

Youth Worship

BETHANY INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's kind of church, where God is touching lives, and people care for people.

WELCOME TO YOUTH WORSHIP!

Let us seek to cultivate our spiritual life each time we come for Youth Worship. May this time of worship bring a sense of renewal and joy to our soul!



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UNDER HIS WINGS *you shall take refuge*

When the Covid virus first hit our shores, many ran scared, scrambling to wipe out face masks and hand sanitisers off the store shelves, exhausting all ways to shield themselves from danger and death. While we can now thank God for the easing of Covid restrictions and His special protection in the past few years, we must understand there would be other dangers in life that could rock our soul with anxiety and fear.

Because of our faith and confidence in the Lord, we shall not be afraid. Even in the context of war and destruction, the Psalmist found deep assurance under the shadow of God the Almighty.

3 Surely **He shall deliver you** from the snare of the fowler
And from the perilous pestilence.

4 **He shall cover you** with His feathers,
And under His wings **you shall take refuge**;
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

5 **You shall not be afraid** of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow *that* flies by day,

6 *Nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday.

PSALM 91:3-6

1. Confidence in God faithfully doing His part

- a. He shall deliver us Psalm 91:3
 - i. From the snare of the fowler
 - ii. From the perilous pestilence

- b. He shall protect us Psalm 91:4a
 - i. Like a caring mother bird
 - ii. Who covers her children with her feathers

- c. His truth shall safeguard us Psalm 91:4b
 - i. Like a shield
 - ii. Like a buckler

(A small and light shield used for quick defence)

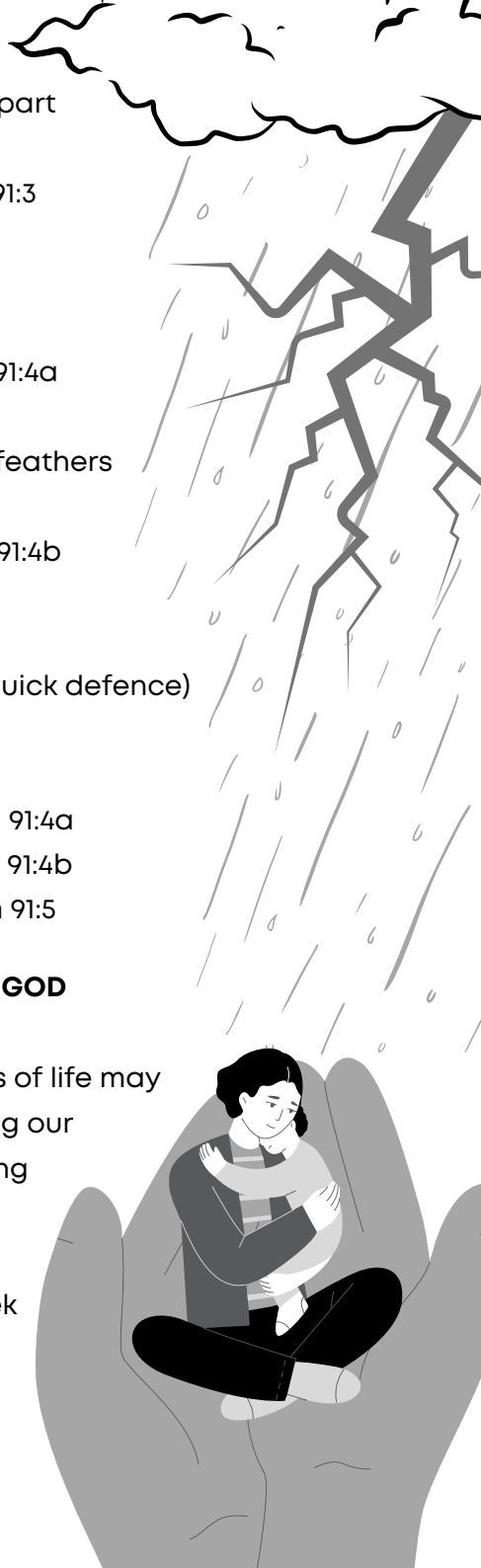
2. Commitment to do our part

- a. To go to God for refuge Psalm 91:4a
- b. To know His truth Psalm 91:4b
- c. To trust and not be afraid Psalm 91:5

OVERCOMING OUR FEARS WITH FAITH IN GOD

What are some of your fears? The terrors of life may bring persistent emotional stress, keeping our anxiety levels high in the day, and causing many sleepless nights.

What ought to be our resolve? Let us seek to make God our refuge and fortress. Let us pursue understanding of God's assuring word, and exercise faith in His promise to deliver and protect us.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE

25 February 2023

Prelude

Pianist: Gabrielle Wan

Call to Worship

Pastor Charles Tan

Opening Prayer

Pastor Charles Tan

Song Leading

1. All Praise to Him

2. Draw Me Nearer

Ong Yanning

Pianist: Gabrielle Wan

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 49:1-7

Asia Tan & Bethany Toong

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Moses Kwek

Message:

“Listen to Israel your father”

Text: Genesis 49:2

Pastor Charles Tan

Closing Prayer

Pastor Charles Tan

Offering

Postlude

Pianist: Gabrielle Wan

MY NOTES

25 FEBRUARY 2023



"LISTEN TO ISRAEL YOUR FATHER"

GENESIS 49:2



WORSHIP SONGS

All Praise To Him



by Sovereign Grace Music



All praise to Him, the God of light
Who formed the mountains by His might
All praise to Him Who names the stars
That sing His fame in skies afar
All praise to Him Who reigns in love
Who guides the galaxies above
Yet bends to hear our every prayer
With sovereign pow'r and tender care



All praise to Him whose love is seen
In Christ the Son, the Servant King
Who left behind His glorious throne
To pay the ransom for His own
All praise to Him Who humbly came
To bear our sorrow, sin, and shame
Who lived to die, Who died to rise
The all-sufficient sacrifice



All praise to Him whose pow'r imparts
The love of God within our hearts
The Spirit of all truth and peace
The fount of joy and holiness
To Father, Son, and Spirit now
Our souls we lift, our wills we bow
To You, the triune God, we raise
With loving hearts our song of praise

(end)



DRAW ME NEARER

By Fanny Crosby, Music by Caedmon Call

I am thine, oh Lord,
I have heard Your voice,
And it told Your love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

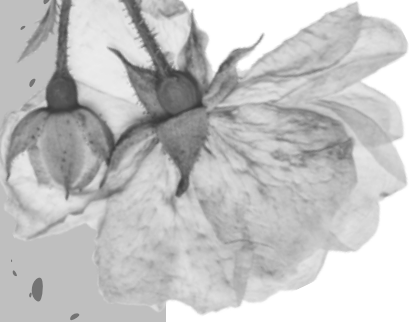
Chorus:

Draw me nearer,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer,
To Your precious bleeding side.

There are great depths of love that I cannot know
'Till I cross that narrow sea;
And there are heights of joy that I may not reach
'Till I rest in peace with Thee.

Chorus:

Draw me nearer,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer,
To Your precious bleeding side.



Consecrate me now to Your service, Lord,
By the power of grace divine;
Let me soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.

Chorus:

Draw me nearer,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer,
To Your precious bleeding side.
Draw me nearer,
Draw me nearer.

(end)



REVIEW OF GOD'S WORD

Let us review what we have learnt at our last Youth Worship!

YWS MESSAGE - 18 FEBRUARY 2023

“AND HE BLESSED JOSEPH”

GENESIS 48:15

INTRODUCTION

1. Jacob had lived in Egypt for 17 years Genesis 47:28
2. He was coming to the end of his earthly life
3. Joseph was informed that Jacob was dying

THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN JACOB AND JOSEPH

1. Remembering God

Then Jacob said to Joseph: “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me,

Genesis 48:3

- a. God Almighty appeared to me at Luz
- b. And blessed me

2. Remembering God’s promise

And said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you *as* an everlasting possession.’

Genesis 48:4

- a. I will make you fruitful
- b. And multiply you
- c. And make you a multitude of people
- d. And give this land to your descendants after you for an everlasting possession

LOOKING AT THE SONS OF JOSEPH

5 And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, *are* mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

6 Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.

7 But as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when *there was* but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

Genesis 48:5-7

1. Ephraim and Manasseh were born in Egypt
2. They were now declared as "sons of Jacob"
3. They will inherit the land of Canaan as the brothers of Joseph would
4. If Joseph were to have other children, they would be Joseph's

BLESSING THE SONS OF JOSEPH

1. Israel was very old and his eyes were too dim to see clearly
2. Joseph brought his sons to his father with great respect
 - a. Manasseh was the firstborn
 - b. Ephraim was the younger son
3. Israel crossed his hands as he pronounced the blessing

15 And he blessed Joseph, and said:

"God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
The God who has fed me all my life long to this day,

16 The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil,
Bless the lads;
Let my name be named upon them,
And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac;
And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

Genesis 48:15-16

- a. The name of the LORD was invoked
 - b. The name of the Angel of the LORD was also invoked
 - c. The names of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) were mentioned
 - d. Blessing of growth into a multitude was pronounced
4. This was astoundingly called the blessing of Joseph
"And he blessed Joseph" Genesis 48:15

AN ATTEMPT BY JOSEPH TO SHIFT THE HANDS OF HIS FATHER

1. Joseph was concerned by the crossing of Jacob's hands
2. He thought that his father had made a mistake
 - a. He was old
 - b. He could not see properly
3. But Jacob was adamant

17 Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.

18 And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this *one is* the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."

19 But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.

20 So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!' " And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

Genesis 48:17-20

- a. Ephraim would be the stronger tribe
- b. He would surpass Manasseh

CONCLUSION

21 Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am dying, but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers.

22 Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."

Genesis 48:21-22

1. Acceptance of death

Jacob knew that the end of his life had come

2. Focus on the Lord

His thoughts were on the Lord who had faithfully kept him

3. A special gift to Joseph

a. He gave to Joseph one extra portion above his brothers

- i. Joseph was being treated as if he was the firstborn
- ii. The extra portion was normally given to the eldest son
- iii. Jacob gave the extra portion to Joseph
- iv. It was a piece of land that he had when he fought with the Amorites on one occasion

b. Jacob exercised his right to give as he saw fit

- i. Reuben was the firstborn but he did not deserve an extra portion
- ii. Joseph had stood out among all his brothers and was most deserving

REFLECTION

WRITTEN BY
Jerome Lai

Recap

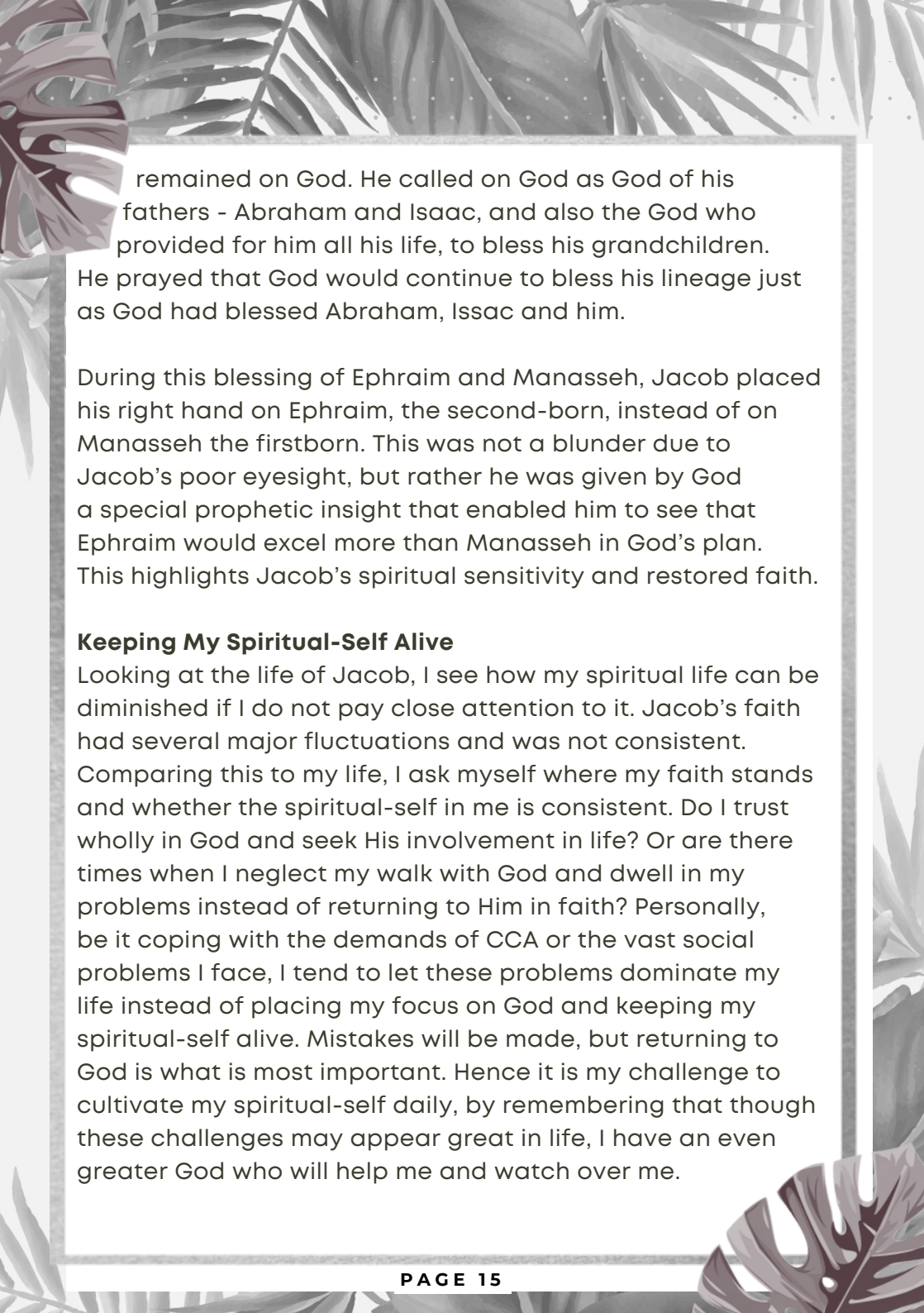
In the lesson from Genesis 48, we come to the last days of Jacob's life. In this text we see how Jacob's faith was restored. Comparing the final days of Jacob to his life as a whole, we see how though his faith in God 'fluctuated', his spiritual life was nonetheless restored at the end of his life.

Faltering

When we look at Jacob's life, we see how his journey in faith was not a consistent one, but with God's help, his faith was restored time and time again. One example of this was when Jacob thought that Joseph had died (Genesis 37:33-36) and was greatly grieved by this, falling into depression without going back to God. From this incident onwards, Jacob had no encounter with God, indicating his withdrawal from God during this period of time. His spirit only revived when he was told that Joseph was alive (Genesis 46:26). Thereafter, God reached out to Jacob and commanded him to join Joseph in Egypt, promising His presence with him.

Faith Restored

Before his death, Jacob's faith was clearly restored and his focus was kept on God. Jacob saw how God's promise was fulfilled and how God was so gracious to allow him to see not only Joseph, but his sons Ephraim and Manasseh as well. Understanding he was blessed by God, Jacob sought to bless Joseph and his sons. When blessing Ephraim and Manasseh, his focus

The page features a decorative border of tropical leaves, including a large monstera leaf on the left and various palm-like leaves on the right and bottom. The text is contained within a white rectangular frame.

remained on God. He called on God as God of his fathers - Abraham and Isaac, and also the God who provided for him all his life, to bless his grandchildren. He prayed that God would continue to bless his lineage just as God had blessed Abraham, Issac and him.

During this blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh, Jacob placed his right hand on Ephraim, the second-born, instead of on Manasseh the firstborn. This was not a blunder due to Jacob's poor eyesight, but rather he was given by God a special prophetic insight that enabled him to see that Ephraim would excel more than Manasseh in God's plan. This highlights Jacob's spiritual sensitivity and restored faith.

Keeping My Spiritual-Self Alive

Looking at the life of Jacob, I see how my spiritual life can be diminished if I do not pay close attention to it. Jacob's faith had several major fluctuations and was not consistent. Comparing this to my life, I ask myself where my faith stands and whether the spiritual-self in me is consistent. Do I trust wholly in God and seek His involvement in life? Or are there times when I neglect my walk with God and dwell in my problems instead of returning to Him in faith? Personally, be it coping with the demands of CCA or the vast social problems I face, I tend to let these problems dominate my life instead of placing my focus on God and keeping my spiritual-self alive. Mistakes will be made, but returning to God is what is most important. Hence it is my challenge to cultivate my spiritual-self daily, by remembering that though these challenges may appear great in life, I have an even greater God who will help me and watch over me.

THE LORD HAS BLESSED ME FOR YOUR SAKE

Jacob realised that his future was not in Haran;
He would need to leave the family of Laban.
He had served Laban for many long years;
Service was hard and there were many tears.

Jacob realised that it was time to return to Canaan;
He had spent enough time living and working in Haran.
The LORD had blessed Laban ever since he came;
But he could not say he owned anything in his name.

He approached Laban and spoke of his desire plainly;
The LORD had blessed Laban because of Jacob clearly.
Laban recognised that this statement was true;
He offered to raise his salary if that was due.

Jacob knew that Laban could not be trusted;
He declared that he would leave as stated.
He must plan for his family that had grown;
He could not speak of anything as his own!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Genesis 30:25-30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY CAMP 2023

With great joy and excitement, we can look forward to the return of Family Camp this year.

Details

Date: 12-17 March 2023

Theme: "To Live is Christ and to Die is Gain"

Venue: Le Grandeur (Johore)

1. Focus of this Family Camp

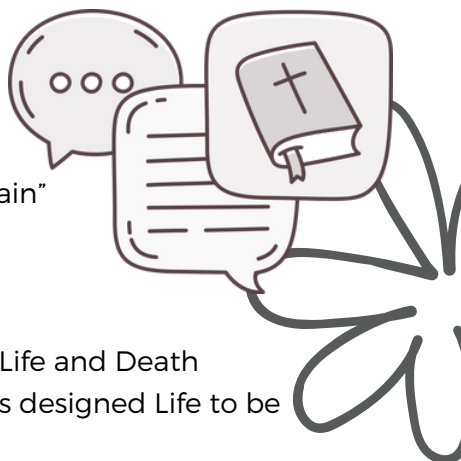
- a. To understand Biblical Theology of Life and Death
- b. To learn how we can live as God has designed Life to be

2. Covid-19

- a. Covid-19 still presents a risk
- b. Everyone is advised to exercise necessary vigilance

Sign up early

Please plan to sign up early.
You may register at the booth
in the Fellowship Hall on
Sundays during Fellowship Lunch.





PRE-CAMP SPECIAL (4 MARCH 2023)

There will be a special programme for those who are attending the upcoming Family Camp 2023.

Date: 4 March 2023, Saturday

Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Main Sanctuary

This special programme is open to all.



NO YW NEXT WEEK (4 MARCH 2023)

In view of the Pre-Camp Special programme next Saturday (4 March 2023), we will not be having Youth Worship next week.

Youth Worship will resume on 11 March 2023.



11 MARCH 2023

Message: "Judah, Zebulun, Issachar"

Text: Genesis 49:8-15

Having addressed the first three sons of Leah (i.e. Reuben, Simeon and Levi), Israel moved on to exhort Judah, Zebulun and Issachar. Israel's final words to them not only contained a farsighted view of their future, it also comprised a special prophetic revelation that could only come from God. Though Judah may have a dishonouring past, it was prophesied that the Messiah would come from his line. No matter our past, what are the vital lessons that we must take heed now to ensure a thriving spiritual life for the future?



Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church

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