

Brandon Phillips

The Seed: Sovereignly Preserved / Faith / Genesis 48

In Genesis 48, Jacob demonstrates his faith in God's covenant promises and sovereignty by adopting and blessing Joseph's sons.

Discussion Questions For Parents

Ages 2–4

Who was Joseph's father? Jacob

What were the names of Joseph's two sons? Ephraim and Manasseh

Was Jacob young or very old? Very old

Could Jacob see very well? No

Did Jacob trust God? Yes

Does God always keep His promises? Yes

Who takes care of us like a shepherd takes care of his sheep? God

Who did God send to save sinners? Jesus

Ages 5–8

Why did Joseph bring Ephraim and Manasseh to Jacob?

What did Jacob do for Ephraim and Manasseh?

What promises had God made to Jacob and his family?

Why did Jacob believe his family would someday live in the Promised Land even though they were living in Egypt?

Which grandson did Jacob give the greater blessing to—Ephraim or Manasseh?

Why was Joseph surprised when Jacob put his right hand on Ephraim?

Jacob said that God had been his shepherd throughout his life. What does a shepherd do for his sheep?

Can we trust God when we don't understand what He is doing? Why?

What is one promise from God that you know?

How does Jesus show us that God keeps His promises?

Ages 9–12

Read [Genesis 48:3–4](#). What promises from God does Jacob remember before blessing Joseph's sons?

Why was adopting Ephraim and Manasseh an act of faith?

Jacob was living in Egypt and did not own the Promised Land. Why could he still confidently give his grandsons an inheritance there?

Read [Genesis 48:15–16](#). What does Jacob mean when he says God had been his “shepherd”?

What are some difficult things Jacob experienced during his life? How had God remained faithful through them?

Why did Joseph try to move Jacob's right hand from Ephraim to Manasseh?

What does Jacob's choice of Ephraim teach us about God's sovereignty?

[Hebrews 11:21](#) says Jacob blessed Joseph's sons “by faith.” What does faith mean in this situation?

Jacob died before he saw many of God's promises fulfilled. Does trusting God mean we will always see how everything works out? Explain.

What is the difference between trusting God's promises and simply expecting God to give us whatever we want?

Is there something happening in your life right now that you don't understand?
How can knowing that God is faithful help you?

Read [2 Corinthians 1:20](#). How does Jesus give us confidence that God keeps His promises?