

# 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!

Every opportunity to offer worship and learn from the Scriptures is to be cherished. May our faith be renewed and revitalised with every word that proceeds from the Lord!



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## A THOUSAND MAY FALL AT YOUR SIDE

We hear of news and read of stories which tell of the ravages of war. Destruction and strife overwhelm the hearts of many with confusion, fear and despair. One may ask “Wherein is the end?” Faith must drive us to look up to the Lord.

”  
**7** A thousand may fall at your side,  
And ten thousand at your right hand;  
*But* it shall not come near you.

**8** Only with your eyes shall you look,  
And see the reward of the wicked.

**PSALM 91:7-8**

1. Devastating effects of war
  - a. Thousands may die
  - b. Ten thousand may die
  - c. Death can be most terrifying!



## 2. Divine protection by the Lord

- a. God can and will grant His special protection
- b. To those who abide in Him
- c. To those who hide in the shelter of His wings

Psalm 91:1

Psalm 91:4

## 3. Divine judgment on the wicked

- a. The wicked would not be kept by the Lord
- b. Death would be their reward
- c. Those who trust in the Lord would witness the Lord's judgment upon the wicked

## CHALLENGE TO TRUST IN THE LORD

Faith in the Lord must cause us not to be afraid. We can trust in the Lord who sees, and wait upon Him for divine justice to be meted out upon the wicked. Our hope in the Lord must surely abound!

What then is our commitment? Let us seek to be found among the righteous who abide in the Lord. Let us hold fast to the truth of the Lord and place our trust in Him as our Refuge!



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE

11 MARCH 2023

### Prelude

Pianist: Gabrielle Wan

### Call to Worship

Pastor Charles Tan

### Opening Prayer

Pastor Charles Tan

### Song Leading

1. What a Faithful God

2. Grace

Goh Yuanli

Pianist: Gabrielle Wan

### Scripture Reading:

Genesis 49:8-15

Tessa Kang, Laura Chan &  
Chloe Tang

### Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Eugene Seow

### Message:

"Judah, Zebulun, Issachar"

Text: Genesis 49:8-15

Pastor Charles Tan

### Closing Prayer

Pastor Charles Tan

### Offering

### Postlude

Pianist: Gabrielle Wan

# MY NOTES

11 MARCH 2023

**“JUDAH, ZEBULUN, ISSACHAR”**

GENESIS 49:8-15

## What a Faithful God

By Heavenly Worship

Lord, I come before Your throne of grace;  
I find rest in Your presence, and fullness of joy.  
In worship and wonder I behold Your face,  
Singing what a faithful God have I.

What a faithful God have I,  
What a faithful God.  
What a faithful God have I,  
Faithful in every way.

Lord of mercy, You have heard my cry;  
Through the storm You're the beacon,  
My song in the night.

In the shelter of Your wings,  
Hear my heart's reply,  
Singing what a faithful God have I.

What a faithful God have I,  
What a faithful God.  
What a faithful God have I,  
Faithful in every way.

Lord all sovereign, granting peace from heav'n,  
Let me comfort those who suffer  
With the comfort You have giv'n.  
I will tell of Your great love for as long as I live,  
Singing what a faithful God have I.

What a faithful God have I,  
What a faithful God.  
What a faithful God have I,  
Faithful in every way.  
(end)



# Grace

By Carolyn Hamlin

Lord, as I seek Your guidance for the day,  
I find my thoughts unyielding,  
Confusion crowds my way.


But then when I bow to You,  
The challenges You guide me through,  
Your promises are ever new,  
I need them for today.

Your will cannot lead me  
Where Your grace will not keep me,  
Your hand will protect me,  
I rest in Your care.

Your eyes will watch over me,  
Your love will forgive me,  
And when I am faltering,  
I still will find You there.







Each new day's design  
Is charted by Your hand,  
And graciously revealed  
As I seek Your master plan.

Keep my footsteps faithful  
When from You I go.  
Return me to the joy that  
Your blessings can bestow.

Your will cannot lead me  
Where Your grace will not keep me,  
Your hand will protect me,  
I rest in Your care.

Your eyes will watch over me,  
Your love will forgive me,  
And when I am faltering,  
I still will find You there.

Your eyes will watch over me,  
Your love will forgive me,  
And when I am faltering,  
I still will find You there.

(end)



# REVIEW OF GOD'S WORD

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

## **YWS MESSAGE - 25 FEBRUARY 2023**

### **“LISTEN TO ISRAEL YOUR FATHER”**

#### **GENESIS 49:2**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The admonition of Israel to his children
2. These were the last words of advice that were given to the sons of Israel
3. Many lessons may be learned from his word of admonition

#### **CALLING THE SONS OF ISRAEL**

And Jacob called his sons and said,

“Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:”

Genesis 49:1

1. Historical context
  - a. The last formal word of admonition to the children of Israel
  - b. Advice from a death bed
2. Relevant word of advice
  - a. This has to do with the future of the sons of Israel
  - b. It is of “mixed significance”

- c. There is some personal value
  - i. Father to children
  - ii. Words of wisdom
- d. The opinion of Jacob concerning his sons
  - i. His opinion is not without value
  - ii. But his personal feelings about the sons affected him

## **ADMONITION GIVEN TO REUBEN, THE FIRSTBORN**

“Reuben, you are my firstborn,  
My might and the beginning of my strength,  
The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.

Genesis 49:3

### **1. The significance of the Firstborn**

- a. There was potential
  - i. Might
  - ii. Strength
  - iii. Dignity
  - iv. Excellence of power
- b. But this potential was:
  - i. Negated
  - ii. Lost
  - iii. His role in leading the tribe was adversely affected

### **2. A word of rebuke**

Unstable as water, you shall not excel,  
Because you went up to your father's bed;  
Then you defiled it—  
He went up to my couch.

Genesis 49:4

- a. The rebuke was his defilement
- b. He went up to his father's bed
- c. He cohabited with Jacob's concubine, Bilhah      Genesis 35:22

### 3. A word of warning

- a. Reuben showed instability when he sinned in this manner
- b. He will not excel
  - i. Because he was unstable
  - ii. Because this was his punishment

## **ADMONITION GIVEN TO SIMEON AND LEVI**

**5** "Simeon and Levi are brothers;  
Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place.

**6** Let not my soul enter their council;  
Let not my honour be united to their assembly;  
For in their anger they slew a man,  
And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox.

**7** Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce;  
And their wrath, for it is cruel!  
I will divide them in Jacob  
And scatter them in Israel.

Genesis 49:5-7

### 1. Rebuke of the two brothers

- a. For their cruelty
- b. For their anger

- c. For their fierce wrath
  - i. They killed
  - ii. They would hamstring an ox
  - iii. It would suffer from being lame

2. Refusal to honour them in any way

- a. Jacob would not sit in their council
- b. He would not be associated with their assembly

3. Pronouncement of a curse

- a. Upon their unbridled anger
- b. For their sin of slaying people

## **THE MEANING OF THESE WORDS OF ADMONITION**

1. The words of rebuke

- a. They are meant to cause them to feel remorseful
- b. To repent
- c. To change their ways

2. The words of warning

- a. To forewarn the danger with reference to the future
- b. If they do not change, they would face adversity in life
- c. They can end up being judged and punished by the LORD

## CONCLUSION

### 1. The problem of sin

- a. It is not just a deed
- b. It may reflect character flaws
- c. Sin can cause many deeper problems

### 2. The power of the LORD

- a. This must be sought
- b. For cleansing
- c. For positive changes

# REFLECTIONS

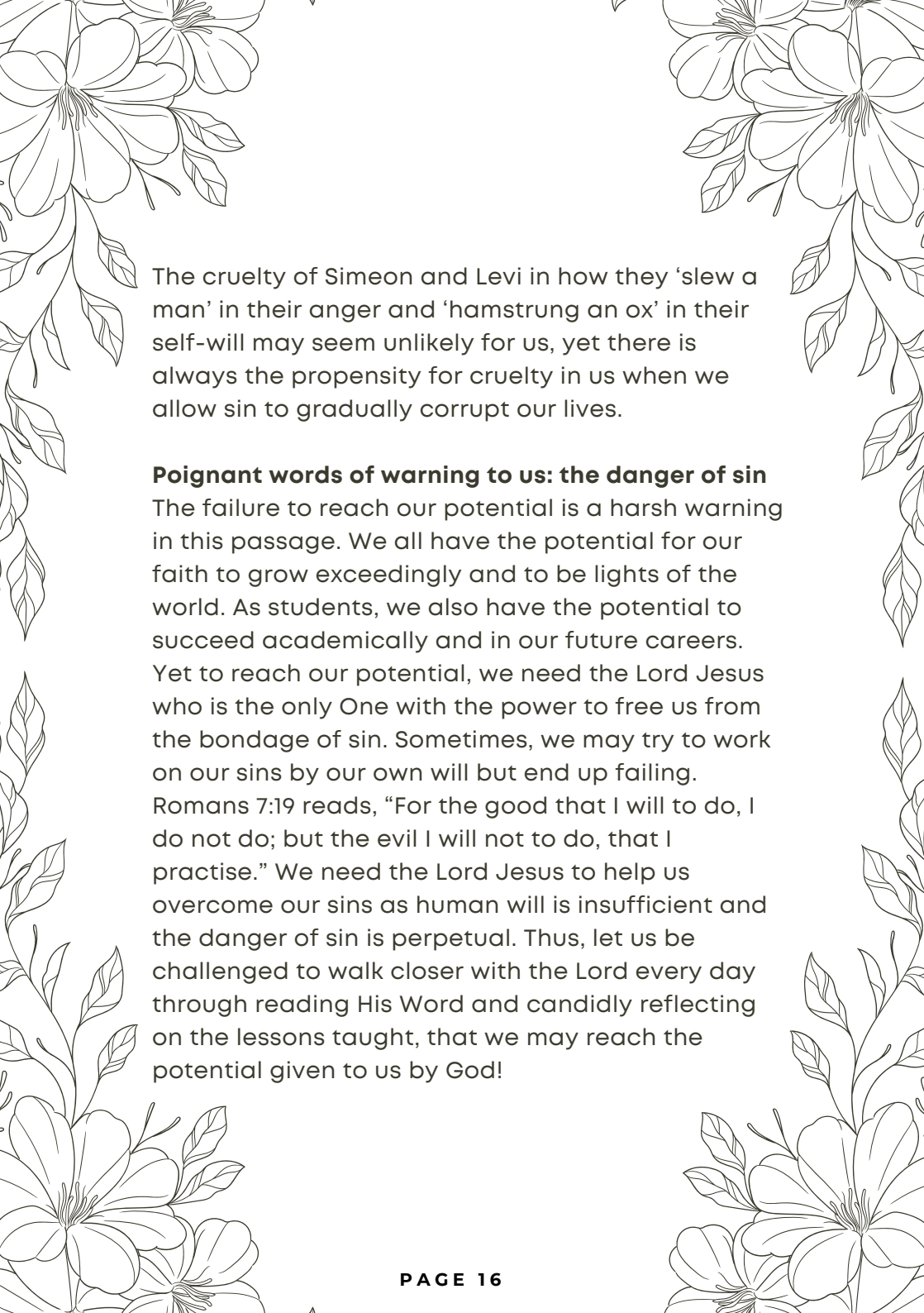
WRITTEN BY  
*Vera Kang*

## **“Listen to Israel your father”**

Genesis 49:1-7 tells of Jacob’s last words of warning and advice to his sons. They are not wholly prophecies but they carry his personal feelings for his sons. Reuben possessed the great potential of a firstborn yet he was greatly unstable. Simeon and Levi displayed unspeakable cruelty by plundering the city of the Hivites out of bitter vengeance for their sister Dinah (Genesis 34). Consequently, Jacob wanted nothing to do with them and their cruelty, that his ‘soul’ shall not enter their ‘council’ (Genesis 49:6).

## **The tremendous potential for good and the propensity to be bad**

Reuben, Simeon and Levi had the potential for greatness, yet the potential was lost. Just like Jacob’s sons, we will have problems that challenge us to fulfil our potential. Sin can easily take root in our lives when we drift away from the Lord and try to lead our lives however we wish to. The failure to reach our potential is when we choose to walk astray from God.

A decorative border of line-art flowers and leaves surrounds the text. The flowers are large and multi-petaled, with long, slender leaves extending from their stems. The border is composed of several clusters of these floral elements, one in each corner and along the sides.

The cruelty of Simeon and Levi in how they ‘slew a man’ in their anger and ‘hamstrung an ox’ in their self-will may seem unlikely for us, yet there is always the propensity for cruelty in us when we allow sin to gradually corrupt our lives.

**Poignant words of warning to us: the danger of sin**

The failure to reach our potential is a harsh warning in this passage. We all have the potential for our faith to grow exceedingly and to be lights of the world. As students, we also have the potential to succeed academically and in our future careers. Yet to reach our potential, we need the Lord Jesus who is the only One with the power to free us from the bondage of sin. Sometimes, we may try to work on our sins by our own will but end up failing. Romans 7:19 reads, “For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practise.” We need the Lord Jesus to help us overcome our sins as human will is insufficient and the danger of sin is perpetual. Thus, let us be challenged to walk closer with the Lord every day through reading His Word and candidly reflecting on the lessons taught, that we may reach the potential given to us by God!



## BECAME EXTREMELY PROSPEROUS

Jacob worked for Laban for many years;  
He had lived frugally, with many fears.  
He decided that he must change his ways;  
He spoke to Laban without any dismay.

He would no longer work for wages;  
This was not personally advantageous.  
Laban had cheated him time and again;  
That he needed a change was plain!

He would take the sheep that were disregarded;  
He would also take goats that were spotted.  
Jacob would have to trust God for this plan;  
He believed that he could trust God's hand.

Jacob was blessed because he trusted God;  
His prosperity obviously came from the LORD.  
He became "exceedingly prosperous;"  
This was a result of God's faithfulness.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: Genesis 30:31-43



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **NO YW NEXT WEEK (18 MARCH 2023)**

Family Camp will be taking place this coming week (12-17 March). We will take a break post-camp and Youth Worship will be cancelled next week.

Youth Worship will resume on 25 March 2023.



# NEXT YWS



**25 MARCH 2023**

Message: "Dan, Gad, Asher and Naphtali"

Text: Genesis 49:16-21

Every one of us bears great potential in life. Yet, the trajectory of our future depends on our present choice to cultivate our faith and confront the problem of sin.

The 4 sons of Jacob's maidservants were addressed - Dan, Gad, Asher and Naphtali. Jacob's last words for them foretold and forewarned the future they would possess. May we be deeply challenged to take heed to cultivate faith and seek God for His grace to triumph over sin!



## *Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church*

301 UPPER PAYA LEBAR ROAD, SINGAPORE 534934  
[www.bethanyipc.sg](http://www.bethanyipc.sg)