

GENESIS
Grace from the Beginning

30/31 March 2019
Vol. 41, No. 13

God Reveals Himself Through Our Tests and Journeys

Genesis 42-45

English Services
(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Anthem
Testimony
Worship through Fellowship
Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Response Song
Worship through Giving
Benediction

Filipino Service
(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Tanging Bilang
Patotoo
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Panalanging Pastoral
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Sam Rendal
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Tugon na Awit
Bendisyon

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



Our God Reveals Himself Through Our Tests and Journeys

Today's Message (30/31 March 2019) /
Genesis 42-45

GOD CAN
SOVEREIGNLY
PERMIT AND
EVEN USE THE
MOST PAINFUL
THINGS IN YOUR
LIFE FOR YOUR
GOOD AND HIS
GLORY.

This lengthy episode contains the highest point of Joseph's story—the revelation of God's loving hand behind their collective experiences, good and "bad." And the whole gamut of human emotions happens here, from distress, to fear, to sorrow, and finally overwhelming joy. Not surprisingly, this story is our story, because the same God who oversaw their lives oversees ours. God can sovereignly permit and even use the most painful things in your life for your good and His glory.

See how God works in this turning point in the continuing saga of Jacob's life:

1. THE FIRST JOURNEY OF JOSEPH'S BROTHERS: THE TEN BROTHERS GO TO EGYPT AS THE FAMINE SEVERELY AFFECTS THEM (CHAPTER 42).

- God can use even natural calamities to further His purposes.
- The First Test: The brothers are accused of being spies and spend three days in jail, which makes them remember how they treated Joseph (*Genesis 42:21-24*).
 - God often uses tragedy to remind us of our sins and bring about conviction.

2. THE SECOND JOURNEY OF JOSEPH'S BROTHERS: THE BROTHERS RETURN TO EGYPT WITH BENJAMIN AS REQUESTED BY JOSEPH (CHAPTERS 43-44)

- Jacob finally agrees to let Benjamin go to Egypt when Judah pledges to bear the blame should anything happen to Benjamin. This is a completely different Judah from *Genesis 37:27* and chapter 38.

Traditional Service

(March 30, Sat., 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude

Call To Worship

Worship Through Praise

Worship Through Fellowship

Worship Through Giving

Testimony

Scripture Reading

Anthem

Pastoral Prayer

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

Response Hymn

Benediction



Our God Reveals Himself Through Our Tests and Journeys

Today's Message (30/31 March 2019) /
Genesis 42-45

- The Second Test: Joseph welcomes them warmly, but Benjamin is framed according to Joseph's orders as they leave. Judah desperately pleads before Joseph for Benjamin and Jacob's sake, and offers himself instead (44:25-34).
 - God foreshadows the future saving work of the Messiah through His ancestor, Judah.

3. THE REVELATION: JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS ARE RECONCILED AND REUNITED (CHAPTER 45).

- Realizing how God has changed the hearts of his brothers, Joseph lets go of his emotions, reveals himself, and tells his brothers why God made all of this happen (45:1-8).
 - Like Joseph, God not only withholds what we deserve, but gives what we don't. That's grace.
- The Gospel story is written all over this. Like Joseph, Jesus went through unspeakable pain to rescue a people He loved. Like the brothers, there can be no real redemption unless there is genuine repentance from a broken and contrite heart.

FINAL THOUGHTS

God can sovereignly permit and even use the most painful things in your life for your good and His glory. At the end of the day this wasn't about Joseph revealing himself, but about God revealing Himself. God taught Joseph there was a sovereign purpose for his suffering and subsequent promotion. God taught his brothers about mercy and redemptive grace—instead of getting what they justly deserved, they instead received what they could never earn.

God deals with us the same way. Most of the time, our limited vision makes us see God's hand only in retrospect. And all the time, the only way God sovereignly leads us is through undeserved mercy and unbounded grace ■

A TRUE STORY WORTH SHARING

Quite a number of years ago, my missionaries and I met a pastor who visited a tribal group in one of the mountainous regions in Asia. It is an area we refer to as "restricted," where Christians are persecuted. In fact, this pastor has been arrested and imprisoned a couple of times because of his ministry.

The pastor told us about the long, difficult journey to get to the tribal areas up the mountains. It involved a bus ride for several hours, a motorbike ride going up the mountains, and several kilometers of walking to get to the village. Take note. This pastor would do this despite the prospect of being arrested and jailed again. To optimize the challenging journey, he would spend a few days up the mountains each time. And this would normally include many sessions with believers on the Word of God.

In one of his visits in the village, a group of believers was gathered in a house. He told us about a pregnant woman who was present. She looked like she was ready to give birth anytime. Instead of staying at home and resting, she was there eager to hear from the Word of God. The pastor confessed to us that he was quite upset about the woman's presence because she might give birth in their midst. That will surely draw the attention of the neighbors and possibly alert the authorities. He may get arrested anew. Noticing that the woman was in great discomfort and some pain, the pastor approached her. He was going to instruct her to go

home, rest and prepare for the baby's coming. As he was nearing her, the pastor noticed fresh wounds (long scratches) on her arms. Upon inquiring from her, the pastor learned that the pregnant woman apparently came from harvesting rice with her young son using her bare hands. That is how she wounded her arms.

With tears in his eyes, the pastor told us: "Here was this woman almost ready to give birth any moment, with great discomfort, experiencing pain from her fresh wounds and needing rest. Nope. She was there eager and hungry for the Word. She did not want to miss this rare opportunity."

What a moving story of a minister and pregnant woman who are both willing to give up comfort, suffer pain and make sacrifices just to be in fellowship with God, His Word and His people.

GGEX EXTREME

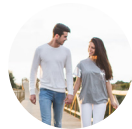
Are you without a Growth Group (GG) yet? Join **GGEX (GG Express) Extreme** beginning March 31 (Sunday), 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall. It features a Precept material called *Discovering What the Future Holds*, a six-week Bible study on the "end of days." Experience this simple, doable, and meaningful way of learning from the Word of God using Precept Ministries' inductive study method. Free snacks and materials await you for this opening day. Please register at the GG booth located at the GCF lobby. For inquiries, please text or call **0917 532 1921** ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



CELEBRATE FRIENDSHIPS

Today, March 31 (Sun) is the culmination of the International Women's Month! Please visit the booths of our different fellowship groups: Naomi, SUPA Moms, SHE and JOY Women. Tapestry and 4Word will be performing at the lobby after the morning services on that day as part of the celebration.



BIBLICAL PORTRAIT OF MARRIAGE 1

For dating, engaged, and married couples
 March 30, April 6 & 13 (Sat) at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BM07-08 | Reg. is until March 24 (Sun) only
 Fee: PHP 150/person, incl. of food and materials
 Please register by contacting 0917 532 7713.



GGEX EXTREME

All adults without GG are invited to this six-week inductive Bible study
 Starting March 31 (Sun), 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall
 Free snack and material will be provided
 Please register at the booth at the lobby.



PRAY4CDO

We affirm the necessity of bathing in prayer our church planting initiative in Cagayan De Oro. In line with this, we are still looking for more prayer partners. If you wish to receive prayer points regarding this work, text YES <space> PRAY4CDO <space> YOUR FULL NAME and send to 0917 532 7672.



DISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS CLASS

April 7 (Sun), 12:00-3:00 p.m. at Rm. A303
 For more info, contact 0917 532 7740.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His mercy and faithfulness by the Basilad family, the Valera family, and the Messiah College. The flowers are also given as thanksgiving for healing and provisions by Teresita Roseus. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express

Mixed group led by Ptr. Emer Manaloto
 Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 Rm. B124

God's Grace GG (G4)

Group for couples
 Fridays, 7:30-10:00 p.m.
 Rm. B124

Chesed 3

Group for ladies ages 21-35
 Sundays, 8:30-10:00 a.m.
 Rm. BM02

Best Together in Christ

Group for couples
 Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
 Rm. B508

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 1921.

Growth Group Leaders' Training 1

May 5, 12, 19, 26
 (Sundays), 12:00-3:00 p.m.,
 Rm. A303

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / March 2019

MARCH	Projected	Rcvd., Mar. 1-27	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of March 27
General Funds	8,049,598	8,708,952	General Funds	24,993,272	25,419,224
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	996,371	Mission Support Fund	3,953,093	3,213,262
Others (Designated, etc.)	954,915	581,887	Others (Designated, etc.)	2,513,309	2,184,452
TOTAL	10,322,211	10,287,210	TOTAL	31,459,674	30,816,939

I am God's work in progress

BY JAY DE LEON

I have always been a believer that there is a God, but my faith in God was not strong. It became more so when I became a single mother in 2015. The situation terrified me and I had a lot of questions.



Jay and her children

I sought God in every possible place. I moved from one Christian church to the next. I was lost, but I knew and felt that I have this love in my heart for Him. During this time of

seeking, a friend of mine was convincing me to attend this Bible study in her church. I ignored her and created excuses. But one day in 2016, I had a cancelled meeting in Ortigas Center. I recalled my friend's invitation and after calling her and confirming my attendance, I found myself walking towards Ruby Road towards her church, towards Greenhills Christian Fellowship.

The Bible study group I went to was CBSI or Community Bible Study International. I was hooked and continuously attended for a year, but in the meantime continued attending another church. But this friend of mine who was insistent perhaps

discerned that I had so much questions about my faith. She convinced me to attend a worship service here in GCF. I attended, in 2017, after much prodding. It was at that time I felt the Lord leading me again. During the worship service that day, I felt a strange feeling in my chest. I felt tears in my eyes, and I felt like I was home.

In that same year in July, our assistant table leader in my group in CBSI, convinced me to attend the 3Rs Women's Retreat in September. It was a three-day retreat and I felt guilty about leaving my kids for so long. But the 3Rs Retreat was a turning point for me. Every question I had about Christianity was answered. Everything that I needed to validate, I found.

In October, I met again with fellow retreat attenders and it was during this period that I decided to process my membership with GCF. I was determined armed with my conviction and my faith. It was also during this time that I discovered that there is a support group for single moms in the GCF women's ministry. This time, I didn't need to be persuaded nor coerced nor pressured. I attended my first ever SUPAMom event.

I am still a work in progress, and I am a result of God's Grace. He has reliably saved me from giving up. I have surrendered everything to Him and this time I believe that His will is ultimate and that He will never forsake me nor abandon me ■

PRAYER
at the Chapel

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Weeknight Prayer Gatherings
Except Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.

ON THE COVER: "Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed. And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack."—Gen. 42:26-27. Courier donkeys traversing a rocky mountain pass (pixabay.com). Donkeys are efficient transport animals especially useful in droughts, and have been domesticated especially in arid regions.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **30/31 March 2019**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:3). **He requires holiness of us as well:** “Be holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).
Sin demands a penalty: “For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God” (1 Peter 3:18). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them” (2 Corinthians 5:18).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.