

## Come On Bruh Bible Study 1: You Can't Direct How Blessings Come – Genesis 48:8-20

### Getting Things Started

- Israel – the name God gives to Jacob after Jacob successfully wrestles with God in Genesis 32:28
  - Earlier in chapter 48, Jacob tells Joseph that he will claim Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh as his own which is why two of the 12 tribes of Israel are named after them
- 1) Why do you think people are uncomfortable when a dying person doesn't follow the usual rules regarding showing favor to people they've left behind (Hint: One of the functions of probate is to make sure that an estate is divided properly)?

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### Into the Text

- 2) Our text lets us know two things about Jacob/Israel: that he's nearly blind and that he purposely chose to give the younger son the blessing that the eldest would normally give. Why do you think it's important for us to know that Israel didn't make a mistake?

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- 3) What, if anything, is interesting about the blessing ceremony in verses 15-16?

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- 4) There is a history of younger sons receiving the blessing usually intended for older sons within this family. Compare and contrast the process for how Ephraim gets his brother's blessing with the process for how Jacob got his brother's blessing.

Ephraim's Blessing Process	Jacob's Blessing Process

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**Bringing Things Current**

5) What are ways that members of modern Christian fellowships “stack the deck” so that they are more likely receive their desired outcome from a decision that the body of believers must make?

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6) What's wrong with trying to direct how your blessings will come?

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7) What can a believer do to ensure his/her faith isn't shaken when the larger church body makes a decision that s/he wasn't expecting?

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