



Old Testament

The Pentateuch

Course 3

Genesis, Part 2

Leader's Guide

Overview

Lesson 4: Joseph



The Patriarchs (Genesis 12–50)

Lesson 1 is an overview of the Patriarchal stories with an eye on “the three Ps” of their cultural context: pastoral, polygamous, and pagan. You’ll be able to have the first of several visits with a Jordanian sheik and our translator as we explore the meaning of nomadic hospitality and honor. Another onsite video will take you back into an Egyptian burial chamber where a wall painting illustrates a “covenant cutting” ceremony.

Lesson 2 invites you into the stories of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar. Behind the Text features interviews with an archeologist who explains four phrases or incidents, including “sleeping with the fathers.” In Front of the Text gets very pointed with an article by Christianity Today titled “The Pimping Patriarch” and interviews with author Anne Graham Lotz on Abraham’s faith and Hagar’s life as an abused woman.

Lesson 3 features the stories of Jacob and Esau. You’ll see onsite videos of Peniel, where Jacob wrestled with an angel. One is an immersive 360 video. Another onsite video brings us to an early morning sheep market where we’ll learn more about Jacob’s trade.

Lesson 4 is substantial in all three segments. *In the Text* we discover more about how stories are nested and how they can anticipate the future in various ways. Several onsite video interviews bring perspective on Joseph the administrator in *Behind the Text*. You’ll also have a fun way to explore the significance of dreams and their interpretation. When we arrive *In Front of the Text*, two powerful interviews with African leaders explain how Joseph is their biblical role model. One leads a reconciliation ministry in the wake of genocide. The other is president of the Protestant Church in Egypt, where he has navigated church-state relations through the Arab Spring. You’ll have a chance to consider all the ways Joseph has continued to speak to both Church and culture around the world.

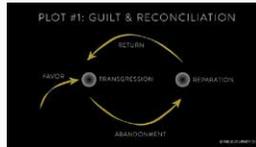
Lesson 5 traces the overall themes of the book of Genesis with the patriarchal stories now in view. We’ll visit a pyramid to get more perspective on burial practices and then head to the tombs of the patriarchs in Hebron. This first book in the Bible gave us a lot to “remember,” a key concept going forward.

Resource Pack: Graphics/Images

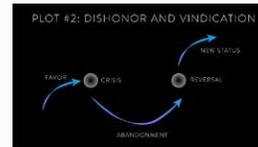
Onion Skins



Plot 1



Plot 2



Honor Granted

HONOR GRANTED	CHALLENGED	VINDICATED	EMANATED
1:1-2:3	2:4-3:21	3:22-4:26	4:27-5:29
6:1-7:26	7:27-8:13	8:14-9:29	9:30-10:5
11:1-12:2	12:3-13:10	13:11-14:26	14:27-15:15
17:1-18:22	18:23-19:38	19:39-20:14	20:15-21:34
22:1-23:10	23:11-24:26	24:27-25:18	25:19-26:34
27:1-28:22	28:23-29:35	29:36-30:26	30:27-31:55
32:1-33:11	33:12-34:27	34:28-35:10	35:11-36:43
37:1-38:30	38:31-39:35	39:36-40:23	40:24-50:26

Beni Hassan Tomb Painting



Begin reading Genesis 12–50

 In the Text

Q. Why is it important to learn about the Hebrew patriarchs and matriarchs?

A. “The bloodline is central to the storyline.” These are our spiritual ancestors who first began the journey of discipleship. We have been grafted into the covenant family according to Romans 11:19–36. (If the discussion goes in the direction of ancient Jews being irrelevant to New Testament believers, remind everyone of God’s interest in and God’s focus on both Israel and the world.) ([□](#) [Genesis 1–11 & the Rest of the Story](#))

Q. Summarize the blessings and promises made to the patriarchs and how these become part of a covenant relationship.

A. Land, descendants, name, blessing to the world (bless those who bless you; curse those who curse you) are all promises made by God. We will see in the lessons ahead that God will be expecting faithful behavior from this chosen family. For example, Abram was asked to leave everything to follow God and to offer his son Isaac in obedience. He was required to circumcise all males as a sign of the covenant. And all the patriarchs were called to leave the pagan world around them (which we’ll discuss *Behind the Text*). ([☞ Bible Concordance Exercise](#), [□](#) [Promises for the Journey](#), [📖 The Patriarchal Promises Quiz](#), [☞ The Patriarchal Promises](#))

Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance

([☞ Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance](#)) Choose a translation. Use “filter” to see the statistical results.

Results for “bless” in the KJV—Genesis: 20; total: 117

The Patriarchal Promises

([✎ The Patriarchal Promises](#))

The promises include blessing, name, land and descendants although not all of these are included in each setting. Land and descendants are the most repeated. Also notice that the expectations for obedience emerge over time, including the introduction of circumcision in Gen 17.



Behind the Text

Q. Define the “Ps” of patriarchal culture. (See if you can name six or even seven.)

A. Patriarchal (father over extended family and clients), Patrilineal (lineage traced through father’s line), Patrilocal (extended family stays in the same location with father’s family). Also Pagan and Polytheistic (worship of false gods), Polygamous (marriage of multiple partners) and Pastoral (herders by vocation). ([□ Patriarchal Culture](#), [✎ Defining the Three Ps](#); [□ Bedouin Honor & Hospitality—Dr. Iain Pickett](#), [□ Polygamous Culture](#); [□ Pagan Culture](#))

Q. Explain how covenants express the character and actions of God.

A. God grants to Abram certain promises much like a king would grant special benefits to a trusted servant. God’s promises to Abram are declared in a ceremony that Abram sees in a dream. God’s Spirit moves between the parts of animals, in effect visualizing a divine oath: “May my life be taken if I’m not true to these promises.” This is a common practice but profound when you consider who is making the oath—the God of the universe! ([□ Land Grants & Covenant Cutting](#), [□ Split Sacrifice—Steve Wunderink](#))

Challenge

- What promises of God are you wrestling with today? ([□ Divine Promise](#))
- Share about a time when blessing came, but only after delay or difficulty. You might also mention how it came in your patient *faithfulness* or in spite of your *faithlessness*. ([✎ Journaling Exercise](#))

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available for every Bible Journey lesson!**

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