

SERMON GUIDE

GOING HOME

Genesis 49:28-50:14 | Pastor Tim Prince

December 11, 2022

Faith Community Church | fchudson.com

Conversation Questions

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- Scripture that stands out to you while you read
- Observations you are making about a passage
- Applications that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- Prayer that invites God to participate in all that you do

Getting to Know Me: Have you ever been to a funeral that was particularly memorable or special? Would you share what it was like and what made the gathering so special?

Notes About the Passage: This scripture reading is preceded by a long section of scripture in which Jacob blesses his children (Genesis 49:1-27). This word of blessing functions as both a wish for his children's future relationship with God and as a prophetic word regarding what will unfold in the future.

The scripture reading mentions a lot of names and places that are unfamiliar to us. The cave at Machpelah which belonged to Ephron the Hittite was a plot of ground that Jacob's grandfather, Abraham purchased as a burial site for his family. It's the only bit of Canaan that actually belong to Abraham and his family and so it held special significance.

Read Genesis 49:28-50:14 (You may want to skim 49:1-27.)

S: What verses, phrases, words, or feelings stand out to you as you read this text? Is anything "illuminated," surprising, or jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?

O: As you look at all of chapter 49 (including the section where Jacob blesses his children), what do you notice about Jacob's preparation for his death? Why do you think Jacob felt it was important to bless his children and grandchildren and to give such specific instructions regarding his burial?

O: What did Jacob believe was going to happen to him after he died (49:29)? What do you think this meant to Jacob? How do you think his beliefs about the afterlife impacted his preparations?

O: Take some time to read about the apostle Paul's attitude toward death in 2 Corinthians 5:1-10. Where are there similarities and clarifications between Jacob's understanding of the afterlife and what Paul shares?

A: If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?

A: Have you given much thought to preparing for your death? Would your loved ones know how you felt about them? Would they know about your hopes for their future? Have you given much thought to the kind of spiritual legacy that you will leave behind for your loved ones? Is there anything that you feel God is telling you that you need to do to prepare?

A: If you knew that your death was imminent, is there a specific relationship or situation in your life that you know would need to be addressed so that you could go in peace?

P: Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide the direction that you need.