

Read Genesis 1:1-5. Is this an account of the creation of the universe or of the earth?

Do you understand this to be the beginning for God? In what way is it the beginning?

Are the earth and the deep created by God in this account or do they exist when God began to create?

What is the deep?

What is this light? What is its source?

Is darkness understood to be the absence of light? How do you understand that God separated the light from the darkness?

How do you understand “There was evening and there was morning” when from evening to morning marks the boundaries of the night?

Read Genesis 1:6-8. What is separated? Is the sky as we understand it being described here? (See article from Wikipedia on “firmament”)

Read Genesis 1:9-13. What ordering and separating occurs on this day?

Is it significant that God does not say, “Let there be plants” but commands the earth to bring forth vegetation? Has God created genes on this day?

Do you think of God as designing each individual plant species or as having set in motion the laws of physics and chemistry that enable the earth to bring forth plants?

Read Genesis 1:14-19. What are the lights in the dome of the sky created to do? Is this what you would consider most significant about the sun, the moon and the stars?

Read Genesis 1:20-23. What is the source of the swarms of living creatures? Are verses 20 and 21 saying the same thing? Is what the waters bring forth what God has created?

Read Genesis 1:24-25. Is it understood that cattle were not created wild?

Read Genesis 1:26-31. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

What does it mean to have dominion over the fish, bird and creatures of the earth?

Humans are created to vegetarians according to this account. Animals were all created to be herbivorous according to this account. Should the church be encouraging vegetarian diets?

Read Genesis 2:1-3. Is God finished with creating?

Is the seventh day blessed for all people for all time?

Read Genesis 2:4-9. Compare chapter 1 with these verses. What is similar? What is different?

What verbs are used? What do these verbs suggest about God?

Is it significant that the human was created from the dust of the ground?

Read Genesis 2:10-17. Was there work in the beginning?

Read Genesis 2:18-25. Does this text seem to present God as having everything figured out from the beginning or as making it up as he goes along?

What power does naming give humans?

What causes shame? When do children learn to be ashamed? Is shame taught or caught or is it natural?

Read Genesis 3:1-7. What is said about the serpent?

Did the serpent speak truth?

What was the result of eating the fruit of the tree? Did the fruit of the tree cause this or was the act of not trusting God the cause?

In what ways do we desire to be like God?

Is clothing good?

Read Genesis 3:8-15. What are some further results of eating of the tree?

What does blaming do for us?

Is blaming a part of knowing good and evil?

Is blaming a sign of maturity and taking responsibility or a sign of immaturity and irresponsibility?

How do Christians interpret verse 15? Is there anything in this text that would lead to that interpretation?

Read Genesis 3:16. What is the woman's punishment? Is the authority of men over women part of God's plan from the beginning or part of the curse?

Read Genesis 3:17-19. What punishment comes to the man? Is it good to seek to overcome thorns and thistles?

Read Genesis 3:20-24. Why are the man and the woman driven from the garden?

Is this garden an actual place on earth?

Read Genesis 4:1-16. Does God choose one over the other? Is there a reason for God's choice?

What did Cain expect from his offering?

What do you expect for what you offer to God?

For you is worship an outpouring of love and gratitude or a work intended to bring reward? Has any command to worship been given thus far?

Read Genesis 4:17-26. What role does God play in these verses?

Are all of Cain's descendants cursed from the ground through the murder Cain committed?

What is the significance of calling on the name of the Lord?

Read Genesis 5:1-5. Is Cain no longer considered a descendent of Adam?

Is being made in God's likeness the same as being in God's image? (see Genesis 1:26)

Read Genesis 5:6-32. What does it mean to walk with God?

Do you walk with God?

Why are the names of some remembered and others forgotten?

How important is physical descent to the Israelites? How important is physical descent to Americans?

What is the first reference to the cursing of the ground? Did this refer to the cursing in 3:17 or the cursing in 4:11?

What expectation is expressed for Noah?

What are some differences you notice about Noah?

Read Genesis 6:1-4. Who are the sons of God? What is notable about them?

Is Jesus like or unlike these sons of God?

What reason is given for limiting the life span of humans?

Do you think the scriptures are influenced by the beliefs and practices of the cultures God's people encountered? Are practices in the church influenced by the culture we are within?

Read Genesis 6:5-8. What is the wickedness of humankind?

If someone did not know what evil was how would you describe it?

Which of the following would you call evil?

- Cheating on a test
- Speeding on the highway
- Driving while drunk
- Drinking illegally
- Using Jesus' name in vain.
- a company moving its factory to India
- changing friends
- Listening to lyrics that are disrespectful toward women
- Listening to lyrics that are disrespectful toward God
- Soldiers murdering civilians
- Failing to help a hungry person
- Going to church in order to make yourself look good
- a mother not loving her child
- a child not respecting her mother
- the mass murder of innocent civilians
- carelessness that leads to a nuclear reactor accident
- designing a bomb that will be very deadly
- watching a movie that glorifies violence
- listening to a song that glorifies violence against women
- having sexual intercourse outside of marriage
- rape

What does verse 6 imply about God's plan?

Do you know anyone whom you think would find favor in the sight of the Lord? Who else in scripture has found favor in the sight of the Lord?

Read Genesis 6:9-10. Are these verses to be taken literally?

Why are we told about descendants?

Read Genesis 6:11-22. Is the earth corrupt in God's sight today?

What do we learn about Noah in this passage?

Do you think all humans and creatures were equally guilty?

Are individuals responsible for what their nation or group does?

Read Genesis 7:1-5. Do these instructions make any sense before the giving of the law at Sinai?

Was the law given to Israel at Sinai expected to be observed by all people from the very beginning or was it a special law given to the people rescued from slavery in Egypt?

Read Genesis 7:6-10. Does this section seem in conflict with the preceding section?

Read Genesis 7:11-24. Is all of this because of human sin or because of violence in creation?

Read Genesis 8:1-19. How long were they on the ark?

Does the story of the dove seem connected to verses 13-19?

Is the story of the flood the story of saving or destroying?

How is this story used in the New Testament?

What does the flood teach us about God?

Read Genesis 8:20-22. What has changed?

Why does the Lord change his mind?

Was God ever pleased before this by the offering of an animal?

Read Genesis 9:1-7. Do we eat flesh with its blood in it? Is this displeasing to God?

Is any reason given for humans being able to eat animals?

Would God be pleased if all of us became vegetarians again?

Read Genesis 9:8-17. What is the promise?

Is this the first covenant between God and humans?

Does this covenant still apply for us?

Have you ever done anything and promised you would not do it again?

Is this only a promise that God will not destroy the earth in a flood or a promise that God will not destroy the earth?

If we did not have the story of Noah and the flood would our faith be any different?

Read Genesis 9:18-29. What sin(s) has been committed? Who is punished?

Do some families and some nations seem cursed?

How does the behavior of one generation affect succeeding generations?

Have you broken any harmful patterns in your family that have been passed down from generation to generation?

Are there harmful patterns that persist in churches? How can these patterns be broken?

How does this passage compare with Deuteronomy 5:8-10 and Ezekial 18:1-10, 19-20.? Do these differences reflect changes in God or changes in our understanding of God?

Read Leviticus 18:19-30. How do the sexual practices of a people affect them?

Read Genesis 10. Why is the origin of peoples important to us?

How do we understand origins of peoples today?

Do you think that DNA links are valid?

Are you interested in your genealogy? If so, why is it important to you?

Read Genesis 11:1-9. What are the people trying to protect themselves against?

How do they think they will keep themselves from being scattered abroad?

What is the reason given for confusing the language?

When is this confusion overcome? Is it overcome by one new language?

Is God opposed to human unity?

Are we being scattered abroad today? If this has happened in your family what has caused the scattering?

Compare Genesis 3:22, 6:7, 8:21, and 11:6. How do these passages portray the Lord?

Is the Lord in competition with humans?

Compare Genesis 4:7 with 11:4. How are cities regarded in these passages?

Read Genesis 11:10-32. Where had Terah intended to end up? Have you ever stopped short of your goal?

Is your life more a reflection of the values and aspirations of your family or your own dreams and values?

Read Genesis 12:1-9. What did Abram leave? What did he take with him?

What would have happened if Abram had not left?

Terah intended to move to Canaan. Abraham did. In your family what has one generation dreamed of that another achieved?

Contrast 11:4 with 12:2. Contrast 11:31 with 12:1. Is there a difference between what is decided or achieved by humans and what is given by God?

What has God given you? What have you achieved? Are you the one that decides the answer to these questions?

What does Abraham do in each place he stops? Do you do the same?

Are some places more holy than other places?

How do you think the Lord appeared to Abram?

Read Genesis 12:10-20. In whom does Abram trust as he enters Egypt?

In what ways does this story foreshadow the story in Exodus?

What does this story teach us about Abram's moral character? His courage?

What does this story teach us about God and whom God chooses? Is Abram punished?

How old was Sarai in this story?

Read Genesis 13:1-13. Did Abram settle anywhere? Did Lot?

Are riches seen as a good thing in this passage?

How was this difference settled? Who yielded?

Is God more favorable toward those who yield or those who assert their rights?

Did Jesus usually yield or did he assert himself?

Read Genesis 13:14-18. What had Abram done to earn God's blessing?

Compare this promise with the promise in 12:2-3. Has any of the first promise been fulfilled?

Read Genesis 14:1-16. What do you notice about Abram in this account?

Abram is called, "the Hebrew" in this account. Is a Hebrew the same as an Israelite? See Exodus 1:19

Does Abram appear to be a nomad in this account?

Read Genesis 14:17-24. This passage is reflected in Psalm 110:4 and Hebrews 7:1-17.

In this passage Abram is blessed by El Elyon, the God of Melchizedek. Is this the God that appears to Moses?

Is there one God or many gods?

Read Genesis 15:1-6. What prompts this promise? Has Abram lost faith in God's promise? Is faith in God's promise the same as faith in God?

Read Genesis 15:7-20. Sacrificing animals was part of this covenant cutting. Why do you think the sacrifice of animals was such an important part of the faith of the Hebrews?

Is God a forgiving God?

How does this promise compare with those that have preceded it?

Read Genesis 16:1-6. What do you learn about Abram and Sarai in this passage?

Tell of a time when something did not turn out as you thought it would?

What does Sarai mean by, "May the Lord judge between you and me!"?

Has anyone ever looked upon you with contempt? How did you react?

Read Genesis 16:7-16. The Muslims see themselves as descendants of Ishmael. If we accept that idea what does this text teach us about Muslims?

Is the Lord with Hagar? With Ishmael? Does the Lord favor Hagar? Ishmael?

Is conflict between the peoples part of God's will for the creation?

How do you think about the idea that one cannot see God and live? See Ex. 33:20; Judges 6:22-23, 13:15-24.

Read Genesis 17:1-8. How is this promise like the ones given previously? How does it differ?

Is this a conditional promise?

Does the Lord keep this promise?

Read Genesis 17:9-14. Was belonging to the people only for males?

Does baptism replace circumcision for Gentile Christians?

Read Genesis 17:15-22. Is Abraham's laughter a sign of unbelief?

Is God dependent on our faith?

Did Abraham see God face to face?

Have you ever experienced a blessing from God when you did not have faith?

Do you think of all of this as part of God's eternal plan or does God seem to be making it up as he goes along?

What is the difference between what God will do through Isaac and what God will do through Ishmael?

Read Genesis 17:23-27. How is Ishmael described?

Is there any mention of love in this story?

Read Genesis 18:1-15. Does Abraham know who he is welcoming?

Do Sarah's unbelief and her lie have any effect?

This is the second story about the promise and laughter. How do you understand this?

In Hebrews 11:8-12 Abraham and Sarah are held up as models of faith. Is it wrong to emphasize their laughter when they first heard the promise of a son being born soon?

Are there any models of faith in your life? Can you tell the truth about them?

Are there any stories you have not told your descendants or that your parents have not told you? Who is protected by the silence?

Read Genesis 18:16-33. Does the Lord consider Abraham a partner in the Lord's decisions?

Does the Lord consider you a partner in the Lord's decisions?

Are you as bold as Abraham in your praying?

Who is making the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah? In Genesis who are what cries out to God?

Read Genesis 19:1-11. What values are expressed by Lot in what he says and does? What is most important to him?

If you had to list what is most important to you what would be first? second? third?

If the men of Sodom had accepted Lot's offer of his daughters do you think the cities would have been destroyed?

Is this mostly a story about attempted rape and violence or a story about homosexuality?

Is welcoming and protecting strangers a part of God's will for God's people? see Hebrews 13:2, Matthew 25:31-46.

Read Genesis 19:12-26. What is Lot's attitude toward cities?

Read Genesis 19:27-38. Is there any connection between this story and Lot offering his daughters to the men of Sodom?

What is the point of this story?

Is this story a warning for Israel?

Read Genesis 20:1-18. Is Abraham a man of faith? Does he place his confidence in the Lord?

Is the Lord just and fair in this story?

Read Genesis 21:1-7. Laughter in a joyful sense is rare in the scriptures – only Sarah and Abraham laugh and that is when they are told Sarah shall have a child. Any thoughts?

Read Genesis 21:8-14. What do we know about Sarah? Is she a model for living a godly life?

Who is powerful in Abraham's family?

Is Sarah doing God's will in seeking to banish Hagar and Ishmael?

Read Genesis 21:15-21. If the Muslims are the descendents of Ishmael as they claim is their success because of the promise in verse 18?

Have you ever been blind to possibilities around you because you were so emotional in your dealing with an issue? What helped you?

Do you think God is working to answer the prayers of all people or only prayers of descendents of Abraham and Christians?

Read Genesis 21:22-34. What is the significance of the well? Are promises made by one generation binding on the generations that follow?

Read Genesis 22:1- 14. Have you ever tested the love of someone you loved? What happened?

Do you think that God knew the outcome of this testing before it happened?

Is the death of Jesus a testing of the love of God for us?

How is this testing like the testing of Job? How does it differ?

Some scholars indicate that this testing was related to child sacrifice practiced by the peoples with whom God's people had contact. Why did people sacrifice children?

Is God pleased by the sacrifices we make?

Read Genesis 22:15-19. Is this a renewal of the earlier promise?

Could another testing follow this promise?

Do you think Isaac returned home with Abraham?

Has your faithfulness to God ever proved costly to the relationships within your family?

Do you think God chose Abraham because he would prove himself to be faithful?

Why has God chosen you?

Read Genesis 22:20-24.

Read Genesis 23:1-16. Was this transaction following a pattern for negotiating?

What arrangements have you made for your funeral and burial?

What funeral practices are helpful? Which are not?

Do you visit the graves of relatives or friends?

Would it matter to you if in 100 years your grave was emptied and your bones disposed of?

Do you think remains of ancient cultures should be disturbed?

Read Genesis 23:17-20. What is the significance of this passage?

Do you think that the area described was known to the writer of this passage?

Read Genesis 24:1-10. What role does the oath play in this story? Is it a sign of Abraham's faith or of his lack of faith?

Abraham speaks with certainty of the Lord sending an angel to lead his servant and yet holds open the possibility that the chosen woman might not come back with the servant. Is God's will dependent on human cooperation?

Tell of a time that someone in your family married outside of the ethnic or religious group.

Read Genesis 24:10-14. Have you ever asked for a sign? What happened?

Have you ever proposed a sign for God as the servant did? What happened?

How do you determine the will of God for your life?

Read Genesis 24:15-21. How is Rebekah described? Can you think of a time in scripture that a man is described in this way?

Has the sign been granted? How do you understand verse 21?

Read Genesis 24:22-27. Does this servant have a relationship with the Lord or only a relationship through Abraham?

Are there people you think of as being closer to God than you are? If so, what do you notice about their faith?

Read Genesis 24:28-51. How is Abraham described?

Do you think of wealth as a gift of God?

Do you think of wealth as a sign of God's favor?

Why does the servant tell the whole story?

Do you trust someone who tells a story of how God has acted in his life? What would make you trust? What might make you doubt?

Read Genesis 24:52-61. What did Rebekah know about Isaac?

Did people who lived in earlier ages have to trust in God more than we do?

Read Genesis 24:62-67. What might be the significance of the veil? Has she been veiled before the servant of Abraham?

What do you make of the connections made between the taking of a wife and Sarah?

Read Genesis 25:1-11. Abraham had many sons but only Isaac was chosen by God and only Isaac inherited Abraham's wealth. What makes the chosen people different from the other peoples descended from Abraham?

Are you chosen by God to belong to Christ or did you choose to belong to Christ?

In this life what is different about those who belong to Christ?

Ishmael remained a part of Abraham's life so that he helps bury him. Is this a surprise after what has happened before?

How had God's promises to Abraham been fulfilled? How were they still unfulfilled?

Read Genesis 25:12-18. Is the number 12 significant?

Read Genesis 25:19-26. What does the birth of the twins indicate about the lives that will follow?

Do you think of this word of the Lord to Rebekah as descriptive or prophetic? Is what is foreseen caused by God or simply seen by God before it has arrived as if it is seen from afar?

Read Genesis 25:27-34. How is this event interpreted by the writer? What is another way the event could be interpreted?

Esau seems to inherit the place where they grow up – Jacob leaves. What might his birthright be?

Did you receive a birthright? Have you honored it?

Esau seems to inherit the place where they grow up – Jacob leaves. What might his birthright be?

Read Genesis 26:1-5. So far what have been the parallels between Abraham and Isaac?

Will Isaac receive the lands promised to Abraham?

What reason is given for the renewal of this promise once given to Abraham? How does this compare with what Paul writes in Romans 4:16-25?

As you think about your life, have you experienced the gifts of God because of faith or because of works?

Read Genesis 26:6-11. Have any patterns been repeated generation after generation in your family? In your church? In your community?

How does the story of Rebekah and Abimelech differ from similar stories about Sarah?

Read Genesis 26:12-16. Is there a connection between Isaac's deception and the prosperity he experiences?

Why might the wells be filled in again?

Read Genesis 26:17-25. What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord?

What is the significance of an altar? Is this connected to the promise given?
Read Genesis 26:26-33. compare this story to Genesis 21:22-34. What similarities do you notice?

Place names often have meaning in Genesis. Do place names have meaning for us?

What is accomplished by this oath?

What oaths have been made with the people of the land? Have kept our word?

Does verse 33 make it appear that the people who are reading this text are familiar with Beersheba?
Where is it located?

Read Genesis 26:34-35. Why might this detail be included in the story?

What is the relationship between daughters-in-law and the son's parents in your experience?

Read Genesis 27:1-17. What do we learn about Rebekah in this passage? Is God's will being done
by her and through her?

What do you learn about Jacob in this passage? Is he doing God's will?

Read Genesis 27:18-29. Does blessing have power to accomplish what it says?

Do the blessings spoken in worship have power to accomplish what is spoken? Is faith required?

Are all children in a family given the blessing but only some?

In your family who was blessed? Who was not?

Read Genesis 27:30-40. Can God take back a word God has spoken? See Romans 11:29.

Is God displeased with Jacob?

Is this blessing fulfilled in Jacob and in Esau or in the generations to come?

Thinking of generations that have been before you who was blessed in your father's and mother's
family? Has that blessing been evident in the next generation?

Could Isaac have cursed Jacob for deceiving him?

Read Genesis 27:41-46. Does God approve of Rebekah manipulating Isaac?

What do we learn about the wives in Abraham and Isaac's family?

Read Genesis 28:1-5. Is this a new blessing?

Has your family stayed within ethnic and class boundaries or moved beyond those boundaries in marriages? What has happened?

Read Genesis 28:6-9.

Read Genesis 28:10-17. Is this promise of God conditional?

Is God more present in some places than in other places?

Where do you go when you want to be in the presence of God?

Read Genesis 28:18-22. What does Jacob promise in response for what God will do?

Do you think of your offerings to God as a way of giving thanks or as a way of priming the pump so that greater blessings from God will flow? Is Jacob priming the pump with this promise?

Read Genesis 29:1-14.

Read Genesis 29:15-30. What do you notice about marriage customs?

Is having more than one wife pleasing to God?

How do you distinguish between what comes from God and what is determined by the culture and the customs of the times?

Is Laban punished for his actions? Is God pleased with him? Has anyone else acted in a deceitful way in Genesis? Have they been punished?

Read Genesis 29:31-35. Does God have special favor for those afflicted in life?

Read Genesis 30:1-24. Is Jacob the lord of his household?

What does the origin of the children of Israel (Jacob is later given this name) say about how God regards marriage?

How is the family of Jacob like a modern blended family?

Does God's view of marriage evolve?

Read Genesis 30:25-43. The understanding of how characteristics are given is different from the understanding we have today. And the actions of Laban and of Jacob do not seem particularly honest and loving. Is God prospering Jacob?

Does God only bless good people?

Is God pleased when you drive a hard bargain? Is God pleased when you are generous? Is God interested in what is fair?

Read Genesis 31:1-16. Is it a coincidence that Jacob is directed by the Lord to return to the land of his ancestors at just the time when he hears that he has fallen out of favor with Laban's family?

Jacob credits God with his prosperity. How have his actions with the rods of almond indicated trust in God?

Do you think of your own prosperity as of your own making or as a gift of God? If gift how do you show God your gratitude?

Read Genesis 31:17-55. Why does Jacob sneak off?

Jacob gives a very self-righteous speech in vs. 36-42. Have you ever given a self-righteous speech or known someone who has given one and only to find that the situation was not as you thought it?

Who will guarantee the covenant between Jacob and Laban? What has God done to punish wrongdoing thus far in Genesis?

Name some promises that have been broken? Is one who makes a vow more likely to act in accord with the vow?

Read Genesis 32:1-21. Of what does Jacob remind God?

Do you remind God of anything in your prayers?

Can you be influenced to forgive by the attitude of the one needing that forgiveness?

Read Genesis 32:22-32. Did Abraham wrestle with God? Is it God with whom Jacob wrestled that night?

Do you wrestle with God?

Do the children of Israel wrestle with God?

Did Job wrestle with God?

Is God pleased with people who wrestle with God?

Do parents wrestle with their children?

Is Jacob intended to be a model for us?

Read Genesis 33:1-11. Who has more power, the giver or the receiver of a gift?

Are you good at giving gifts? Tell of a very good gift you gave.

Are you good at receiving gifts?

Is forgiveness always a gift?

Read Genesis 33:12-19. Is there trust between the brothers?

Describe the relationships within the family descended from Abraham. Are they a close knit family?

Does faithfulness to God bring strong relationships to a family? Is there Biblical evidence that the chosen ones of God had loving families?

What does Jesus say about the family relationships of those who follow him?

Read Genesis 34:1-31. Did Simeon and Levi do the will of God?

Is Israel's history changed by this event?

What history changing events have occurred in your family?

Read Genesis 35:1-4. Do we worship gods other than the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? What "foreign gods" might we "put away" today?

Read Genesis 35:5-15. Do places have a spirit of evil or a spirit of holiness? do things? do people?

What does it mean when we bless objects or places or dedicate them?

The promise is given once more. Does God renew God's promises to you? When?

Read Genesis 35:16-21. What does the comment, "which is there to this day," indicate about where the writer and first readers of this text lived? Do you think this comment came through divine inspiration or from having seen this pillar of Rachel's tomb?

Read Genesis 35:22-29. Did Israel punish Reuben? Will God? (See Genesis 49:3-4.) Who will bear the consequence for the deed of Reuben?

Who bears the consequences of your deeds for good or for ill?

What do we learn about family traditions from verse 29? Who buried Abraham?

How are family traditions passed down? By word or by deed?

Read Genesis 36. Is physical descent the most important kind of belonging?

Is the family of God in Christ intended to replace our families of physical descent?

Read Genesis 37:1-4. Did you ever tattle on someone? What happened?

Who was the favorite in the family in which you grew up?

If you have children who do they say is the favored child?

Do you get along with all your siblings?

Read Genesis 37:5-11. Are these dreams from God? Can a dream be prophetic and not be from God?

Joseph is rebuked for his dream. Do we have any power over our dreams?

Tell of a dream you regard as meaningful.

Have you ever had a dream that was prophetic? Did the dream change your actions?

Read Genesis 37:12-28. Where do you see the hand of God in this story?

Does God cause sin?

The brothers act as a group. Have you ever been part of something in a group that you would not have done on your own?

Does Joseph deserve what he gets?

Read Genesis 37:29-36. What is the last thing we heard about Reuben?

Does the intention of do a good thing count or only the actual doing of the deed?

Did your parents ever lose a child? Were they consoled by anything that was said or done? What effect did that have on the family?

Read Genesis 38:1-30. Is Tamar right in what she does? Would it have been better if she had accepted her fate?

Do you think God is pleased with Tamar?

Is God more pleased with quiet, passive people or assertive or even aggressive people? (think of specific instances in the Bible)

Is early death a sign of God's displeasure?

Why was it important that the brother who died had offspring through his brother?

Is Judah criticized for seeking out a prostitute?

Does this story indicate that God is more concerned about morality than justice of vice versa?

Do you think of God as more concerned about morality than justice? Does your understanding on this come from the stories we have read in Genesis?

Tamar is an ancestor of Christ – one of the four women mentioned in the genealogy in Matthew. Do you think this is significant?

Read Genesis 39. Why does Potiphar come to trust Joseph?

Do you think Joseph was tempted to commit adultery? Is the strength of the temptation an important factor in resisting or falling?

Did Joseph defend himself?

Have you ever been accused of something of which you were innocent?

Are there situations in which you have not defended yourself?

Everything prospers in Joseph's hands. Are some people more blessed with success than others? Is this due to them or due to God or both?

Read Genesis 40. Is God the cause of these men's fates?

Are events already set for us or do our decisions determine what will happen?

Did having these dreams in any way affect what would happen?

Do people of all cultures and all religious faiths have prophetic dreams and visions? Are these from God?

Read Genesis 41:1-36. If you had a significant dream that you wanted interpreted to whom would you go?

Have you ever changed your behavior because of a dream?

Read Genesis 41:37-45. Does Pharaoh believe in God? How might his belief in God have differed from your belief in God?

Read Genesis 41:46-57. Is there significance in a name?

How might Joseph be affected by the names of his sons?

Read Genesis 42:1-5. How was communication accomplished in this time? How do you learn what is going on?

Read Genesis 42:6-17. Do you think Joseph has a plan or is he making it up as he goes along?

Do you think he was tempted to get revenge? What may have constrained him?

What other instances of three days come to mind? Is there a connection?

Read Genesis 42:18-28. Do they believe in a fundamental justice in life? Do you?

Reuben blames the others. Is blaming ever helpful? Is history ever helpful?

What causes Joseph to weep?

When something happens do you think of God as having done it?

Read Genesis 42:29-38. Who does Jacob blame for losing his children? Is this blame justified from what he knows? (see 42:1.2)

Who is Jacob concerned about? Has he matured through his life?

Read Genesis 43:1-15. Have you ever acted not out of hope but out of desperation?

Read Genesis 43:16-34. What is the significance of eating with someone?

Read Genesis 44:1-13. Do you show any outward signs of sorrow or repentance?

Do you believe in those who practice divination?

Read Genesis 44:14-45:3. Have you had a moment of reconciliation in your life? What do you remember about it?

Read Genesis 45:4-15. At the end of your life will you confess that God has been responsible for what has happened in your life?

Read Genesis 45:16-20. Whose land did Pharaoh give to Jacob's family? Is good fortune always at someone else's expense?

Read Genesis 45:21-28. What would Jacob need to forgive his sons for? Is it possible to forgive?

Read Genesis 46:1-4. Beersheba – see Genesis 26:23-25; 28:10. In what situations has God appeared in Genesis?

Read Genesis 46:5-27.

Read Genesis 46:28-34. What shepherds do you think of in the Bible?

Were any of Jesus' disciples shepherds? Are rural people different from urban people?

Read Genesis 47:1-6. Is Jacob's family given any land? Have they owned land before this?

Read Genesis 47:7-12. Is Jacob a grateful man?

What do you think it means that Jacob blessed Pharaoh? Have you every blessed anyone? Has anyone ever blessed you?

Read Genesis 47:13-26. Is the consolidation of the wealth in the hands of Pharaoh God's will for Egypt? Is all that happens God's will?

Do you think of the consolidation of wealth today as being God's will? Was slavery part of God's will?

Read Genesis 47:27-30. Have you ever taken an oath? What does Jesus say about oaths?

Read Genesis 48:1-7. What land is being spoken of here? What promise did Jacob receive from the Lord at Beersheba?

Read Genesis 48:8-22. Are the events in one generation reenacted in succeeding generations? What became of Ephraim?

Read Genesis 49:1-4. Can the future be shaped by words and predictions? Is the future of Reuben's family shaped by his past? see Genesis 35:22 (also Judges 5:15-16; Deut. 33:6)

Read Genesis 49:5-7. See Genesis 34:25-30

Read Genesis 49:8- 33. Does this passage reflect a belief in life after death?

Read Genesis 50:1-14. Does it matter to you where you are buried? What do you think of cremation? What do you think of viewing at the funeral home?

Read Genesis 50:15-26. Can you think of something in your life that others meant for your harm that God has meant for your good?