

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commitment reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

### **Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 49:1-15**

This week we will finish the study of Genesis and complete our first book of the Bible together. Today we begin with Jacob speaking to his sons the father's last words or blessings. We start with Reuben. What good things does Jacob say (vs. 3)? Yet what not-so-good truth is stated (vs. 4)? What will Reuben lose because of what he did (vs. 4)? There are consequences for our choices. What does Jacob have to say about Simeon and Levi (vss. 5-6)? Do you remember where we read about that (Gen. 34:25)? Jacob does not bless them, but curses them. How (vs. 7)? Again, actions have consequences. Now look at verse 8. Who is next to receive Jacob's blessing? What does Jacob say about Judah? Much different from the other three. We know Judah had made mistakes early on, but in the end he had changed, becoming more responsible and acting more wisely. What description does Jacob give Judah (vs. 9)? This is where the name "Lion of Judah" comes. What are the blessings that shall befall Judah (vss. 10-12)? As you read these verses, what references to Jesus do you see? Some key words to help you are: *ruler, donkey's colt, choice vine, blood of grape*. We begin to see pointers to Jesus from Jacob. He didn't know that at the time, but because of what we know, we can see it clearly. As we move to verse 13, who is next and what is his blessing? We end today with Issachar. How does Jacob describe Issachar (vs. 14)? But what does Jacob say will happen to him (his tribe) (in vs. 15)? Scholars believe that this does point to the tribe of Issachar becoming slaves to Canaanites. What has this close of a reading of these texts revealed to you about God? About us? About Jesus? What sins have you committed that had long-lasting consequences, even if you are forgiven? What does this teach you about the decisions you make?

### **Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 49:16-28**

Today we continue with Jacob blessing/cursing his sons. Who is up next and what does Jacob say about him (vs. 16)? The tribe of Dan will be where cases/causes are judged. This is a prophetic blessing. But read verse 18. Why do you think Jacob would finish with this statement? Perhaps human cleverness is not the end all, but only God is the true judge. Yet, there is human judgment on earth. Verse 19 is about Gad. What will his tribe be like? Asher comes next in verse 20. What do we learn about Asher? Read verse 21. Who is next and what do we learn about him? This means that he was swift and eloquent. Next comes Joseph, Jacob's favorite. His blessing is found in verses 22-26. How do the things said point both to his past and the future? It is important to remember that there is no tribe of Joseph, but rather his two sons are tribes. Finally, we get to the baby of the family, Benjamin. What does Jacob say about Benjamin (vs. 27)? This is a prophecy of their being warriors. To close today, let's think about verse 28 and the 12 tribes. There are actually 13 tribes, because of Joseph's two sons each getting their own place in the family line. When they return to Canaan (the Promised Land), the Levites will be dedicated to God and not own land. So one of Joseph's sons will take the place of Joseph and the other will take the place of the Levites (descendants of Levi), thus leaving us with 12 tribes. Where do you see God in all these blessings and curses? How do these point to Jesus and even to ourselves? Who do you bless? Who do you curse? What would blessings look like for your children in this day and age? Think through that and then bless your children or grandchildren or both this week.

### **Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 49:29-33**

Today we say goodbye to Jacob. What is Jacob's last wish and his instructions to his sons (vss. 29-30)? Why does he want to be buried there (vss. 31-32)? In the end, family and tradition matter. This is also the land which is promised to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jacob wants to be in the land that his descendants will one day own. Do you have your final arrangements made? Are your instructions clear? How does this help your family after you are gone? How can this preparation honor family traditions? In verse 33, Jacob has completed all that needed to be done and dies. Spend some quiet time today considering what you learned from Jacob's life about God, about humanity and even about Jesus. What has caused you pause and is making you consider changing in your life, because of this study? Spend time in prayer today, thanking God for the life of Jacob and for all the lessons learned.

### **Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 50:1-13**

Yesterday, we said good-bye to Jacob. The question today is do the sons obey his wishes? We start with Joseph. What was his reaction to Jacob's passing (vss. 1-3)? Notice who mourned. It was not just the family, it was all of Egypt. Then Joseph, while still the #2 man, does act in humility. What does he do, in order to fulfill his father's wishes (vss. 4-5)? What is the response (vss. 6-9)? Verses 10-11 give us a glimpse of the memorial service. What does it reveal? It was so moving, it affected the Canaanites. What was their reaction to what they witnessed (vs. 11)? In verses 12-13, we see that the sons of Jacob (led by Joseph) did in fact fulfill their father's wishes and buried Jacob in the cave with Leah, his mother and father, and his grandfather and grandmother. What does this reveal about us? About God? How does having memorial services help us honor someone's wishes? How does it help us to move on?

### **Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 50:14-26**

Today we will close the Book of Genesis with two texts. The first is found in verses 14-21. What is the concern of the brothers now that Jacob is gone (vss. 14-15)? What does this fear drive them to do (vss. 16-18)? Repentance is not a bad thing. In fact, in this case it clears the air. How does Joseph respond to the brothers (vss. 17 and 19)? What is the rationale for the brothers to not be afraid (vs. 20)? What is the promise Joseph makes to his brothers (vs. 21)? What was the result (vs. 22)? We close the book with Joseph's death. How long did Joseph live (vss. 22-23)? What words of assurance and what reminder does Joseph leave his brothers (vs. 24)? Why do you think he needs to remind them of that fact? What promise does he make his brothers make (vs. 25)? Again, family and tradition matter. What happens in verse 26? And so we have finished with the beginnings, the flood and the patriarchs of our faith. Today make a list of things you have learned in Genesis. What questions do you still have? What did this teach you about God? What did you learn about yourself? How do these texts point to our need for Jesus? Praise God for His word that reveals and His Spirit, who inspires and illuminates and helps us to interpret God's Holy Word.

### **Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> – In preparation for tomorrow's worship, please read Matthew 28:19-20.**