

RULES FOR THE ROAD

- 1 Be concise.** Please share your thoughts and answers, but be considerate so that others will have time to share their answers also. Be charitable and kind. Be willing to share with the group, but do not try to dominate the conversation. Use the time after the class to find help with any personal issues or problems you may be confronting in your life.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

(James 1:19–20)

- 2 Be thoughtful with your answer.** Consider your words. Do not simply regurgitate what you have always heard. We can have the tendency to speak in a way that only people who grew up on the pews would understand. Think about how your words will be heard by others. Will they understand what you are saying? Is what you are about to say going to be useful for the building up of the faith of others? Or will your words be confusing, cause hurt, or worse, damage someone’s faith? Speak without harshness or anger, but with kindness and humility.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

(Ephesians 4:29)

- 3 Rely on the scriptures for truth.** It is easy to rely upon conventional, worldly wisdom as truth. Bible study is about seeking God’s answers for our lives, not dispensing the advice of the world. We must consider that our natural answers may be the wrong answers if they are not founded on God’s word.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

(1 Corinthians 1:25)

Have you ever read a chapter in the Bible but then could not remember what you had read? Have you ever fallen asleep while reading? An hour after you read, do you retain what you have read? These problems destroy enjoyment in Bible reading and therefore we must use a method of Bible reading that will solve this problem. To read properly we must be keen observers. We must see words and phrases that stand out while at the same time collecting the whole thought. Remember, the important thing is not how many times you have gone through the Bible, but how many times the Bible has gone through you!

Observe // what do I see?

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, "What do I see?" This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for your study. The text is given to you so that you will underline, circle, box, and highlight important words as you read. As you read look for comparisons, contrasts, purposes, results, causes, explanations, conclusions, and conditions. Ask yourself who, what, where, when, why, and how as you read. Keep asking these questions as you read to prevent a lazy brain while reading. Look for themes and main ideas from the passage.

Interpret // what does it mean?

Our observation of a passage should stir interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study: interpretation. Reread through the passage after your observation notations have been made looking to answer what the passage means. Record your explanations of the text in the workbook.

Apply // how does this affect me?

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. Write down lessons that you have learned for you own life especially things that you see you need to change. Only you know your heart and what is happening in your life to be able to apply God's word directly to you. Bible study is fruitless if we do not take the information we have learned and directly change our lives. Write down how the passage affects you. The transformation section in the workbook will help you in this effort.

Share // how can I share my findings with us?

Now we want to share our findings with others. We want to share our observations, interpretations, and applications with others in the Bible class. This is your opportunity to hear what others have found in their studies and for you to share what you found. By doing this we are able to build one another up and grow up in the unity of the faith (Ephesians 4:12-13). If we do not share what we have found then we will be unable to grow together as the family of Christ.

- 1 After Sarah's death, who did Abraham marry? What nations came from this marriage?
- 2 Was the blessing or inheritance to Isaac affected by Abraham's new marriage?
- 3 What problem does Rebekah have (25:21)? What does Isaac do? Does God answer his prayer?
- 4 What is the message of the struggle in Rebekah's womb? This is quoted in Romans 9:12. How does Paul use this scripture to prove his point in Romans?
- 5 Explain the meaning of the children's names.
- 6 Who did Isaac love? Who did Rebekah love?
- 7 What was the birthright? What does Esau do? How is Jacob living up to his name with this?
- 8 Read Hebrews 12:15-17. What is the teaching message about what Esau did?


TRANSFORMATION:

- ✍ What questions do you have from the lesson?

- ✍ What have you learned about God and/or about yourself that changes how you will think or act?

- 1 What promise is made to Isaac? Who else had been given this promise? Where do we read this?
- 2 What does Isaac do regarding his wife when in Gerar (26:6-11)? Who else did this?
- 3 What problem arises with Abimelech (26:12-16)? Where have we seen this problem before?
- 4 Where does God appear to Isaac? What promise is made to Isaac?
- 5 What did the Gentiles clearly see regarding Isaac (26:26-31)?
- 6 What is being foreshadowed from Abimelech's words to Isaac?


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- 1 What is Isaac planning to do (27:1-4)? How is this a violation of what God promised in chapter 25?
- 2 What does Rebekah have Jacob do?
- 3 What is the blessing that Isaac gives to Jacob (27:26-29)?
- 4 What does Esau say about Jacob once he learns what Jacob did (27:30-36)?
- 5 What blessing is given to Esau? In Hebrews 11:20 we read that Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau by faith. How is what Isaac did by faith when he was deceived?
- 6 Go back to Hebrews 12:15-17. What does the author of Hebrews say was the reason Esau lost the blessing?
- 7 What is Esau's response to what Jacob did?
- 8 When will Jacob be able to return?

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- 1 What does Isaac tell Jacob?
- 2 What does Esau do? Why?
- 3 Explain Jacob's dream. What is the meaning? What promise does God make to Jacob?
- 4 What was Jacob's response to this dream?
- 5 What vow does Jacob make? What does this tell us about the character of Jacob?
- 6 How does Jacob find Laban? How is Laban related to Jacob?
- 7 Who are Laban's two daughters?
- 8 How long will Jacob work for Laban to marry Rachel?
- 9 How did Laban swindle Jacob?
- 10 What does God do for Leah? Why does he do this? What is the message?

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- 1 Who does Jacob say is responsible for children and barrenness?
- 2 What is Rachel's solution to her barrenness? What was Leah's response?
- 3 Write down the meanings of the children's names:
- 4 What does God do for Rachel?
- 5 Carefully read how Jacob speaks about his working for Laban in 30:25-34. How has Jacob changed over the last 20 years?
- 6 How does Laban attempt to swindle Jacob again?
- 7 What does God tell Jacob to do (31:1-3, 9-13)?
- 8 How did God protect Jacob from Laban?
- 9 What did Rachel steal? What does this tell us about her character?

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- 1 How were things left between Jacob and Esau when Jacob left home?
- 2 Why does God lead Jacob to meet Esau? What preparations does Jacob make for this meeting? Describe what Jacob will do and why he does it.
- 3 What does God do with Jacob that night (32:22-32)? What is the message? What is Jacob to learn?
- 4 What does Jacob say and do once he finally meets Esau (33:1-11)?
- 5 What does Esau offer? What is Jacob's response?
- 6 Why does Jacob not take Esau up on his offer?
- 7 Where does Jacob end up?

TRANSFORMATION:

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- 1 What happens to Dinah, Jacob's daughter?
- 2 How do Dinah's brothers handle this serious sin?
- 3 What is Jacob's response to what Simeon and Levi did? Are they condemned for what they did? Consider Genesis 49:5-7 in your answer. What do we learn?
- 4 What is the defense of Simeon and Levi? Are they right or wrong?
- 5 Where does God tell Jacob to go (35:1)? What does Jacob tell his family to do (35:2-4)? What has Jacob learned? How does go back to what Jacob said in Genesis 28:20-21?
- 6 What does God do when he appears to Jacob this time? What does his new name mean? What does God tell Jacob? Where have we seen this before?
- 7 What happens to Rachel? What did Rachel name their last son? What did Jacob name their last son? What do these names mean?

TRANSFORMATION:

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- 1 What is the message of chapter 36?
- 2 What problems happen in Jacob's household? Why does this happen?
- 3 What dreams does Joseph receive from God? What did these dreams mean? What was the response of the family to these dreams?
- 4 What do Joseph's brothers plan to do? What does Reuben do? What is his plan?
- 5 What do the brothers do while Reuben is away?
- 6 What plan do the brothers scheme?
- 7 What does Judah do in chapter 38?
- 8 What kind of person is Judah?

TRANSFORMATION:

- ✍️ What have you learned about God and/or about yourself that changes how you will think or act?

- 1 Where does Joseph end up in Egypt?
- 2 Read Genesis 39:2-6. What are we told about the Lord and Joseph and their relationship?
- 3 What happens to Joseph while serving Potipher?
- 4 How does Joseph handle the daily temptation from Potipher's wife? What do we learn?
- 5 What happens to Joseph for rejecting the temptations to sin?
- 6 In spite of all that keeps happening to Joseph, what are we told again in Genesis 39:21-23? What do we learn?
- 7 What does Joseph do for the cupbearer and baker in spite of all his own problems? What do we learn?
- 8 What was the meaning of the dreams? Did they come to pass? What does Joseph request? Did it happen?

TRANSFORMATION:

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- 1 What happens to Pharaoh? How long has it been since the cupbearer left the prison?
- 2 Describe Pharaoh's dreams.
- 3 Who does Joseph say is able to interpret dreams (41:16)? What do we learn?
- 4 What is the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams?
- 5 What counsel does Joseph give to Pharaoh?
- 6 What does Pharaoh do for Joseph? How old was Joseph when these things happened?
- 7 Who does Joseph marry? What are the names of their children? What do those names mean? What does this tell you about how Joseph is looking at his life, at his family, and at God?

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- 1 Why are the brothers sent to Egypt? Why is Benjamin not sent with them?
- 2 Does Joseph recognize his brothers? Does he reveal himself to them? Why or why not? Explain.
- 3 Why does Joseph treat his brothers harshly? What does Joseph do to them?
- 4 What does Joseph remember when he sees his brothers (42:9)? What does this mean?
- 5 What does Joseph hear from Reuben that causes Joseph to leave the room in tears?
- 6 What does Joseph do afterward?
- 7 What do the brothers tell Jacob when they arrive home?
- 8 Will Jacob allow Benjamin to go with the brothers back to Egypt? So who is stuck in prison?

TRANSFORMATION:

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- 1 How do the brothers get Benjamin to go with them to Egypt? Who is the one who becomes a guarantee for Benjamin's life? What changes have we seen in this man?
- 2 What does Joseph do when he sees all his brothers this time?
- 3 What are some of the reasons that the brothers are afraid?
- 4 How does Joseph test his brothers?
- 5 What does Joseph expect his brothers to do to Benjamin?
- 6 Who is the one who steps in for the life of Benjamin?
- 7 What do the brothers say to Joseph when they return to him? How is this different than in chapter 37?

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- 1 What does Joseph do once the brothers all plead for Benjamin's life?
- 2 What is the brothers' response to Joseph's revelation?
- 3 What does Joseph tell his brothers in 45:5-8? How did Joseph learn this? What do we learn?
- 4 What does Joseph offer to his family?
- 5 What is Jacob's response when he learns that Joseph is still alive?
- 6 How many were in Jacob's family when they move to Egypt?
- 7 What does Joseph tell his brothers to say when they come into the land so that they can remain in the good part of the land of Egypt?

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- 1 Where does Joseph's family end up settling in the land of Egypt?
- 2 What does Jacob do with Pharaoh in 47:7-12? Who is the superior figure?
- 3 Describe the famine and what happens during the famine according to the rest of chapter 47?
- 4 How does Joseph save his own people? How is this a foreshadowing of Christ?
- 5 What is unusual about how Jacob blesses Joseph's children?
- 6 What is not unusual about how Jacob blesses Joseph's children considering God's blessings on Isaac and Jacob?
- 7 What are the blessings given to Joseph's children? Does this help explain the tribe names and numbering?

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- 1 Write down the blessings for each of the sons and explain what they mean. Write down what is important about these blessings:

Reuben:

Simeon:

Levi:

Judah:

Zebulun:

Issachar:

Dan:

Gad:

Asher:


Naphtali:

Joseph:

Benjamin:

- 2 Where is Jacob buried?

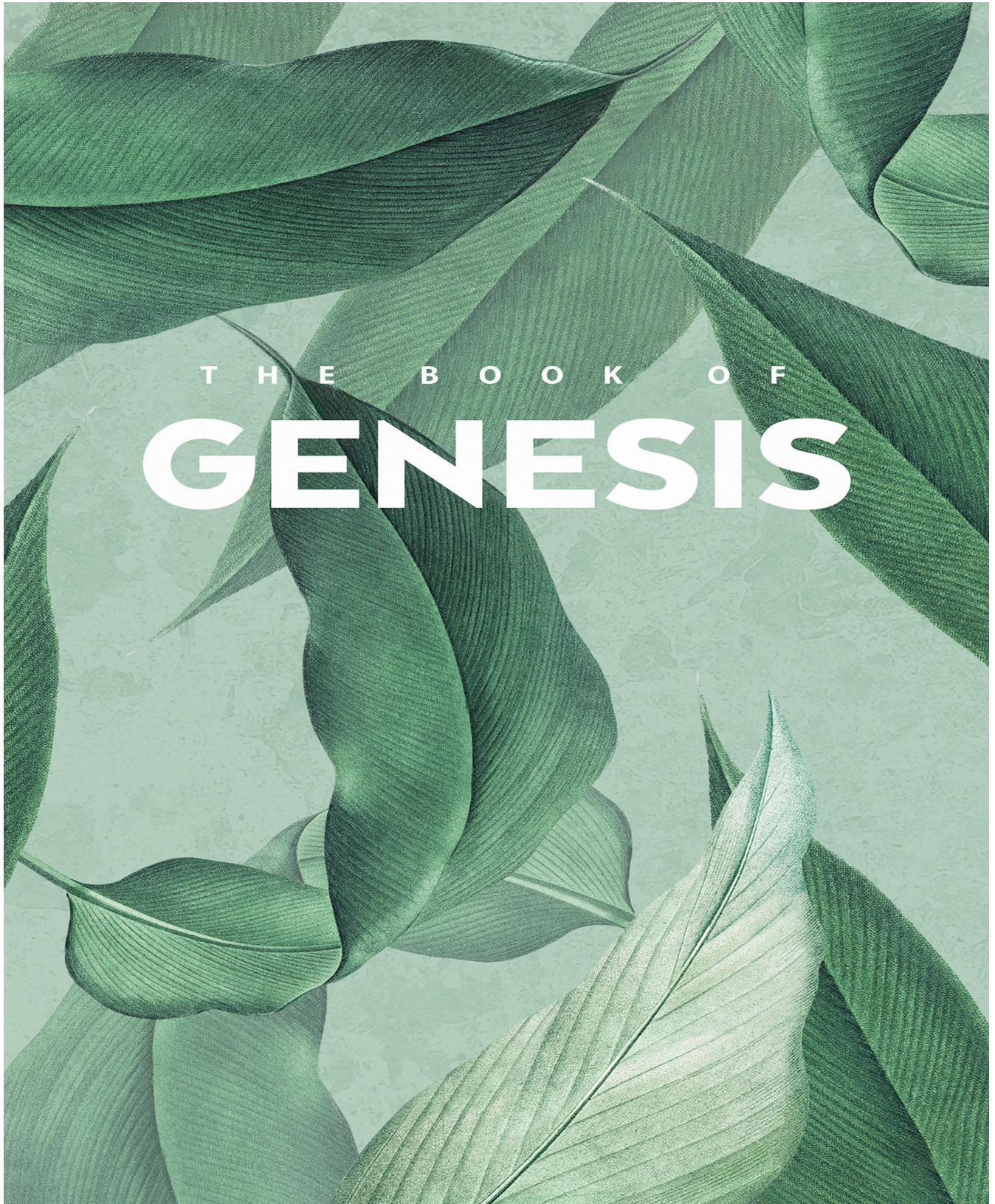
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- 1 What does Joseph do when Jacob dies?
- 2 Who buries Jacob?
- 3 What do the brothers fear now that Jacob is dead?
- 4 What do the brothers do?
- 5 What is Joseph's response?
- 6 How is Joseph able to respond this way in spite of all the evil his brothers did to him?
- 7 What do we learn about how to be forgiving people when we are sinned against from the life of Joseph? What do we learn about creating reconciliation?
- 8 How do we see Christ in the life of Joseph?
- 9 What does Joseph do at the end of his life? In Hebrews 11 this event in Joseph's life is recorded. Why is it so important to be mentioned as Joseph's great act of faith?

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T H E B O O K O F
GENESIS

GENESIS 25-50
SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

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