

# STUDY GUIDE

## GENESIS: Week 18 9.21.14

### [set up]

Last week we looked again at the topic of forgiveness. Did you have any movement this last week in either forgiving someone who has hurt you or asking forgiveness of someone that you hurt?

This last weekend we closed our 19 week series in the book of Genesis. As you reflect back, what moments, messages or take home made an impact in your life? How are those messages helping you “live new” in Christ?

### [digging deeper]

During the weekend services, we looked at the last few chapters of Genesis where Israel (aka Jacob) blessed his sons. When we see the words “bless”, “blessed” or “blessing” in the Bible it usually has one of the following four meanings depending on the word used in the original language:

- 1- Giving/bestowing of material possessions
- 2- Giving God praise
- 3- Asking of God’s favor on another
- 4- To be or feel favored, happy or fortunate (especially tied to the one who looks to and obeys God)

\* The context of blessed in the following verses really express the third use of the word “bless”

Read through Genesis 48:1-16. What was taking place here? Why did there seem to be a sense of significance and urgency in both Israel and Joseph when it came to this moment of blessing?

Read Gen. 49:1-27. Which of the blessings that Israel gave to his sons stands out to you? Why do you think that some sons got a better blessing than others? (Keep in mind that these blessings were personal blessings given to the tribes of Israel under divine insight and authority by Israel and were prophetic in nature due to Israel’s unique role in God’s plans and big scheme of what was to take place in the future.)

Read some (or all) of the following verses. What are a few common themes, observations or insights that we can learn from these examples of blessings? Who is always the central theme of blessing?

Gen. 9:24-27	Gen 12:1-3	Gen. 14:18-20	Gen. 27:26-29	Gen. 24::60
Gen. 28:1-4	Numbers 6:22-27	Luke 24:50:51	Heb. 11:21	

As you reflect on this principle of blessing, a way of speaking God’s power and purposes over a person’s life - Have you ever had someone (family, spiritual mentor, etc) pray or speak a blessing over you? Who was it and what did they say to you? If not, how does that make you feel and what could be a positive next step for you as a follower of Christ if you desire that?



## [living it out]

If you received a blessing by godly parents or grandparents and have the opportunity, you can write them a thank you note expressing gratitude for their life and their handing off of a godly legacy/blessing to you. After seeing the power, affirmation and value of speaking blessing – brainstorm ideas of how you can apply the “blessing principle” to the following relationships?

- Saved Family members, especially of the next generation?
- Unsaved family members, especially of the next generation?
- Other relationships with saved individuals, especially of the next generation?
- Other relationships with unsaved individuals, especially of the next generation? (friends, co-workers, random strangers and neighbors – especially your LifeHouse connections)

What is an action step that you are willing to take in the next week or two based on one of the ideas above?

Our next series “BE” starts October 5th. We will be spending two months looking at Matthew 5 where Jesus teaches the Beatitudes. Who will you pray for starting tonight that you will personally invite to church for the new series in the hopes that they will come and experience new life in Christ?

Close this time in prayer. Pray as God leads your heart from the content of this time. Maybe thanking God for the blessing you have received. You can also pray that God will make a way for you to bless someone from the list above. Pray for the people you will invite to the “BE” series. If you have never received a blessing, someone praying God’s plans and purposes over your life, perhaps if you are in a lifegroup setting and it feels appropriate and natural, ask your LifeGroup leader and LifeGroup to pray one over you.

On October 5th CVC is starting a series on the Beatitudes. Who is someone you could invite to this teaching series?