the way to spiritual maturity and transformation. True transformation comes from God alone. It’s rooted in the gospel, God’s just payment for our sin.

Understanding the depth of the gospel leads us to thanksgiving.

**THANKSGIVING** - (n.) A celebration of divine favor or kindness

When we realize all we have is a gift from God, thanksgiving pours from our lips. Even in suffering, the early Church was marked by a spirit of thanksgiving that was fueled by eternal hope in the gospel.

When we approach God with a thankful heart, we’re prepared to offer God-centered requests.

**SUPPLICATION** - (n.) An act or instance of humble prayer, entreaty or petition

Rather than seek our own will and self-interest, the practice of adoration, confession and thanksgiving prepare us to seek God’s glory before our own. We root our requests in the knowledge of God and His ways. Offering our supplication to God draws us closer to Him as we intimately reveal the desires of our hearts.

Offering supplication on another’s behalf binds us closer to our brothers and sisters in Christ and promotes unity within the Church.

# Intro

*Introducing God's Glory*

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." - Psalm 19:1*

## Adoration

Through Your creation, Lord, we see the work of Your hands. Romans 1:20 declares, "For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what was made..." You alone deserve honor and glory as the author of creation.

## Confession

Forgive us, Lord, for failing to properly humble ourselves and surrender before You, our Creator.

## Thanksgiving

Thank you, Lord, for Your plan and purpose. Through Your mercy, humanity's hope reaches beyond the garden.

## Supplications

GLOBAL: Help us, Lord, to value Your creation. Grant us wisdom as we seek to honor and cultivate the world around us.

LOCAL: Give us eyes to see how we can help protect and advocate for the dignity, worth and value of those in our churches and community.

PERSONAL: You, Lord, created me with an opportunity to participate in Your story. Show me how to glorify You in my present circumstances and relationships.

 Is there a challenging relationship in your life? Take a moment to pray for those people who seem difficult to love. Ask God to let you see them as He does: with dignity, worth, value and as the part of His creation that He intended them to be.

# 1

*God Creates All Things for His Glory*

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." - Genesis 1:1*

## Adoration

With simple words, You spoke and "It was so." You alone, Lord, are infinitely powerful and creative.

## Confession

Forgive us, Father, for trying to limit Your power to human understanding. Help us to rest in Your mysteries and trust Your plans.

## Thanksgiving

You, Lord, are deeply personal and all-powerful. Thank you for creating a world full of beauty, purpose and discovery.

## Supplications

GLOBAL: Help us, God, to enjoy Your creation. When we see "the water teem with living creatures" and the "birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky," help us to celebrate Your divine inspiration. (Genesis 1:20)

LOCAL: Too often, Lord, we take Your creation for granted. Give us wisdom to become better stewards of our surroundings.

PERSONAL: There is so much about the universe that is beyond my understanding. Through Genesis 1:1-25, I can see Your sovereignty. Help me to trust You with things that are beyond my control.

 Are you struggling with circumstances that feel overwhelming? Through the creation story, we see that God's power is greater than anything we face. As you pray through your current challenges, repeat the ways God has authority over creation in Genesis 1:1-25.

# 2

## God Creates Humanity in His Image

*"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' "* – Genesis 1:26

### Adoration

We praise you, Lord, the intimate God, who uniquely designed every single person in your image and breathed life into our beings. Your image gives each human life dignity, worth and purpose.

### Confession

Lord, forgive us when we fail to see Your imprint on one of Your image-bearers and use shallow measurements like economic status or skin color to assign value to someone's life. Convict us when we rob any human being of their unique status as Your image-bearer. Forgive us when we value our comfort over the welfare of others and choose to remain silent in the face of injustice.

### Thanksgiving

Thank you, Father, for stamping Your image on me and every single person You have created. Thank you for making us more alike than we are different – all like God in our being, capacity for worship and divine purpose. Thank you, Jesus, for Your sacrificial death to redeem all people. Thank you for the beauty of the gospel that unites people of all colors and nations.

### Supplications

GLOBAL: Acts 17:26 says: "From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth ..." Father, in light of this truth, help us to love and accept people who look, speak and think differently because of what binds us together as Your image-bearers. Raise our passion as the body of Christ to alleviate the atrocity of racial injustice in the nations.

LOCAL: Lord, help us to remain vigilant against Satan's hand at work in our local churches and BSF classes, many of which remain divided along ethnic lines. I pray against racism in my community; I pray for unity, peace and justice, starting with my church and my BSF class.

PERSONAL: As my Creator, You know me fully and intimately. Search my heart, O Lord; open my heart's eyes to my blind spots that I covertly or overtly ignore. Help me to turn from any poisonous root of racism I justify or do not recognize. Show me where I fail to see others as Your image-bearers and instead marginalize others because of the color of their skin. Embolden me to use the influence You've blessed me with to affect change that unites Your image-bearers in my church, community and BSF class.



When was the last time you had meal or coffee with an image-bearer of God that was of a different race or nationality? Take time this week to seek out and actively listen to their perspective in an effort to promote interracial communication.

# 3

## *The Fall of Mankind*

*“So the LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this ... I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.’ ” - Genesis 3:14-15*

### **Adoration**

In our darkest moments, You, God, are merciful. In Genesis 3, You tenderly offered Adam and Eve an opportunity to repent. In verse 21, You clothed Your people and covered their nakedness. You alone are holy, and You alone are good.

### **Confession**

Forgive us, Lord, for trading Your truth for lies. In Genesis 3:1, the serpent asked, “Did God really say...?” Forgive us for questioning Your Word, Your goodness and Your plan.

### **Thanksgiving**

You, Father, did not abandon us to our sin. Thank You for protecting us from life apart from You and opening a way to restore the relationship sin corrupted. (Genesis 3:20-24)

### **Supplications**

**GLOBAL:** The first sin changed the course of humanity. Today, our world is plagued by wars, disease, and disasters. Help us, Lord, to navigate these difficulties and seek You first. Grant our leaders wisdom and draw them near to You.

**LOCAL:** In Genesis 3:12-13, Adam and Eve used blame to deflect their guilt and shame. Give us the courage to admit our sins and mistakes. Guard our churches and families from the pain caused by blame and accusation.

**PERSONAL:** In Genesis 3, You provided an opportunity for Adam and Eve to confess their sin. Show me my own sin, Lord, as I seek to confess and repent before You.



Using the notes from Lesson 3, review the “Patterns of Sin and Repentance” on page 3.

After identifying a personal struggle, take a moment to walk through the repentance steps that are listed. Begin by asking God to meet you in the process.

# 4

## *Cain Spreads Sin Into the World*

*"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."*  
– Genesis 4:7

### **Adoration**

You alone, Lord, are holy and righteous. Your judgment is good and Your mercy is pure.

### **Confession**

Forgive us, Lord, for growing seeds of bitterness. Like Cain, we're tempted to hide our sin from You, saying, "I don't know; am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9) Forgive us for hard hearts and a desire to deceive.

### **Thanksgiving**

Thank You, Father, for Your endless mercy. Cain's sin may have impacted generations, but Your sacrifice, Jesus, stretches into eternity. (Genesis 4:17-24)

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Many people around the world live apart from Your presence. We ask You, Lord, for revival. We pray that men and women of all nations will join together in repentance, seeking Your glory and to uphold the value of all people, no matter their race or nationality.

LOCAL: Knowing Cain's sin, You provided an opportunity for repentance in Genesis 4:9-10. Help us, Lord, to seek the lost as You do. Fill Your Church with a passion to pursue those in our community who haven't experienced Your grace.

PERSONAL: Cain elevated himself above all else. Help me, Father, to value You above my comfort, my pride and my desires. Only You can provide the freedom I often seek on my own.



The Lesson 4 notes share, "Life often takes us to a crossroads – pivotal points where our response determines our way forward. How we respond to what happens matters. The same event that could soften and grow us, could also anger and harden us." What is a current "crossroads" in your life? Take a moment to pray about that situation. Ask God to soften your heart, reveal your sin and grant wisdom in resolution.

# 5

## God Judges With the Flood but Favors Noah

*"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 6:13*

### Adoration

You, Lord, are equally just and merciful. You judge the hearts of evil men and redeem those who seek You. Your ways are not our ways, but You are always good and constantly faithful.

### Confession

We see the multiplication of sin through the genealogy of Genesis 5. Genesis 6:5 tells us, "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." We confess, Lord Jesus, that our thoughts and hearts are prone to evil and can only turn to righteousness in You.

### Thanksgiving

Thank you, Father, for two truths we see in Genesis 5-7 - You judge sin and extend saving grace. Through Your salvation in Jesus, we don't have to fear judgment, and we can celebrate Your mercy.

### Supplications

GLOBAL: It's clear, God, that humanity offers no escape from sin. Awaken your Church, Oh Jesus. Give us courage to face our individual and corporate sins. Help us not be silent or indifferent, especially in the face of racism and the pain of others. Compel us to proclaim Your name to all nations and all people.

LOCAL: You, Father, are a God of detail. Your instructions to Noah were complete, down to the materials and measurements. Your plans are perfect, and Your directions are clear. As our BSF and church leaders seek your counsel, clarify Your plans and direct their steps as they lead Your people.

PERSONAL: Help this study to change the way I view those around me. Give me a sense of urgency, Lord, to share the gospel with friends and loved ones who don't know You.



The story of the Flood forces us to take our sin seriously. In Christ, we have freedom from sin. But confession and repentance are necessary to our relationship with the Lord. When was the last time you professed Your sins to God? Take some time this week to find a quiet place for personal confession. Our Lesson 5 notes tell us, "If these chapters and truths hit you hard, do not run from the truth. Run to Jesus." Let's run to Jesus together in humility and gratitude.

# 6

## God's Care for and Covenant With Noah

*"I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." - Genesis 9:11*

### Adoration

You, O Lord, are the author and sustainer of life. In Genesis 8:21, You said, "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans ... And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done." You alone hold creation in Your hands.

### Confession

Too often, we doubt Your plan. We're tempted to force our own solutions instead of trusting in Your provision. Give us faith like Noah to endure life's storms and then patiently wait on You. (Genesis 8:15-19)

### Thanksgiving

Thank you, Father, for keeping Your promises. Just as You remembered Noah during the Flood, You remember us. During seasons when we feel adrift, You never leave us and You never forget Your promises.

### Supplications

GLOBAL: As natural disasters plague nations around the world, comfort Your people, Oh God. Help us to remember Your sovereignty and Your promise to Noah in Genesis 9. Let all rainbows remind us that Your covenants are binding, and our faith is secure.

LOCAL: In Genesis 9:3-6, You established boundaries and laws. Once again, You upheld the sacredness of human life, which was created in Your image. Give us wisdom when we see people abuse Your creation. Convict us, God, to protect all life, which is precious to You.

PERSONAL: Noah's faith was a gift from you, God. Give me that same measure of hope and assurance in Your plans. When I struggle to trust You with my present circumstances, please remind me of who You are.



Noah and His family were at God's mercy during their time in the ark. Apart from trusting Him, there was nothing they could do. Are you facing circumstances that feel out of your control? As days turned to weeks, Noah waited patiently for God's rescue. Take a moment to list ways God has been faithful to you in the past. Praise Him for His character and ask for patience to wait as He fulfills His plan.

# 7

## *Sin From Noah to Nations at Tower of Babel*

*"But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building." - Genesis 11:5*

### **Adoration**

You, Lord, are sovereign. The genealogy of Genesis 10 shows us that You alone hold our past, direct our present and determine our future.

### **Confession**

In the name of "progress," we often trade our faith in You, Lord, for faith in ourselves. Just as the people of Babel refused to yield to You, forgive us for elevating our thoughts and plans above Yours.

### **Thanksgiving**

Thank you, Father, for overcoming sin again and again. In Your mercy, You "scattered them from there over all the earth..." in Genesis 11:8.

Together, we are capable of great evil, but You, Lord, are good and protect Your people.

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Through technology, our leaders continue to seek global unity. Direct our steps, God, as we engage with one another in new ways. Reveal the issues that divide us. Help us to rely on Your Spirit to bind believers, instead of seeking superficial unity that will crumble.

LOCAL: On page 5, the Lesson 7 notes state, "The depth of sin in people's hearts impacts not only individuals, but society." Show me how to love those who suffer from the pain of sin inflicted by society, others and themselves. Increase my compassion, Lord, and grant me opportunities to share Your truth.

PERSONAL: As I seek to honor You, Lord, direct my steps away from personal gain and glory. As I continue to build my career, relationships, reputation and family, destroy those "towers" that shift my focus from You to self.



The lesson 7 notes ask, "Are you openly aware of things that cause you temptation?" 1 Corinthians 10:12 warns, "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" Take a moment to list some things in your daily life that tempt you to sin. Ask God to reveal ways to avoid or resist those specific temptations. Take some time to write His creative solutions beside each one.

# 8

## The Call of Abram

*"The LORD had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you.' "* – Genesis 12:1-2a

### Adoration

You, Lord, determine our years and our lineage. Just as You directed Abram's genealogy in Genesis 11, You are sovereign over each family and every generation.

### Confession

Forgive us, Lord, for twisting Your promises and polluting Your plans. Like Abram, whose faith faltered in Genesis 12:10-20, our own weakness causes sin, self-reliance and destruction. Have mercy on us and deliver us from our sin that quickly multiplies.

### Thanksgiving

Thank you, Father, for including us in Your plan. Just as You made Abram into a great nation, You also invite us to participate in Your ultimate design for salvation and restoration.

### Supplications

GLOBAL: Like Ur, the land Abram left behind, and Canaan, the land he entered in Genesis 12, our world is full of idolatry and false worship. Give us the wisdom to see through these lies and resist the temptation to conform to the culture.

LOCAL: Make our churches like the Israelites, who modeled faith in You to surrounding people. Let our Christian communities and BSF classes reflect Your priorities to a watching world.

PERSONAL: Help me, Lord, to place Your will above my own comfort and security. Like Abram, teach me to evaluate life's risks and rewards according to Your standards and not the world's.



The Lesson 8 notes state, "Abram and every person face the same defining decision - 'how will I respond to God?' " At some point, God calls each of us to leave our comfort zones to serve Him faithfully. How might God be asking you to put your faith in Him? Take a moment to ask God to clarify His desires for your next steps. Ask for faith that will move you forward according to His direction.

# 9

## *Abram With Lot and Melchizedek*

*"Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." - Genesis 13:17*

### **Adoration**

You alone, Lord, build nations and establish kings. All power and authority over heaven and earth is Yours.

### **Confession**

Forgive us, Father, for refusing to pursue peace in difficult relationships. Abram revealed his faith in You by selflessly allowing Lot to choose his land first in Genesis 13. Help us to put others' desires above our own.

### **Thanksgiving**

Thank you, Lord, for keeping Your promises. Just as You were faithful to Abram in battle, You promise to never leave us or forsake us. (Genesis 14:1-12)

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Increase our compassion, God, for those caught in the pain of sin and poor choices. Give us endurance, Lord, to continually share Your promises with those who reject them like Lot and the king of Sodom.

LOCAL: The Lesson 9 notes state, "Mechizedek's countercultural blessing stands in stark contrast to the king of Sodom's offer." As believers, help us to stand in stark contrast to the culture around us. Let our commitment to Your Truth be evident to our friends, family and community.

PERSONAL: You, Lord, are sufficient to meet all of my needs. Give me a heart like Abram, who refused the king of Sodom's offering, "not even a thread or the strap of a sandal." Help me to increase Your glory among men. (Genesis 14:22-23)



Instead of seeking God's plan, Lot chose to return to Sodom. On page 4, the Lesson 9 notes read, "Lot chose to live according to the ways of the world; Abram chose to live by the ways of God. Lot chose immediate physical comforts..." Are you tempted to seek comfort above a right relationship with God? Ask the Lord to reveal any physical comfort that distracts you from finding genuine peace and joy in the Lord. Take a moment to reflect on God as provider, asking for faith like Abram.

# 10

## God's Covenant With Abram

*"Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness." - Genesis 15:6*

### Adoration

You, Father, are trustworthy. Just as You fulfilled Your promises to Abram, You keep Your promises today.

### Confession

Forgive us, Lord, for our impatience. Too often we substitute our plans for Yours. Forgive us for the times we blame You and say, "The LORD has kept me from ..." as Sarai did in Genesis 16:2.

### Thanksgiving

Just as Hagar said, "You are the God who sees me ..." in Genesis 16:13, we trust that You see us, even in shame and despair. Thank You, Lord, for Your endless compassion and mercy.

### Supplications

GLOBAL: You, Lord, heard Hagar's cry of misery in Genesis 16:11. Help us, as the body of Christ, to hear those who are desperate for Your love and mercy. Give us compassion and understanding for pain of others.

LOCAL: In her jealousy, Sarai cast Hagar out of her home while Abram avoided the conflict. Too often, Lord, we're tempted to deal harshly with those who are closest to us or ignore conflict altogether. Give us the wisdom and courage to focus on Your will when facing conflict. Cultivate peace in our churches, BSF groups, neighborhoods and homes.

PERSONAL: Help me to trust You, Lord, when Your answer is different than the one I want. When You ask me to wait, give me the confidence to rest in You. Just as You told Abram to "... Look up at the sky and count the stars ..." in Genesis 15:5, help me to look toward the cross and remember Your promises.



The Lesson 10 notes tell us that "God met Abram's needs, not with a timeline or dates on a calendar, but with a reminder of two important aspects of His character." God told Abram, "I am your shield," and "I am your very great reward." Are you currently waiting on God to meet a need or answer a prayer? God asked Abram to trust His character and we can too! Take a moment to list of some attributes of God. Pray them back to Him as a reminder of who He is.

# 11

## God Affirms His Covenant and Promise of Isaac

*"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you." - Genesis 17:7*

### Adoration

Words cannot adequately capture Your character, God. You alone are God Almighty, El Shaddai. (Genesis 17:1)

### Confession

Like Sarah in Genesis 18:12, we are often tempted to doubt Your plans. Forgive us, Father, for demeaning Your power and sovereignty.

### Thanksgiving

Thank You, Lord, for building faith in Your children. Your repeated promises to Abraham remind us that You can be trusted in all circumstances and Your promises are true.

### Supplications

GLOBAL: In Genesis 18:14, we know that nothing is too hard for You, Lord. As Christians around the world face suffering and persecution, increase our faith and hope in Your provision.

LOCAL: Through circumcision, You set Your people apart in Genesis 17:11. As we build relationships in our neighborhoods, workplaces and communities, make us compellingly different, Lord, as we seek to draw unbelievers to You.

PERSONAL: Help me to walk before You faithfully and be blameless. Make me ever conscious of Your presence, relying on Your persevering power, as You commanded Abraham in Genesis 17:1.



In Genesis 17:5 and 15, God gave Abraham and Sarah new names. On page four, the Lesson 11 notes state, "Their names constantly reminded them God transforms unbelief into joyful faith." Have you experienced God's transforming power? Take a moment to reflect on a time when God transformed your unbelief into faith. If you're currently struggling to trust in His provision, ask Him to increase your confidence and faith.

# 12

## *Abraham Intercedes, but Sodom is Destroyed*

*"So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived." - Genesis 19:29*

### **Adoration**

Your judgment is perfect, Lord, and complete. You alone weigh men's hearts and actions. You conquer evil and right all wrongs.

### **Confession**

Forgive us, Father, for our uncontrolled anger. Your wrath is measured and always deliberate. Even in Your destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19, Your judgment was pure and Your motive was right.

### **Thanksgiving**

You, Lord, are perfectly holy and deeply personal. You called Abraham "a friend" several times in scripture and invite us into friendship with You through Jesus. Thank You, Jesus, for Your redeeming sacrifice that absolves our sin so we can approach the throne of grace freely.

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Help us, Lord, to long for Your righteousness. Like Abraham in Genesis 18:22-33, give us compassion for those who live apart from You. Help us to trust in Your holy judgment.

LOCAL: Abraham's compassion for the people of Sodom compelled Him to intercede on their behalf in Genesis 18:22-33. Reveal the areas where we can intercede for our own communities. We long for Your righteousness to transform our schools, governments and neighborhoods.

PERSONAL: In Genesis 19:15-23, Lot and his family were told to "Flee for your lives! Don't look back ...." But in verse 26, Lot's wife couldn't resist the temptation to turn her eyes toward Sodom. Help me, Lord, to stay focused on You alone. When my thoughts and desires wander, draw me back to You.



2 Peter 2:7-8 describes Lot as "a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)." Does this feel familiar? We too live in societies plagued by sin and lawless deeds. But just how "distressed" or "tormented" are you? Peter goes on in verses 9 and 10 to assure believers that "the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials," while also warning against "those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh." Take a moment to ask God to reveal those areas where societal sin may be creeping into your own life. Ask Him for eyes to see the world clearly, in light of His holy standards.

# 13

## *Abraham: Conflicts Surrounding Isaac's Birth*

*"At that time Abimelek and Phicol the commander of his forces said to Abraham, 'God is with you in everything you do.' "* – Genesis 21:22

### **Adoration**

Your name, Lord, is great among the nations. Like Abraham, we call on You, "LORD, the Eternal God." (Genesis 21:33)

### **Confession**

Forgive us, Father, for allowing fear to overcome our faith. Like Abraham in Genesis 20:1-2, we are guilty of returning to old sin patterns when we lose sight of Your sovereignty.

### **Thanksgiving**

Thank You, Lord, for giving us joy, especially when we see evidence of Your work. Just as Sarah exclaimed in Genesis 21:6, we, too, can rejoice that, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about (His work) will laugh with me."

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Abraham pursued peace with Abimelek in Genesis 21:22-24, even when asked to pay for a well that he already owned. Help Your church to pursue peace with our neighbors, Lord, "as long as that peace does not involve compromise with God and His Word." (Lesson 13 notes, page 5). Make us willing to yield our rights and opinions to listen and understand the perspective of others.

LOCAL: On page 4, the Lesson 13 notes state, "Not every step of obedience is easy, but obeying God is always right." In Genesis 21:14-21, God asked Abraham to make a difficult decision to protect His people. Guide our leaders, Lord, and help them to trust Your wisdom in difficult times.

PERSONAL: God, You know that I will fail. Like Abraham and Sarah, I will question Your plan and I will doubt Your provision. But in Your patience, You are faithful. Humble me and help me to grow through Your continued mercy.



On page 6, the Lesson 13 notes tell us that "Everyone leads someone. While we often like to think that our thoughts and actions are entirely personal, everything that we say and do impacts someone ... Consider the influence of your character and personal priorities on those who look to you." Take a moment to reflect on the people in your life who are listening to your words and watching your actions. Make a list of those you are leading. Pray through each name individually, asking God for wisdom to lead with humility and act with integrity

# 14

## *Abraham: Tested by God, Then Sarah's Death*

*"Abraham answered, 'God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.' And the two of them went on together." - Genesis 22:8*

### **Adoration**

Though You spared Abraham's son Isaac in Genesis 22:12, You sent Your own son, Jesus, as a sacrifice for all. Your mercy and grace extend into eternity and Your goodness offers true redemption.

### **Confession**

Forgive us, Father, for taking Your sacrifice for granted. Through Genesis 22, Abraham's faith and anguish become real to us. Help us to remember how precious and costly Your plan for salvation truly is.

### **Thanksgiving**

You, Lord, reveal Your faithfulness day after day. In times of testing, You never leave us. Thank You for granting us the gift of faith so we will obey when You call our name, just as Abraham did in Genesis 22.

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Genesis 22:23 gives us a glimpse into Your perfect plans, Lord. While Abraham was being tested with Isaac, You were already preparing Rebekah to be Isaac's wife. As governments change, wars continue and new threats emerge, help us to cling to You. Renew our confidence in You. Your perfect plans stretch beyond our understanding.

LOCAL: In Genesis 23:7 and 12, Abraham, "bowed down before the people of the land." Though these weren't Your people, Abraham approached them with humility and respect, trusting You to fulfill Your promise. As we deal with unbelievers in our communities and workplaces, help us to assume this same attitude. Let our character and faith distinguish us from our neighbors.

PERSONAL: God, grant me a faith like Abraham. Help me to obey quickly and fully, surrendering the things I cling to for security. Help me to trust Your perfect provision in all circumstances. I want to answer, "Here I am, Lord!".



On page 5, the Lesson 14 notes state, "Abraham's walk with God offered many opportunities to trust God and prove Him faithful." We too have opportunities to grow in faith through testing. Reflect on Your own walk with God. Make a list of times when God grew Your faith through difficulty. Remembering those times, ask God to strengthen Your faith today. How might God be asking You to trust Him now?

# 15

## God Provides Isaac's Wife, Rebekah

*"Then he prayed, 'LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.' " - Genesis 24:12*

### Adoration

Today, Lord, we bow our heads in worship of You. Like Abraham's servant in Genesis 24:27, we pray "Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness...."

### Confession

Softener our hearts, God, to learn from others' faith. Too often, we allow our doubts and fears to distract us from seeing You. Abraham's servant trusted You after experiencing Your provision through his master. Strengthen our own faith, Lord, through those around us.

### Thanksgiving

Thank You, Father, for going before us when we seek to follow You. Just as Abraham promised his servant in Genesis 24:7, "(God) will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there," we also trust You to direct our steps.

### Supplications

GLOBAL: As the world around us continues to feel chaotic and out of control, help us to focus on You, Lord. Your ultimate plan stretched beyond Abraham, Isaac and Rebekah. Just as You used a family's faith to build a nation, use our faith to accomplish Your plans today.

LOCAL: When Rebekah's family tried to delay their departure, Abraham's servant responded, "Do not detain me, now that the LORD has granted success to my journey." (Genesis 24:56) Help us to respond to Your calling, Lord, with the same sense of urgency. Let Your will be done in our homes, churches, BSF classes and workplaces.

PERSONAL: On page 3, the Lesson 15 notes tell us, "Isaac trusted God with his personal happiness and future. Isaac expressed his faith by waiting at Beer Lahai Roi to meet his bride." Help me to wait expectantly for You, Lord. Give me the wisdom to trust Your plan for my happiness and future instead of relying upon myself.



Abraham's servant relied on prayer to guide him on his journey. God revealed His plan one step at a time, requiring faith and commitment. Is there an area of your life that feels uncertain? Do you struggle to see just how God can resolve Your difficulty? On page 2 of the Lesson 15 notes, we read that the faithful servant's trust or belief was evident through his prayer. He was honorable, humble, faithful, specific and expectant. Make a list of these words and write ways that you can seek God through these characteristics. In your current uncertainty, how can you honor God? How can you express humility and faithfulness? Though we might not see God's will clearly, we can trust that He will grow our faith through adversity and prayer.

# 16

*Isaac: With Abraham, Twins and Trials*

*"The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, '... Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham.' "* – Genesis 26:2-3

## **Adoration**

You, God, intervene in human history to save Your people. Just as you showed Jacob Your grace and favor in Genesis 25:23, You draw us into relationship with You through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

## **Confession**

Forgive me, Father, for devaluing my eternal inheritance through Jesus. Like Esau, who "despised his birthright," in Genesis 25:34 or Jacob, who sought his blessing through manipulation and self-effort, I'm tempted to seek immediate gratification regardless of the damage or potential consequences.

## **Thanksgiving**

Thank You, Lord, for Your continued mercy and goodness. Just as You honored Your promises to Abraham and Isaac, You honor Your promises to us today.

## **Supplications**

GLOBAL: In Genesis 26:28-29, Isaac's enemies declared, "We saw clearly that the LORD was with you... And now you are blessed by the LORD." Let Your people reflect Your presence, Lord. May the global Church clearly represent a right relationship with You, anchored in Your promises and truth.

LOCAL: Within families and even Christian communities, jealousy and strife detract from God's plans and purpose. Too often, we cling to our own solutions like Jacob and Esau in Genesis 25. Help us, Lord, to rely on You to soften hearts and mend relationships. Give us the faith and patience to trust You in conflict.

PERSONAL: Through faith, Rebekah "inquired of the LORD" when she feared for her child in Genesis 25:22 and Isaac trusted Your provision during a famine in Genesis 26. You blessed Isaac "for the sake of (Your) servant Abraham" in Genesis 26:24, honoring his devotion to You. Weigh my heart and my actions, Father. Grant me faith and the desire to serve You wholeheartedly.



On page 6, the Lesson 16 notes ask, "What do you value more than pleasing God? How are you tempted to grab what is fast and easy instead of waiting on God's better provision?" Take a moment to reflect on your current circumstances. Where might God be asking you to wait on Him? Ask God to reveal any areas where you may be tempted to "sacrifice a greater reward by choosing a lesser thrill that always fails to deliver what it promises." (Lesson 16 notes, page 6)

# 17

## *Isaac: Family Deception, Blessing and Consequences*

*"Isaac trembled violently and said, 'Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came, and I blessed him - and indeed he will be blessed!'" - Genesis 27:33*

### **Adoration**

You, Lord, overrule human schemes and plans. You cannot be manipulated, for You alone are holy and righteous. Though Isaac, Rebekah, Esau and Jacob worked toward their own ends, Your plan ultimately prevailed in Genesis 27, just as it does today.

### **Confession**

Forgive us, Father, for valuing our own will above Your righteous character. When our safety, desires or comfort are threatened, we often excuse our sin and ignore Your direction. Just as Rebekah replied, "... let the curse fall on me. Just do what I say," in Genesis 27:13, we underestimate our sin and its consequences.

### **Thanksgiving**

Your holiness stretches beyond our failures. Only Your perfect sacrifice, Jesus, can cover our sin. Thank you for directing our steps and granting us the power to obey in Your Spirit.

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Help us to place our hope in You, Lord, instead of the world around us. Proverbs 19:21 teaches, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." Free us from manipulation, God, and set Your Church above schemes or human solutions that give us a false sense of control.

LOCAL: In Isaac's family, one sin led to another until bitterness and strife drove two brothers apart in Genesis 27. Help us, Father, to look beyond our own desires and place others' needs above our own. Heal our families, churches and BSF classes of any resentment and hurt caused by our sin and selfishness.

PERSONAL: Hebrews 11:20 reveals, "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future." When my sin is revealed, Lord, give me a heart of repentance and submission. Help me to admit my wrongdoing and turn to You in faith.



On page 6, the Lesson 17 notes state, "Never underestimate the impact your choices have on others ... Who are you influencing? Everyone leads someone. Who you are and what you do matters." Take some time to make a list of the people your choices impact. Praying through each name, ask God to reveal any area where confession and reconciliation might be necessary. Ask for wisdom in words and actions.

# 18

## *Jacob: God's Blessing and Covenant*

*Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples will be blessed through you and your offspring.” – Genesis 28:14*

### **Adoration**

You are the Lord, the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac. You keep Your promises and direct Your people. Just as You spoke to Jacob, You keep Your word today, “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go ... I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised.” (Genesis 28:15)

### **Confession**

Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of humility. When “Esau then realized how displeasing the Canaanite women were to his father Isaac ...”, he relied on his own judgment instead of asking You for wisdom (Genesis 28:8). Like Esau, we cling to self-reliance instead of seeking Your will.

### **Thanksgiving**

You, God, are faithful to pursue Your people. Just as You appeared to Jacob in Genesis 28:13, You continue to guide us in unexpected ways. Thank you for unwavering grace.

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: In Genesis 28:14, You promised Jacob, “Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.” Through Jesus, we have experienced Your eternal blessing, Lord. Help us to proclaim Your gospel to the ends of the earth.

LOCAL: Even after Jacob’s sin and deceit, You met him at Bethel and established his faith in You. Help us to celebrate others’ repentance and recognize changed hearts. With joy, we proclaim, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” (Genesis 28:16)

PERSONAL: Draw me near to You, Father, and speak Your promises over me. Like Jacob, let me sense Your presence, Lord, as I seek to worship You. Soften my heart and direct my steps.



Jacob responded to God’s covenant with humility and reverence. His experience with God’s grace changed his heart and set him on a correct course of faith. To mark this wonderful moment, Jacob set up a stone as a pillar for God’s house. Take some time to reflect on God’s work in your own life. How has He recently shown His love and grace to you? Make a note in your Bible, on your BSF lesson or even in your home as a reminder of God’s faithful provision.

# 19

## *Jacob: The Deceiver Reaps Deception*

*"When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?'" - Genesis 29:25*

### **Adoration**

Your presence, Lord, brings purpose to our pain. You alone can take our difficulties and use them for our good and Your glory. In Genesis 29:35, Leah said, "This time I will praise the LORD." Indeed we praise You, God, for You are good!

### **Confession**

Too often, Father, we defend our selfish actions as Laban did in Genesis 29:26. We disregard others' needs, even those we love, to achieve our own ends. Forgive us for our selfishness and desire to deceive when we are caught in sin.

### **Thanksgiving**

Thank you, Lord, for being the God who sees us. Just as You heard Hagar crying in the desert, You saw "that Leah was not loved..." in Genesis 29:31. Even in our darkest moments, You never leave us or forsake us.

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Give us wisdom, Lord, as we support and follow leaders in our governments and churches. You know the hearts of leaders such as Laban and Jacob. Give us discernment in uncovering false motives and damaging schemes.

LOCAL: Discrimination within a church, family or community can cause pain and decades of bitterness. Even after experiencing his own father's favoritism toward his brother, Jacob's preferential "love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah." Only You, Lord, can help us avoid this painful cycle by instilling Your love for all people within us.

PERSONAL: On page 1, the Lesson 19 notes state, "God values character more than quick and painless solutions. Your suffering will not be wasted when you recognize God's deeper work through it." Help me, Lord, to trust You in my suffering. Like Leah, who grew during times of trial, expand my faith and dependence on You.



On page 4, the Lesson 19 notes tell us, "Suffering removes the pretense that we have things figured out or that we can control what we cannot. Suffering strips away dependence on people or things that cannot satisfy our deepest longings." Where might God be asking you to surrender control or your dependence on something other than Him? Take some time to pray through this question. Ask God to reveal those areas where you are tempted to replace His provision with something that can't fulfill or sustain you through difficulty.

# 20

## *Jacob: Trials With Wives and Laban*

*'I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.'* – Genesis 31:13

### **Adoration**

You never abandon Your children, Lord. Your unchanging character secures believers in this life and for eternity. You keep Your promises and bring them to completion.

### **Confession**

In Genesis 30:27, Laban acknowledged Your blessing, Lord, but rather than humbly bow before You, he tried to exploit Your provision. Forgive us, God, for using Your glory for our gain.

### **Thanksgiving**

Thank you, Father, for Your relentless love. Through Your Son, You right all wrongs and reconcile broken families. If Jacob's, Leah's and Rachel's sins weren't beyond Your saving grace, then neither are ours.

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Like Jacob's experience with Laban in Genesis 30–31, our world is marked by constant change. As laws shift, governments transition and promises are broken, help us to remember that Your character provides stability. Let us cling to You and Your Word when uncertainty threatens to shake our resolve.

LOCAL: Rachel's struggle with infertility in Genesis 30 helps us remember that those in our church and BSF communities face hardship we may not see. Help us, Lord, to be sensitive to our brothers and sisters when they need our compassion and grace.

PERSONAL: In Genesis 30:1, "When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister..." Rachel was blind to the gift of Jacob's love when she focused on what she didn't have. Give me a spirit of gratitude, Lord. Help me to see Your provision and turn my pain into praise of You.



On page 1, the Lesson 20 notes tell us, "While Jacob wanted his circumstances to change, our unchanging God had a bigger plan. He molded Jacob's character through discipline that included hardship." Regardless of our circumstances, we serve a God who is worthy of praise. Take a moment to list some of God's eternal attributes. Find a quiet place to worship Him aloud using the list you created.

# 21

## *Jacob: Meets With God and Esau*

*"Then the man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.' "* – Genesis 32:28

### **Adoration**

You are a God who hears our prayers. We are "unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown ...." (Genesis 32:10)

### **Confession**

Forgive us, Lord, for doubting You. Like Jacob, who consistently depended on his own resources, we are slow to surrender to Your plan and ultimate power.

### **Thanksgiving**

Thank you, Father, for making us new. Just as you gave Jacob a new name and identity in Genesis 32:28, You sanctify Your people today, developing our character and changing our direction.

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Jacob's past sin against Esau threatened his family and children in Genesis 32. Too often, our sin impacts families, communities, governments and churches. Direct Your people, Lord, and purify Your Church. May we be known as a people of hope, offering a place of refuge.

LOCAL: In Genesis 33:3-4, Jacob "bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother. But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him ...." Help us, Lord, to forgive our brothers and sisters and forget past offenses. Give us a spirit of peace and reconciliation with one another.

PERSONAL: Just as Jacob feared Esau in Genesis 32:11, I often fear for my future. Help me to trust Your promises and boldly face my fears though Your strength, in Your name.



On page two, Lesson 21 notes share seven points from Jacob's prayer in Genesis 32:9-12 to help us today as we pray. Using those seven points, write a personal prayer of thanksgiving, supplication and faith as you honestly pour out your heart to God.

# 22

## *Jacob: Family Crisis and Return to Bethel*

*“So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with them, ‘Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes’ ... Then they set out, and the terror of God fell on towns all around them so that no one pursued them.” - Genesis 35:2,5*

### **Adoration**

You alone, Lord, deal rightly with sin. In Your righteousness, evil cannot prevail. You are holy and You are good.

### **Confession**

Like Simeon and Levi, who defensively replied, “Should he have treated our sister like a prostitute?” in Genesis 34:31, forgive us, God, for blaming our sin on others. Soften our hearts to confess our sin before You. Help us to seek Your wisdom and council.

### **Thanksgiving**

Thank you, Father, for continuing to guide us when we turn to You. As You appeared to Jacob in Genesis 35:1, You offer wisdom and counsel to Your people. You are the God “... who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.” (Genesis 35:3)

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: We ask You, Lord, to protect Your people from violence and oppression. For those facing persecution in Your name, we pray for wisdom, courage and peace. We long for the day when every knee will bow before You and evil actions will be set right.

LOCAL: Show us our sin, Lord, and purify Your people. Like Jacob who commanded in Genesis 35:2 to “get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes,” help us to confess our collective sin and repent before You. Guide our churches, BSF classes and communities as we navigate the destruction of generational sin.

PERSONAL: In Genesis 34, Simeon and Levi’s anger blinded them to You, Father. When faced with injustice or mistreatment, help me to fix my eyes on You. Let my reactions honor You, Lord, instead of fueling my own rage and resentment.



On page two, Lesson 21 notes share seven points from Jacob’s prayer in Genesis 32:9-12 to help us today as we pray. Using those seven points, write a personal prayer of thanksgiving, supplication and faith as you honestly pour out your heart to God.

# 23

## *Joseph Is Sold, and Judah Sins With Tamar*

*"Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.' His brothers agreed." - Genesis 37:27*

### **Adoration**

You, God, can redeem what sin destroys. You keep Your promises and Your purpose is good. Your plans cannot be overturned; Your way is just.

### **Confession**

Like Judah in Genesis 38, we allow fear to determine our decisions. Forgive us, Lord, for our selfishness and desire for control.

### **Thanksgiving**

You, Father, are a God who redeems. Just as You saved Joseph from the hands of his brothers in Genesis 37 and included Tamar in the line of Christ in Genesis 38, You alone can redeem us from sin. Thank you for graciously restoring Your people through the ultimate sacrifice of Your Son.

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Direct our leaders, Lord, and hold those who abuse power accountable. Like Joseph's brothers who sought to elevate their position through his mistreatment, we also see community and government officials seek power at all costs. Give us wisdom in dealing with these men and women and deliver us from leadership that disregards You.

LOCAL: In Genesis 37:4, we read, "When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him." Heal us, Lord, of blinding hatred and reveal areas where we don't love others well. Let our churches and BSF classes be a refuge for those who are mistreated and unloved.

PERSONAL: In Genesis 38:26, Judah recognized his seal, cord and staff in Tamar's possession. He declared, "She is more righteous than I ...." Like Judah, give me the humility to admit when I'm wrong. Help me to elevate Your name above my own, especially when my sin is exposed before others.



On page 4, the Lesson 23 notes tell us, "The truth about redemption makes salvation possible, but it also gives hope when circumstances in life appear hopeless." What circumstances, relationships or individual in your life seem to be beyond redemption? Ask God for the endurance to continue to pray for those things that seem lost. Make a note of today's date in your Bible or on your BSF lesson to remember that God can accomplish His eternal purposes through the most desperate situations.

# 24

## *Joseph: Suffering in Slavery and Prison*

*"When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant." - Genesis 39:3-4a*

### **Adoration**

Psalm 27:14 says: "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD." You are worth waiting for, Lord God. You are worthy of our trust.

### **Confession**

Forgive us, Lord, when, in our suffering, we lose sight that You are always with Your children. Forgive us, when like Potiphar's wife, we choose to blame others for our sin.

### **Thanksgiving**

Thank you, Lord, that You are always present with us - in our most desperate moments, in our deepest disappointments. Thank you for Your tender daily provisions in the midst of our suffering.

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: In the midst of the bad things and injustices of this world, help Your Church, O Lord, to wait with unwavering faith in Your full deliverance - the final defeat of sin, suffering and death. Your ultimate victory remains certain. Deepen our faith as we wait and worship You.

LOCAL: Father, help us to see where our sin is hurting others. Just as Joseph ran from Potiphar's wife, help us to avoid volatile and tempting situations and to seek safe distance from evil.

PERSONAL: O Lord, allow my suffering and my unanswered questions to propel me toward You! Tenderize my heart. I yield my disappointments and pain to You; You know and love me best.



Reflect on an area of your life where the pain is deep and solutions seem invisible. Ask Him to replace your limited vision and understanding with His vision for this situation. Write down or memorize Romans 5:3-5: "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

# 25

*Joseph: With Pharaoh and Brothers*

*"Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.' "* - Genesis 41:39-40

## **Adoration**

We praise You, Lord, for Your goodness and compassion. You offer hope, refuge and care to all who come to You. You promise to make all things work together for our good. You were equally good to Joseph in prison as You were to Joseph in the palace. You are equally good to us in our hardest days as well as our best days.

## **Confession**

Forgive us, God, when we fail to grasp Your control of the future and are tossed by the waves of cultural thinking. Forgive us when we anchor our security in other things besides You and Your Word.

## **Thanksgiving**

Thank you, Lord, that You never leave or forsake us, that Your promises remain unchanged and Your Word is utterly trustworthy.

## **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Father, for Your people around the world who feel forgotten or who are desperately praying but have not yet seen Your answer, give them faith and strength to wait for Your perfect timing. For You will "do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to [Your] power that is at work within us." (Ephesians 3:20)

LOCAL: Instead of falling into the grip of anger, bitterness and hopelessness in our families and communities when others hurt us, help us to process our pain with God-given wisdom and the power of the Holy Spirit.

PERSONAL: Father, I give my suffering to You. I humbly ask that You prepare me for greater usefulness for You, Your people and Your purposes. Help me to look at my life through the grid of Your active and unwavering goodness!



Lesson 25, page 6 of the notes says, "Story-book resolutions do not always happen, but God is always faithful." Take time to reflect on past hard times in your life. Write down ways God extended His mercy to you in those hard seasons. Acknowledge and thank Him for the growth He was able to accomplish in your heart.

# 26

## *Joseph: Brothers' Second Trip to Egypt*

*"And may God Almighty grant you mercy before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved." - Genesis 43:14*

### **Adoration**

You are the God of love. Your love melts our resistance to You. Your love permeates our most difficult experiences and propels Your well-timed plans. Your love leads us to face our sin and brings us to a place of repentance and reconciliation. Your love is actively good and reflects Your absolute purity.

### **Confession**

Forgive us, Lord, when we fail to immediately repent and ignore Your tender call to forsake our sins.

### **Thanksgiving**

God, thank you for revealing our sins to us, not to shackle us in hopelessness, but to set us free. "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Lord, You are working in multiple people, in multiple situations and in multiple ways - all at once! Your work is never one-dimensional. Help Your Church, O Lord, to trust and find comfort that You are doing more than we can imagine in ways far beyond our understanding.

LOCAL: Father, we pray You will bring healing to the broken relationships in our homes, churches and communities. Only you can restore what sin has destroyed! Soften hearts; bring repentance; orchestrate your healing, restorative work.

PERSONAL: Lord God, in this lesson Jacob had to trust You with his precious son, Benjamin. Help me to let go of control and comfort, even with the things most dear in my life, even when it feels too costly. May I trust You with what I treasure most in this world, knowing You will meet my deepest needs.



Psalm 51:4 says: "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge." Give yourself space this week to sit in the discomfort and sorrow of your sins and the reality of Your offenses against God Himself. And then run into the healing arms of Your Savior, praising Him for the deliverance He won for you!

# 27

*Joseph: Reveals Identity and Reunites Family*

*"But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance." - Genesis 45:7*

## **Adoration**

We praise You as the God of reconciliation! We deserved Your wrath, Lord. Christ broke down the wall that separated us from You. Walking with You is an indescribable privilege! 1 John 3:1 says, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

## **Confession**

Forgive us, Lord, when we promote divisiveness and desire payback in difficult relationships instead of reconciliation.

## **Thanksgiving**

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for reconciling sinners to God. Thank you for going to the cross to make forgiveness possible for all those who have faith in You.

## **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Make Your Church, O God, an agent of reconciliation. Holy Spirit, work in Your Church around the world to lead people that are alienated from God to know and love Him.

LOCAL: Father, in many of our communities, hope for peace seems lost. Pour out Your powerful grace in my community; disarm hostility; overpower bitterness, unforgiveness and resentment. With the power of the Holy Spirit, help me lead the way.

PERSONAL: Lord, allow me to bring hope and healing to dysfunction within my own family dynamics. For the hard things my family is facing, help me to trust You are using it for our good and You will triumph over pain. You will never fail me; You always keep Your Word - my security is in You alone.



Joseph was able to forgive his brothers because he believed that God's greater plan overruled their sin. Is there someone you need to forgive? Bring that person before the Lord in prayer. Lesson 27 notes say: "Forgiveness can be difficult to offer to someone who has wronged you. Sometimes, even becoming willing to forgive requires time and a work of God in your heart. Holding onto a grudge, replaying the wrong in your mind or rehearsing your payback can feel temporarily satisfying, but it robs you of the joy Jesus died to give you."

# 28

*Joseph: Manages the Famine and Honors Jacob*

*"Israel said to Joseph, 'I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too.' " - Genesis 48:11*

## **Adoration**

You are our perfect Heavenly Father! You are completely free of fault or defect and are the measure of all perfection. You are the ultimate source of every blessing - every good thing. James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

## **Confession**

Forgive us, Lord, when we use our own wisdom to direct our families, instead of seeking Your spiritual illumination and Your purposes and plans for our families.

## **Thanksgiving**

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for bringing purpose and security to our lives. We can run to You in confidence and without pretense. Thank you for lovingly withholding from us things that are not good for us and giving us exactly what we need. You are a good Father who never fails us!

## **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Father, we lift up church leaders globally, who, like Joseph, are being asked to lead through very challenging times. Help them to trust Your wisdom and reveal the way You want them to go as they seek to accomplish Your greater good for the flocks they lead.

LOCAL: Lord, we lift up the leaders in our local BSF classes, who choose to bless others as You have blessed them. Help them to continue to stand firmly on Your truth and fill them with unexpected joy. Bring songs of praise from their places of pain.

PERSONAL: Lord, You are my Shepherd. You are faithful every day of my life. The life stage I am facing is difficult, but I choose to acknowledge Your presence and faithfulness. Fill me with Your Spirit to speak words of life and hope to my circle of influence.



Lesson 28 notes say: "God's ways are not just different than our own, they are perfect. We approach life with limited understanding and a personal grid that distorts reality. God sees eternity and always seeks the highest good. He upholds His perfect character in everything He allows and accomplishes." What are you facing that you cannot unravel or understand? Write it down and reflect on Joseph's story as you think about your own situation. Ask God to allow you to see this situation through the reality of His intentional faithfulness.

# 29

## *Joseph: Blessings and Death*

*"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." – Genesis 50:20*

### **Adoration**

What You declare, God, will happen. You accomplish Your purpose in Your perfect ways and timing. You are the God who formed the earth, walked with Abraham and sustained Joseph – and You are the God who walks with us today.

### **Confession**

Forgive us, Lord, when we clamor for instant solutions to our problems and try to figure out our future on our own. You understand what we do not. You have revealed what we need to know to face the future with faith and not fear.

### **Thanksgiving**

Thank you, Father, for the book of Genesis. We marvel at this book of beginnings. Thank you for showing us Your tender redemptive love for the people You created, even in their fallenness.

### **Supplications**

GLOBAL: Father, we pray for revival in our world today! Call many people of all different races, nationalities and walks of life to live by faith in You – to experience the joy of a restored relationship with You through the work of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

LOCAL: God, You have lovingly invested in us this year through Your Word. Allow us to speak the truth with boldness within the hurting places of our families, churches and communities. Make our words count for You!

PERSONAL: Lord, give me Your perspective and peace; use even my sinful choices for Your glory. I will trust You with my unanswered questions and my trials; I will trust Your purpose is prevailing in my story!



Isaiah 55:11 says, "so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Write down some ways God has met you through the study of Genesis. What is one thing God is calling you to do with what you have learned?