

Genesis 31:7 - 50:26

(part 1)

GABC Foundations -- Questions for Application

- 1) Consider the big picture of the story of Joseph. How does it fit into the Biblical narrative of Creation, Fall, Redemption, Consummation?

- 2) At times, it appeared that God was not present in this narrative -- yet in and through much suffering and sin His plan was being fulfilled. Have there been any times in your life when God has appeared to be absent? How can Joseph's story encourage us to remain steadfast in our faith in Christ, especially in seasons of suffering and dryness?

- 3) Briefly review Judah's story in Genesis 38. What is significant about Judah, Tamar, and their son Perez? (See Gen 49:8-12 and Matt 1:1-3.) Why does this account mean good news for sinners? What implications does it have for how Christians should engage people who have sinned in big, visible ways?

- 4) Jacob blessed Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh in Gen 48:1-20. The writer of Hebrews draws on this event as an example of Jacob's faith in God's promise of God's people living in God's place (Heb 11:21, Gen 48:3-4). How was Jacob's hope a shadow of a Christian's future hope of an "everlasting possession"? How can you further orient your life toward your future hope in Christ?

- 5) As a group, think together about how Christians should interpret Biblical narratives (stories) and where we should see ourselves in them. Where do you see yourself in this story? How does that impact the way you apply it?