



GENESIS
Grace from the Beginning

27/28 April 2019
Vol. 41, No. 17

A Tale of Two Believers

Genesis 48-50

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

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

Filipino Service
(3 n.h.)

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

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



A Tale of Two Believers

Today's Message (27/28 April 2019) /
Genesis 48-50

WHEN WE ARE
UNFAITHFUL,
GOD REMAINS
FAITHFUL
TO HIS OWN.
WHEN WE ARE
FAITHFUL,
GOD DOES
NOT ALWAYS
SPARE US FROM
SUFFERING,
WHEN IT IS FOR
GOD'S GLORY
AND OUR GOOD.

Despite his past failures, God graciously allowed Jacob to fulfill his role as the patriarch and benefactor of Israel before he died. He blessed, prophesied, showed a good example, and taught faith to his children and grandchildren (making up well for lost time). Then before Joseph died, God made Joseph assure his brothers of his unconditional forgiveness. Both Jacob and Joseph prophesied about the good future of Israel, a testament to God's unalterable and sovereign purposes. At the end of their lives, Jacob and Joseph's one common factor was God. The ultimate hero of their story, of the book of Genesis, and of all time and history, is still God.

And so the sovereignty of God is proven by the fulfillment of His purposes despite the unfaithfulness of His people, and the trials of the faithful. And the grace of God is displayed by the second chances He gives even the unfaithful. This three-chapter survey reminds us again what the whole book of Genesis is all about—*grace from the beginning*:

THE LAST DAYS OF JACOB

Chapter 48: Jacob blesses the two sons of Joseph.

- We learn from Jacob's example: It is never too late for an unfaithful believer to start walking right with God again.
- God preferentially blesses the least expected to show that His ways do not always follow the standards of man. Let this give hope to those who think they have everything stacked against them in life.

Chapter 49:1-28: The last will and prophecy of Jacob

- We learn from Jacob fulfilling his patriarch role, though seemingly belated: It is never too late for an unfaithful believer to be used of God again.

Traditional Service

(April 27, Sat., 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude

Call To Worship

Worship Through Praise

Worship Through Fellowship

Worship Through Giving

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

Response Hymn

Benediction



A Tale of Two Believers

Today's Message (27/28 April 2019) /
Genesis 48-50

- We learn this from Reuben, Simeon, and Levi: We reap what we sow. Yet we learn that God gives second chances to those who are willing to do what's right. Because of the faithfulness of the tribe of Levi during the rebellion of the golden calf (*Exodus 32:26-28*), it was scattered as a *blessing* throughout Israel.

Chapter 49:29-50:14: The death, burial, and return of Jacob to Canaan

- Despite the twists and turns of Jacob's life, God fulfilled His promises in Genesis 12:2-3: "I will bless you...you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you... in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
- The eleven brothers mourned their father greatly a bit too late. Sometimes we show love too late. Give those eulogies, buy those flowers now, while they can appreciate it.

THE LAST DAYS OF JOSEPH

Chapter 50:15-21: The assurance of Joseph to his brothers

- The fearful brothers, realizing what they deserve, fabricate a story for Joseph to spare them. But in Genesis 50:20, Joseph states the truth of Romans 8:28—In His sovereignty, God can use even the evil plans of men to fulfill His good purposes.
- Forgiveness always heals, both the offender and the offended. And if I am not showing grace, I may have forgotten the grace I've been shown.

Chapter 50:22-26: The prophecy and death of Joseph

- Death is never the end of God's plan.
- Some people may start badly through no fault of their own, but can end well as they faithfully walk with God.

FINAL THOUGHTS

What will be the story of your life? Like Jacob's? Up and down, in and out, hot and cold, "few and evil"? Or Joseph's—down but not out, hot not lukewarm, suffering but steadfast?

The joy of your life hinges upon the faithfulness of your walk with God. But even when we are unfaithful, God remains faithful to His own. Jacob proved that. And even when we are faithful, God does not always spare us from suffering, when it is for God's glory and our good. Remember Joseph's story to carry you through those hard times ■

NOT LORDING OVER, BUT BEING ALONGSIDE

Young adulthood can be an especially fraught season in a person's life.

In this digital age, it can be a season of constant exposure to the Instagrammable lives of our contemporaries—people who we thought in grade school were just “okay”, but have already gone places and achieved important things we only dreamed of going and achieving.

In this consumerist age, it can be a time when the lure of money, the things that money can buy (and insure), and the satisfaction of climbing up the career ladder can be so strong that we forget that time spent is time forever lost—even the money we've made will never bring it back.

In this extraordinarily lonely age, it can be a season when we try to be invulnerable for fear of being hurt. So, we close off from forming deep and meaningful relationships, which, ironically, plunges us deeper into loneliness. We especially defer or altogether convince ourselves that we do not need to seek romance or marriage, either because we strongly feel that we do not need “an-other”, or because we are afraid that there won't be any return to the emotional investments we'll make.

In this existential age, it can be a time when the challenges of adulthood unhinge us and shake our ideas of purpose, sometimes ideas that we have learned at church and Sunday school when we were younger.

Young adulthood is a crucial stage in the life journey because worldviews

and relationships tend to solidify at this time. How we see the world and who we would like to go along with in the journey become more-or-less permanent around the age of 25.

And we understand all these because we are also in the midst of these struggles. It feels like we are in a giant mixing bowl of unpleasant goo, and we are unsure of what we would look like or what we would eventually become when we come out of it.

In light of all these, what should be the role of faith and church in this season?

We in the core team of the YA Ministry hold two values that undergird how we view our work. First, we value *walking together* in the light of Christ and His Word. This, for us, is the kernel of shepherding: not lording over, but being alongside—“a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Second, we believe that the ministry should serve as *a venue where all issues of life can be raised and discussed in the light of Christ's lordship*, “for from him and to him and through him are all things.” In a time when louder voices compete to have a stake at answering the tough life questions, we believe that the church should be a place where we are not afraid to tackle these head on in the light of what we believe.

We do not have all the answers. In fact, we think that somehow, that is not really the point. Because at the end, how we are to each other along the way would determine if we would have achieved what we should be seeking after all—Christ-likeness ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, ERCC!

The Emmaus Road Counselling Center is celebrating their anniversary today (Sunday). Please drop by their booth at the lobby to know their ministry and to get a free token!



PASSING THE BATON OF FAITH

Parenting Series organized by Couples' Ministry
Wednesdays of May (8, 15, 22 and 29)

7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Chapel

Check standees at the lobby for topic selection.



2019 YOUTH LIVE CAMPS

ROOTED: HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

For Grade 7 to incoming Grade 12 students

Venue: Batangas Country Club, May 30-June 2 (Thu-Sun) | Early bird fee PhP 2,000 'til Apr. 29

BEYOND: COLLEGE CAMP

For incoming college to fresh college graduates

Venue: Rizal Recreation Center, June 5-8 (Wed-Sat) | Early bird fee PhP 2,000 'til Apr. 29
For more information, please visit their booth.



BASKETBALL CLINIC

with Coach Norman Black

May 11, 16, 18, 23 & 25 (Thurs. and Sats.)

Strictly for 7-15 year-olds only | Fee: P2,500

Only 50 will be accommodated. Registration starts April 28 and until slots are filled.



ROAR! LIFE IS WILD, GOD IS GOOD

Daily Vacation Bible School 2019

Children's Ministry invites kids and parents of kids aged 2-12 to "Roar!" this May 27-June 1 (Mon. to Sat.), 8:00 a.m.-12:00 nn.

To register, please visit <https://vbsspro.events/p/events/dvbs-roar-2019>. For more details, please text 0917 532 7663 or 0917 532 7768.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God by Bingle Gutierrez, the Basilad family and the Messiah College. The flowers are also given in memory of the 2nd death anniversary of Joseph Mari Tomas. 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

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

GG Leaders' Orientation on the Study Guide on Psalms

May 12 (Sun), 9:30-10:30 a.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m. (B302-303)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / April 2019

APRIL	Projected	Rcvd., Apr. 1-24	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of April 24
General Funds	8,614,850	4,833,500	General Funds	33,608,121	31,162,352
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	871,454	Mission Support Fund	5,270,790	4,389,917
Others (Designated, etc.)	2,589,276	206,848	Others (Designated, etc.)	5,102,584	2,750,717
TOTAL	12,521,823	5,911,803	TOTAL	43,981,496	38,302,985

YA Ministry as a listening ministry

BY PASTOR PARKIN YOUNG

"The first service one owes to others in a community involves listening to them. Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's Word, the beginning of love for others is learning to listen to them. God's love for us is shown by the fact that God not only gives God's Word but also lends us God's ear...We do God's work for our brothers and sisters when we learn to listen to them."—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

LISTENING

In our world today, we are always taught not to be afraid to say what we feel. That is well and good, until we learned to abuse it. There are people going through bouts of depression and one of the contributing factors to that is they are not heard or being listened to. We wonder if there is a better way.

Being married for a grand total of 11,836,800 seconds, I have to admit that I am still learning to listen. But I do know now that listening is one of the keys to a successful relationship. In my seminary, there was a whole module about listening. That's amazing for me because people need to be taught to listen. I know I need that skill, and I think my wife would agree with that assessment. Most people nowadays want to be heard and they make the effort to be heard, but because of the number of people who do that, we need listeners.

YOUNG ADULTS' MINISTRY AS A LISTENING MINISTRY

Life is hard to balance with all the pressures that come along with being a young adult: paying the bills, maintaining a work-life balance, cultivating relationships, and pursuing or waiting for the right person. These are but a few of the challenges we young adults face and we get you—it's really hard. That is why we are here to listen to you. We don't know all the answers, because we more-or-less tread on the same paths as you do. But we promise that we will try our best to journey with you, to live life together. We want to be that kind of community for you!

I firmly believe that church should be a community where young adults can find belonging. More than just a gathering every week, church should be where we find people who listen to God first and foremost and they in turn love others by listening to them. We envision to be a community of this kind to our young adults, a community of the consecrated who follow God's calling. That makes the journey much richer not because of our number, but because of the depth of the relationships that we have with each other. Are you a young adult? We look forward to hearing from you! Please visit our booth at the lobby to know more how we can serve you ■

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: "So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them."—Gen. 48:10. *Jacob Blessing the Sons of Joseph* (1656) by Dutch painter Rembrandt (public domain, Wikimedia). Portrayed by the artist as small children (with Ephraim receiving the blessing in the scene), the two sons of Joseph were actually already adults when Jacob blessed them.



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 **27/28 April 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.

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.

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