

SERIES TITLE: Living in God's Story

PART THIRTEEN: AGENTS OF BLESSING

TEXT: GENESIS 49

INTRODUCTION.

This series focuses on the life of Joseph and his brothers. It includes incidents of failure and success, jealousy and integrity, sin and righteousness. Through it all, God's plan prevails. These stories should increase our confidence in God, and our willingness to follow him in all situations.

DISCUSSION.

Has someone ever spoken a blessing over you?
What was it like and how did it affect you?

EXAMINATION.

49:1 What does this tell us about Jacob's purpose for the speech that follows?

49:2-27 What indicates that this section is different than the surrounding material?

What are your observations about what Jacob says to his sons?

49:28 How does this verse help us to interpret all of Jacob's words?

APPLICATION.

- The sermon identified four characteristics of blessing from this passage:
 - Intentional
 - Authentic
 - Prophetic
 - Appropriate
- Are there any other characteristics you see in addition to these?
- Which of these characteristics of blessing do you struggle with giving or receiving and why?
- Can you share any examples of how any of these characteristics of blessing were done to you or by you to others?
- Based upon passages like Ephesians 1:3, Luke 6:28; 1 Peter 3:9, why, when, and how are followers of Jesus a blessing?

- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?