

GENESIS 25:19-34

I DID IT GOD'S WAY

Isaac got married to Rebekah. When Rebekah was still pregnant, the twins in her tummy tumbled and kicked each other. The Bible tells us that God had purposely said since the beginning that the older son, Esau would serve the younger one, Jacob.

However, Isaac tried to do things his way by trying to bestow the family blessing on Esau whom he favoured, in opposition to God's purpose. Eventually, what took place was exactly what God had planned. Jacob was the one who was blessed with the birthright.

Kids, when God speaks to you to do something for Him, you can either cooperate with His sovereign plan and be blessed or you can resist His purpose and He will set you aside and raise up someone else to fulfil it. His purpose never fails. Let's follow His will and do it God's way.

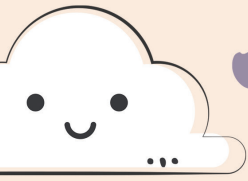
Key verse:

*Isaiah 55:8
The way you work isn't the way I work.*

Prayer

Dear God, help me to follow Your ways as You lead me into a life of fruitfulness and joy. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.





GENESIS 28:10-22

GOD IS WITH YOU ALL THE TIME

Jacob ran away from home and went to his uncle's place in Harran. Since he was on the run, he had to do it secretly and maybe he needed to take the rough route to avoid being followed. One night when he was still on the run, Jacob fell asleep and God revealed Himself to Jacob through a dream.

In the dream, God gave four promises to Jacob, one of which is that He would always protect Jacob everywhere he went and He would never leave Jacob alone until He fulfilled all of His promises.

Even though Jacob had committed a sin, God didn't forget him. Instead, God embraced him with His promises and gave an assurance that He would always protect him wherever he went.

So, remember that God is with you and will never leave you even when you feel alone or discouraged.

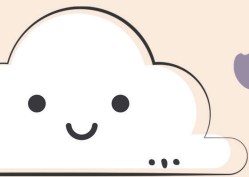
Key verse:

*Genesis 28:15
I am with
you, and I will
protect you
everywhere you
go.*

Prayer

*Dear God, thank
You that You
never leave me
nor forsake me.
I will never be
alone. In the
name of Jesus, I
pray. Amen.*





GENESIS 32:1-21

A HAPPY REUNION

After Jacob and Esau had lived separately for around 20 years, Jacob decided to meet Esau. First, he sent his messengers to Esau to tell him that he was coming. However, the messengers came back to Jacob and said that Esau was coming to meet him instead, with 400 men!

It shook Jacob because he thought Esau wanted to take revenge over what had happened in the past. To overcome this fear, he found a place to pray and begged God to protect him and his family.

Jacob and Esau finally met again after 20 years. From afar, Jacob bowed down to the ground as he approached his brother to show his regret and apologies. Esau ran to Jacob and gave him a big hug and both wept tears of joy as they missed each other so much.

Jacob was grateful that Esau had so mercifully forgiven him of all the wrongs he had done. Their relationship was restored. Forgiveness is the first step in restoring relationships.

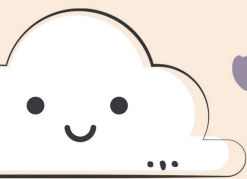
Key verse:

*Colossians 3:13
Do not be angry with each other, but forgive each other.*

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for Your wonderful gift of forgiveness. Help me to be merciful and forgiving to other people just as You are to me. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.





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GENESIS 37

A CRUSHED DREAM? NO WAY!

Joseph was one of Jacob's sons. He was an honest and responsible young man. His father loved him more than any of his brothers and his brothers hated him because of this.

When Joseph was around 17 years old, God gave him a dream where he saw the sun, the moon, and 11 stars bowing down to him. Joseph told his brothers about this dream. This made his brothers hate him all the more.

God had given Joseph this dream to show that one day Joseph would have power over his brothers. However, what happened to Joseph after he told his dream to his brothers could really have crushed this dream. His brothers sold him as a slave!

Sometimes things do not go the way we expect even when we are trying to do the right thing. People might misunderstand or discourage us. But you will learn in the next few days that God's plan for us will never fail, no matter what happens. So, don't let the people or situation around you crush your dream. Just surrender to God and keep following His lead upon your life.

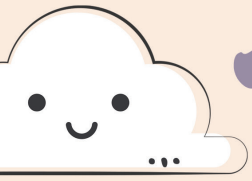
Key verse:

*Psalm 55:22
Leave your troubles with the LORD, and He will defend you;
He never lets honest people be defeated.*

Prayer

Dear God, help me to stay strong and keep trusting You when things are getting tough. I surrender to Your plan. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.





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GENESIS 39:1-6

A CHEERFUL HEART

Due to jealousy, his brothers sold Joseph as a slave to traders and he was brought to Egypt. From there, Joseph was sold to a very important Egyptian man, Potiphar.

There is a saying “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade”. You make something good out of something bad! Instead of dwelling in his past and thinking of the pain because his brothers had sold him to other people, Joseph worked hard in the new place. He was cheerful, responsible and respectful. He probably never complained. The Bible tells that Potiphar trusted Joseph and that he put Joseph as the person in charge of everything that he had. It is like being a very responsible Class President/Class Monitor who is trusted by the form teacher!

The same thing applies when you are given some homework or tests. Instead of complaining, you should do it with a happy heart because that is what God wants you to do. When you do your work responsibly and with a cheerful heart, God’s favour will be upon you and your study, your friendship and your life will be so blessed!

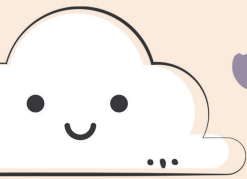
Key verse:

*Ephesians 6:7
Do your work,
and be happy to
do it.*

Prayer

*Dear God, I want
to always be
responsible with
my work and I
want to do it with
a cheerful heart.
I know that You
will always help
me. In the name
of Jesus, I pray.
Amen.*





GENESIS 41

YOU ARE DEEPLY BLESSED

Sometime after Joseph was put in prison, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had dreams that nobody could interpret. Later on, he was informed about Joseph who had ever interpreted a dream correctly before.

So, Joseph was called to meet with the Pharaoh. The bible tells that Joseph gave credit for his ability to interpret dreams to God. He said, "I am not able to explain the meaning of dreams. God will do this for the king."

With the wisdom from God, Joseph interpreted the dreams for Pharaoh. Not only did Joseph interpret the dreams correctly, but he also gave ideas on how to save the nation. Since Pharaoh liked his idea, he put Joseph in a high government position in Egypt.

Every one of you has been blessed at least with one special ability or talent. Let's have a moment and think about it. Is it singing? Dancing? Drawing? Who gave this special ability to you? God. Since God is the One who gave you those abilities, you should always give Him the credit, shouldn't you?

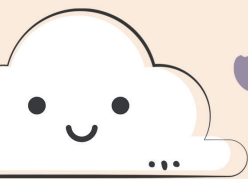
Key verse:

Ephesians 5:20
Always give thanks to God the Father for everything

Prayer

Dear God, I thank you for giving me abilities and talents. Let me use it to glorify Your name. Amen.





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GENESIS 42

THE SECOND CHANCE

Everyone has a conscience. A conscience is a person's sense of right and wrong. It means when you are about to do something not right, and you know that it is not right, there will be a small voice inside you that is sometimes too loud for comfort.

Twenty two years after Joseph was sold by his brothers, there was a great famine all over the world. The only place that had food was Egypt. So, Jacob asked his sons to go to Egypt to get food. The word "Egypt" stirred the brothers' guilt because many years before, they had sold Joseph to the passer-by who was going to Egypt. Time doesn't erase a guilty conscience.

What is your "Egypt"? You need to know that God will rescue you from your "Egypt". When you yield to Him and draw near in repentance, you will discover His grace. Turn to Him in genuine repentance and you will experience His sweet goodness.

Key verse:

*Acts 3:19b
... Turn to face
God so He can
wipe away your
sins*

Prayer

*Dear God, I
know that I am
a sinner, and
I ask for Your
forgiveness.
Forgive all of my
sins, Jesus, my
saviour. Amen.*

