

**EXPLORING GOD'S WORD
LESSON 3b**

[Read Acts 7:1-8]

God called Abraham into a covenant relationship with Him. He promised that He would build out of Abraham and his descendants a great nation, and that through this nation, He would bring a blessing to all the families of the earth (Genesis 12:1-3).

I. GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE – THE _____

The Old Testament from this point on deals with God's working with a select group of people in order to eventually bring about His plan of redemption for mankind.

1. Abraham begat Isaac, the son of the _____.
2. Isaac begat _____ & _____.

Jacob is a deceiver, yet God saw something in him.

Romans 9:13 (NKJV)

13 As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

- a. Jacob convinced his brother to sell his _____. [Read Gen 25:29-34]
- b. Jacob tricks Isaac into giving him the _____. [Read Genesis 27:18-23]

When Jacob flees the wrath of his brother, he has a special encounter with God at a place called _____. God offers the same covenant to Jacob that He had made with his father and grandfather.

[Read Genesis 28:10-22]

Jacob, however, is still self-willed and flees to Haran (the place God had called Abraham out of). He struggles for 21 years and is cheated by his father-in-law, Laban. (Genesis chapters 29-31) Jacob reaps what he has sown.

God calls Jacob to return to Bethel:

Genesis 31:13 (NKJV)

13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.'"

3. Jacob's name is changed to _____. [Read Genesis 32:24-28]
4. Jacobs has twelve sons, who would become the _____ of Israel.

Reuben	Zebulun	Asher
Simeon	Issachar	Naphtali
Levi	Dan	Joseph
Judah	Gad	Benjamin

II. JOSEPH – THE _____ SON: [Read Genesis 37:1-5]

Joseph is the oldest son of Rachel. He was his father's favorite. Joseph dreamed dreams that he did not understand, but they pointed to his future. His brothers hated him because of his father's favor and his dreams.

1. Joseph's Struggle:

- a. _____ and sold by his brothers (Genesis 37:17-20 & 26-28)
- b. _____ in Egypt (Genesis 39:1-5)
- c. _____ by Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:7-14)
- d. _____ in the dungeon (Genesis 39:20-23)
- e. _____ by the king's butler (Genesis 40:21-22)

2. Joseph's Advantage:

- a. The Lord _____ Joseph.
- b. God's presence is not always indicated by the ease of our life.
- c. Joseph lived his life *Coram Deo* – _____.
- d. He was a man of _____.

III. JOSEPH IS A POWERFUL EXAMPLE OF _____:

Joseph could have thwarted the purpose of God in his life by:

1. Allowing himself to become _____.
2. Seeking to _____ himself when he had the power.

Instead, he becomes a beautiful Old Testament picture of _____.

IV. KEY PRINCIPLES OF FORGIVENESS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH: [Read Genesis 45:1-8]

1. Forgiveness is a _____ made in faith.
2. Forgiveness is a recognition that alone God has _____ to avenge our enemies (Genesis 50:19).
3. Forgiveness does not mean the _____ goes away. V.2: "he wept aloud..."
4. Forgiveness is not _____. V.4 "I am Joseph... whom you sold into Egypt..."
5. Forgiveness is not always immediate _____. Forgiveness takes one; reconciliation takes two. In Genesis chapters 42-44, Joseph is evaluating whether or not his brothers are ready to reconcile.

V. JOSEPH SAVES HIS FAMILY

God uses Joseph to save his family from the famine and to bring them into Egypt so they can grow into the nation that God planned for them. [Read Genesis 47:11-12 & 27]