

## **Dreamer: The Life of Joseph** **A Study in Genesis 37-50**

Ephraim & Manasseh  
Genesis 48:1-22  
August 29, 2021

Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh. -Genesis 48:20

### **I. ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY OF ISRAEL**

- Israel shares the blessing God has given him with Joseph's sons by adopting them into his family (Gen. 48:4-5).
- Ephraim and Manasseh replace Reuben, Israel's biological firstborn son. Thus Joseph received the "birthright" through his own sons (1 Chron. 5:1-2).
- This blessing was not earned by Joseph or his sons, but was granted to them by Israel.
- Israel is still, at this point in his life, lamenting the death of Rachel (Gen. 48:7).
- Joseph, the vice-regent of Egypt, prostrates himself before his father, the great patriarch of Israel (Gen. 48:12).
- Once again in the biblical narrative, the younger is chosen over the older (Gen. 17:17-21, 27:39-40; 1 Sam. 16:12-13; Rom. 9:6-13).
- Two brothers who had no reason to look beyond their present lives are given a rich heritage and a future hope.

### **II. ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD**

- Adoption is one of the great blessings for those who trust in Christ. In love God predestined you for adoption into his family (Eph. 1:1-10).
- Via the blessing of adoption, we are now "sons" of God and heirs of all that God has promised (Rom. 8:12-17; Gal. 4:4-7).
- We did not earn this blessing, it has been granted to us by God. In love and mercy he has made us his children (John 1:11-12; 1 John 3:1; 1 Peter 2:9-10).
- Now we are God's children. What we will be is not what we are now (1 John 3:2-3).

**KNOW:** Adoption into the family of God is the great blessing reserved for those who trust in Christ.

**DO:** Seek adoption into the family of God. Rejoice in it if you have it!

#### **Suggested Reading:**

*Who Am I? Identity in Christ* by Jerry Bridges (LifePoint Library #

### **Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families**

#### **Please Read Genesis 48:1-22**

1. Summarize this chapter. Why does Jacob (Israel) want to bless Joseph's sons?
2. Why do you think there is a prevailing pattern in scripture of God choosing the younger over the older, or the less expected over the more expected (Jesus' birth narrative, the lowliness of the disciples Jesus chose, etc.)?
3. Romans 8:17 tells us we are "co-heirs" with Christ. Why is that such an amazing concept?
4. What benefits do we receive as those who have been adopted into the family of God?
5. In what ways does human adoption mirror the adoption we learn about in the New Testament?
6. What are your application points from this message?