



## **Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions**

Topic: *Children, Blessings, and a Grave*

Text: Genesis 49:1-50:14

Service Date: June 15, 2025

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

### **Getting Started**

- This past Sunday was Father's Day. What memories do you have of your dad?
- If you don't have any children or grandchildren, what lessons do you think can be taken from the sermon and text?

### **Sermon Discussion**

- Ephesians 6:4 notes that fathers should not exasperate their children but bring them up "in the training and instruction of the Lord." What does this verse indicate about the significance of fathers/mothers in the spiritual life of their children?
- Looking back upon your childhood, what type of spiritual influence (if any) did your father have on you? As a parent/grandparent, is this a "standard" you've tried to emulate or something you've tried to do differently?
- Paul Snoddy noted that some of Jacob's children were disqualified from receiving a blessing. Why would this have been significant?
- Anyone who has more than one child knows how different each child's personality can be. This is also true if you have a brother or sister- each person's personality is different. If you're raising kids or have raised kids, what insight can you give in terms of how to raise each child by the same standards but in a way that which specifically speaks to their personality? Do you find that you've made a conscious effort to speak that child's specific love language?

- The sermon noted of mistakes Jacob had made as a parent. No parent is perfect (although some might say that being a grandparent makes up for it!). In parenting, are there any mistakes you've made or things you wish you would have done differently?
- "Begin each day by praying for your children." How are you currently praying for your children? Do your actions and involvement as a parent reflect the spiritual prayers for which you pray to God?
- "Lighten the worries, especially of younger children." How are you trying to lighten the worries of your children while training them for adulthood? If you're a grandparent, did you try to do this when you were a parent?
- Parent Reflection Question: Would someone say that you are A) an engaged parent when it comes to how you interact with your child, B) disengaged, or C) pushing your own agenda through things such as sports, dating, career choice, etc.?
- "Set an example for your children by serving others." Honest assessment- how are you (and your spouse) doing in terms of ministry involvement on a regular basis? Would this set a good example for your child(ren)/grandchildren?
- In the space below, write a few things down that you are praying about regarding your children and/or grandchildren. Feel free to take time in your group to pray for these things.

Prayer Items:

---

**Books mentioned in the sermon:**

*The Blessing: Giving the Gift of Unconditional Love and Acceptance* by Gary Smalley and John Trent

---

**Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?**

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is "Stories of Life Change". Visit [tri-village.org/yourstory](http://tri-village.org/yourstory) and share how God worked.