A Prayer Workshop -- *Morning Edition*

Discovering and Applying Biblical Prayer Principles from Hebrews 11

**Session Nine: The Faith of God’s Story**

**Praying to Bless Others**

**Hebrews 11:20-22**

(ESV) ***20 By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. 21 By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.***

Our lives are connected to the previous generation and the ones to follow, not only in our DNA, but God’s Covenant. Our prayers will reflect this reality, not only in their content, but in praying for and with the next generation, and praying over them as well.

**1. We pray in light of the Covenant and Covenant blessings handed down to us.**

Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph did not hope blindly for their children somehow to succeed in the world, but to live before God and in dependency upon His Promise. They saw themselves in God’s redemptive covenant narrative (story).

Scriptures: Genesis 3:15; 9:1-17; 12:1-3; 49:10

Prayer prompts: Father, help us follow in the steps of the past faithful.

Father, may your promises be always upon our lips.

Father, help us to see ourselves in Your Story.

**2. We pray Covenant promises in the presence of the next generation.**

Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph were praying men, partly because they learned to pray from their fathers. Nothing will communicate your faith to the next generation like the heart-felt prayers they hear their elders pray.

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 4:7-9; 6:1-9; Psalm 145:1-7; Job 1:4, 5

Prayer prompts: Father, grant us wisdom to pray with our families.

Father, grant us grace to pray with our friends.

Father, grant us boldness to pray at all times and places.

**3. We pray Covenant promises for the coming generations.**

Joseph knew that God’s plan was to visit Israel and restore them to the Promised Land, for that was God’s promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:13-20). His burial request was testimony to his faith, and a blessing to coming generations. We must look beyond our own generational interests to those who come after us.

Scriptures: Genesis 18:17-19; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

Prayer prompts: Father, help us pray for our families’ spiritual future.

Father, help us pray for the future of our church.

Father, help us pray for the Gospel to go to all nations.

Let’s pray. . . A Model Prayer in God’s Story Nehemiah 1 (ESV)

4As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

5And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 6let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father’s house have sinned. 7We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.

8Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, 9but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’

10They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. 11O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

Now I was cupbearer to the king.