



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for November 25, 2007
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"Giving a Blessing"

MEMORY VERSE:

"Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed" (Genesis 48:11)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Genesis 48:11-19

11 And Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed.

12 And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.

13 And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him.

14 And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn.

15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day,

16 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

17 And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head.

18 And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head.

19 And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Believers should follow God's way and not their own way.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God's way is the best way.
2. We can trust God's promises
3. We should daily count all of our blessings from God.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For the "Helping to Remember" section, for each child, you will need: an 8 ½ by 11-inch piece of paper with the outline of an arrow that is pointing up, crayons and/or color pencils.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

At the end of last week's lesson, Joseph was reunited with his brothers after supplying them with grain to feed their family during the famine. Joseph was able to instruct his brothers

that the famine would last an additional five years and that they should move the entire family to Egypt, settle in the land of Goshen where Joseph would see to it that they were provided with whatever they needed to survive the famine. Genesis 46 and 47 provides a list of the names of the Israelites who went down to the land of Goshen in Egypt and some of the events that occurred before they got there.

When they arrived in Goshen, Pharaoh made sure that Joseph's family would live in the best land in Egypt. As the famine continued, God, in His providential care, kept His covenant with His people by keeping them alive. Jacob (Israel) lived for seventeen more years after arriving in Egypt (he was 147 years old when he died). Our study in Genesis ends with Jacob on his deathbed and the customary final blessing bestowed on his children. Genesis 48 describes Jacob's blessing of his grandsons (Joseph's sons). Genesis 49 describes the blessing of the other sons.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

1. What do we know about Joseph's two sons?

Joseph's two sons were born to him before the seven years of famine came (41:50). The name of the first son was Manasseh (41:51) and means "he who brings about forgetfulness" and served as a reminder that God had enabled Joseph to forget all his troubles and the family of his father. The name of the second son was Ephraim (41:52) and means "to bear fruit" and served as a reminder that God had made Joseph fruitful in the land of his suffering. The names that Joseph gave his sons indicated that he held on to his heritage and faith even while in Egypt.

2. Why did Joseph bring his two sons to see Jacob (Israel)?

Joseph's father Jacob was sick and dying (47:29, 48:1-2) and the sons were called to their father's bedside. Joseph even came from the palace with his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. It was the tradition of that day for the father to bless his sons. So they all came to Jacob's bedside for him to perform the traditional duty of dividing the inheritance among his sons and invoking God's favor upon them.

3. What was Jacob's blessing on his grandchildren, and how did it relate to the covenant?

Jacob was eager to bestow a special blessing on Joseph's children. He had suffered a great loss when he was made to believe that Joseph, his favorite son, was dead. In Egypt, he was still rejoicing that not only was he able to see Joseph again, but also that he had seen Joseph's children.

As Jacob blessed Manasseh and Ephraim, he saw that his name would be on them. His God-given name of "Israel" would become the name of the nation that was promised to Abraham. The same covenant-keeping God would bless them and their descendants. The boys and their descendants would forever be identified with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and would grow into a multitude on the earth – the people of Israel would use the names of Ephraim and Manasseh to bless their fellow citizens in the nation (48:20).

4. How did Jacob break with tradition in blessing Manasseh and Ephraim?

Jacob broke with tradition by placing his right hand on Ephraim, the younger son of Joseph. The right hand indicated the superior position and the greater blessing. Joseph had intentionally positioned his children so that Manasseh was at Jacob's right hand, but Jacob had crossed his arms in order to place his right hand on Ephraim. Joseph thought that this was a mistake and tried to correct it, but Jacob had guided his hands deliberately and knew full well what he was doing. With prophetic insight, he knew that Ephraim's descendants would be the greater. He, however, assured Joseph that Manasseh would also be a great people.

Further study of history will show that this proved true. Ephraim and Manasseh became two of the largest tribes in Israel, but Ephraim was by far the more prominent. During the time in Israel's history it was divided into the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom, Ephraim

dominated the ten tribes of the north to the extent that the name Ephraim was often used to designate the whole nation.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

The book of Genesis is our key to understanding the whole Bible and even to making sense of life in general. Sometimes we think we know all the answers in life. We trust our own wisdom instead of looking to God. When we trust God, obey Him, and pray for His direction, He will show us what to do. He will lead us and direct us just as he did Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the others we have read about in the book of Genesis.

In this week's lesson, Jacob blessed his grandchildren and invoked the favor of God on their lives. He understood that the blessing did not come primarily from him but from the same God who had guided him throughout his life, redeeming him, feeding him, and supplying all his needs. It is important for each of us to learn to trust God in this same way.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

On the paper with the arrow pointing up, inside the arrow write in block letters the words "GOD'S WAY". Give each student a copy of the arrow to color and cut out. Remind them to hang it in their rooms as a reminder to follow God's way. A word search for this week's lesson and quarterly review are included at the end of this lesson summary to emphasize the topics covered the last three months.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed" (Genesis 48:11).

At this point in his life, Jacob is facing his final illness (48:1-2) and knows that death is near. He remembers that at one time he thought that Joseph was dead and that he would never see his face again. Now, seventeen years after being reunited with him, he was still rejoicing in now only seeing Joseph but also having lived to see Joseph's two sons.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father God, we thank You that all blessings come from You. We praise you for redeeming us, guiding us and supplying all our needs. Help us to trust You and to allow You to lead us everyday, in Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is the first in the new quarter theme: God's Call to the Christian Community. The lesson is "Called to Believe" from Luke 1:5-25.

Lesson Summarized By:

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WORD SEARCH

Giving a Blessing (Genesis 48:11-19)

Find each of the following words.

YOUNGER

GREATER

LEFT

REDEEMED

NATION

KNEES

ANGEL

EPHRAIM

JOSEPH

MANASSEH

FIRSTBORN

SEED

MULTITUDE

RIGHT

ISRAEL

BLESSING

G I N F N S E H Y O S A E D U T I T L U M S S
S R U A E N E E N S A E F S D R A T H T N A I
E N D E D I S M E E I S O I N T T R E E N M D
M M N E E D H A E S K T R B R M I A R H P E R
T K R A P A A N N A T I O N H S B L F E D A A
G H E T D T S A N L U E S H R A T S N A N N D
N O G H O E R S L H L H E E R S P B S E E K H
I L R I E O M S A M G R E A T E R I O N I I F
S I P E R H L E F T O T Y E R E Y E P R E S N
S D G A O E O H E E G N F O E H I N N N N R S
E H P E S O J E H D L E B E U E A M T R E A O
L U R O S D T T T G E H K T N N E N I U S E G
B E E R I E A S S T G R N N F O G A E B E L E
L M T E U E A F E O N E D M S E O E J P R R S
U E L E E S E B M L A M P F A E N E R E E N H
A T T F R P N N B D E S E H H P A F L N P R N

QUARTERLY REVIEW

"God Created A People" (Fall 2007)

1. In the _____, God created the heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1).
2. God created man (male and female) in his own _____ (Genesis 1:27).
3. _____ was the son of promise given to Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 21:3).
4. Abraham's and Hagar son, _____, would also be a great nation (Genesis 21:13).
5. God provided _____ as a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24:45).
6. Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons named _____ and _____ (Gen. 25:25-26).
7. Esau sold his _____ to Jacob for some bread and stew (Gen. 25:33-34).
8. Jacob dreamed of a _____ with angles ascending and descending on it (Gen. 28:12).
9. Jacob served Laban for _____ years to marry his daughter, Rachel (Gen. 29:20).
10. Jacob was tricked by his future father-in-law and ended up with two wives, _____ and _____ (Gen. 29:25, 28).
11. Joseph's dreams made his brothers jealous, and they sold him into _____ as a slave (Gen. 37:28).
12. From being a slave, Joseph rose to become ruler of all Egypt; only in the throne was _____ greater than Joseph (Genesis 41:40).
13. Joseph was reunited with his brothers because of the _____ in the land (Gen. 45:6).
14. God sent Joseph to Egypt ahead of his family to save their lives by a great _____ (Gen. 45:7).
15. Jacob bestowed a double portion of blessing on Joseph by blessing his two sons, _____ and _____ (Genesis 48:14).

Solution for Word Search (Giving a Blessing – Genesis 48:11-19)

S E D U T I T L U M
E F
E M I
N A R M I A R H P E
T K N N A T I O N S
G H D A T
N G E S B
I I M S G R E A T E R O I
S R L E F T Y R S
S H E O N R
E H P E S O J D L U A
L D E N E
B E G R G L
E N E
S A R

Answers for Quarterly Review (Fall 2007)

- 1- beginning
- 2-image
- 3-Isaac
- 4-Ishmael
- 5-Rebekah
- 6-Esau, Jacob
- 7-birthright
- 8-ladder
- 9-seven
- 10-Leah, Rachel
- 11-Egypt
- 12-Pharaoh
- 13-famine
- 14-deliverance
- 15-Manasseh, Ephraim