

# **Welcome to Kev's on-line eGroup**

**The e-Glue that helps with the glitter**

**Part 1: Detailed sermon notes**

**Part 2: eGroup study questions**

### Here Comes Church – “In the know”

- Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc). The “e” stands for empowerment - because getting the instructions from God without having the empowerment to live them out will frustrate you. These groups are our way of putting some very wonderful people in front of you feed you spiritually.
- Stay out of “isolation silos” - you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don't have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc)
- Don't over-think it – Invite someone to church – “Who do you know that is close to you that is far from God?”
- What are your Gr8ful eight?
- K-Love and Elevation Workshop at Red Rocks in CO in August 2025
- Psalm Sunday – April 13, 2025
- Good Friday Worship Experience – April 18, 2025
- April 20, 2025 – Easter Worship Experience

Gen 45: Joseph Makes Himself Known - 45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. 3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. 4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 5 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. 7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. 9 Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. 10 You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. 11 I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.' 12 "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. 13 Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly." 14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Gen 45: Joseph Makes Himself Known

16 When the news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. 17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, 18 and bring your father and your families back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land.'

19 "You are also directed to tell them, 'Do this: Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and come. 20 Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours.'"

21 So the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he also gave them provisions for their journey. 22 To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels[b] of silver and five sets of clothes. 23 And this is what he sent to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey. 24 Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving he said to them, "Don't quarrel on the way!"

**25 So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. 26 They told him, "Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt." Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them. 27 But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. 28 And Israel said, "I'm convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."**13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

### Genesis 46:5 - Jacob Goes to Egypt

46 So Israel set out with all that was his, and when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. 2 And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, "Jacob! Jacob!" "Here I am," he replied. 3 "I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. 4 I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes." 5 Then Jacob left Beersheba, and Israel's sons took their father Jacob and their children and their wives in the carts that Pharaoh had sent to transport him. 6 So Jacob and all his offspring went to Egypt, taking with them their livestock and the possessions they had acquired in Canaan. 7 Jacob brought with him to Egypt his sons and grandsons and his daughters and granddaughters—all his offspring.

8 These are the names of the sons of Israel (Jacob and his descendants) who went to Egypt: Reuben the firstborn of Jacob. 9 The sons of Reuben: Hanok, Pallu, Hezron and Karmi. 10 The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman. 11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari. 12 The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez and Zerah (but Er and Onan had died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul. 13 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puah, Jashub and Shimron. 14 The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon and Jahleel. 15 These were the sons Leah bore to Jacob in Paddan Aram, besides his daughter Dinah. These sons and daughters of his were thirty-three in all. 16 The sons of Gad: Jephon, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi and Areli. 17 The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi and Beriah. Their sister was Serah. The sons of Beriah: Heber and Malkiel. 18 These were the children born to Jacob by Zilpah, whom Laban had given to his daughter Leah—sixteen in all. 19 The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin. 20 In Egypt, Manasseh and Ephraim were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. 21 The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Beker, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim and Ard. 22 These were the sons of Rachel who were born to Jacob—fourteen in all. 23 The son of Dan: Hushim. 24 The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer and Shillem. 25 These were the sons born to Jacob by Bilhah, whom Laban had given to his daughter Rachel—seven in all.

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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### Genesis 46:5 - Jacob Goes to Egypt

26 All those who went to Egypt with Jacob—those who were his direct descendants, not counting his sons' wives—numbered sixty-six persons. 27 With the two sons who had been born to Joseph in Egypt, the members of Jacob's family, which went to Egypt, were seventy in all.

28 Now Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to get directions to Goshen. When they arrived in the region of Goshen, 29 Joseph had his chariot made ready and went to Goshen to meet his father Israel. As soon as Joseph appeared before him, he threw his arms around his father and wept for a long time.

30 Israel said to Joseph, "Now I am ready to die, since I have seen for myself that you are still alive."

31 Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and speak to Pharaoh and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who were living in the land of Canaan, have come to me. 32 The men are shepherds; they tend livestock, and they have brought along their flocks and herds and everything they own.' 33 When Pharaoh calls you in and asks, 'What is your occupation?' 34 you should answer, 'Your servants have tended livestock from our boyhood on, just as our fathers did.' Then you will be allowed to settle in the region of Goshen, for all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians."

Gen 50: Joseph Reassures His Brothers

**15** When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" **16** So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: **17** 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. **18** His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

**19** But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? **20** You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. **21** So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Isaiah 40:31 - Wings like eagles

He gives strength to the weary

and increases the power of the weak.

30 Even youths grow tired and weary,

and young men stumble and fall;

31 but those who hope in the Lord

will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;

they will run and not grow weary,

they will walk and not be faint.

Prayer prompt by Elevation Church:

“Prayer Prompt: Pastor Steven said: “You’re carrying a lot, but you’re carried, too.” “What are you facing this week that you need to trust that God will carry you through? We pray that we would trust that God will guide your actions and responses this week. Pray that we would trust that God is going with us - even when we don’t know where He’s leading us.”

# **Part 1: Detailed sermon notes**

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

## Sermon Highlights

- “Anx-cited” – Anxious and excited can both look the same. Whether it is a burden or a blessing depends on which you lean into.
- When you get there, God’s got you. Don’t overburden the process by overplanning your steps.
- Wherever God calls your Israel, you have to take Jacob with you.
- Jacob’s journey included:
  - Weight - Sometimes you have to head there heavy
  - Wagons - He knows where you’re weighted and where you’re weak; that’s what the wagons are for
  - Worship - Worship is heaven’s strategy to unburden the human heart
  - Wings - You’re carrying a lot, but you’re carried, too
- If you want to get from weakness to strength in your spirit, start counting your wagons.
- You can because you’re carried.

## Scriptures

- Genesis 45:25
- Genesis 46:5 - – Jacob goes to Egypt to see Joseph
- Isaiah 40:31 - Wings like eagles

## Sermon Discussion

- “Anx-cited – Anxious and excited can both look the same. Whether it is a burden or a blessing depends on which you lean into.” What do you feel “anx-cited” about in your life right now? How can you lean into the excitement of what God is doing?
- “If you want to get from weakness to strength in your spirit, start counting your wagons.” Share some “wagons” that God has provided to help carry the weight you’re facing in this season.
- “Worship is heaven’s strategy to unburden the human heart.” Where and how do you need to intentionally incorporate worship into your life this week?
- “When you get there, God’s got you. Don’t overburden the process by overplanning your steps.” Where have you been overplanning your steps? How can you start trusting God with the process?

Prayer Prompt: Pastor Steven said: “You’re carrying a lot, but you’re carried, too.” “What are you facing this week that you need to trust that God will carry you through? We pray that we would trust that God will guide your actions and responses this week. Pray that we would trust that God is going with us - even when we don’t know where He’s leading us.”

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- I'm going right to my message. The Spirit of the Lord is in this place. I'm going right to my message. The Spirit of the Lord is in this place. Chains are going to break today because the Spirit of the Lord is in this place.
- The anointing destroys the yoke. The Spirit of the Lord is in this place.
- I'm so glad I listened to the Lord. Last night, he told me to get a little extra sleep because y'all were going to be ready today. I'm so glad I did. I was in bed at 8:20 p.m. getting ready for y'all, and that's an hour earlier than my normal bedtime. (And now I'm stalling to catch my breath from jumping.) Tell your neighbor, "I'm glad you're breathing." Tell them, "I'm glad you brushed your teeth." We have a good time in church. I said, "We have a good time in church." It doesn't mean we're not going through rough patches in our lives, but we have a good time in church.
- I welcome you here today. All of our guests, all of our eFam, all of our church family, welcome today. I'm so glad you're here. I accidentally started preaching a sermon series a few weeks ago, and I've been talking to you about when God calls your name. I was trying to figure out what to call the series, and finally, in my fourth week, the Lord told me what to call it. It's called Called.
- That's what it's called. Tell your neighbor, "I'm called." Called a lot of different things by a lot of different people, I'm sure. Did you enjoy last week when I was talking about "Martha, Martha"? How many of you felt seen when I was showing Holly be pulled apart by the demands of life?
- How many of you preached the message back to yourself a little bit throughout the week when you felt yourself pulled here and pulled there?
- And just reminded yourself that being present in the moment that God has given you is always the priority. Presence is the priority, even when your plan changes, even when your problems are overwhelming.
- Let's see. We've done "Moses, Moses." We did "Simon, Simon." These are the ones I've preached so far, different people in the Bible that God called their name, not once, but twice, just right there together. "Moses, Moses." "Simon, Simon." "Martha, Martha."
- Today is "Jacob, Jacob." Genesis, chapter 45. As many sermons as you've heard me preach on Jacob, I've never preached from this passage. Genesis, chapter 45, verse 25, and then we'll go all the way to chapter 46, verse 5. You say, "That's a lot of Scripture." Well, I'm making up for all the Bible reading days you skipped this week. I'm doing you a favor.
- Now, hear the Word of the Lord. The Lord has a word for you today. I've been pacing back and forth waiting for you to get here. I'm so thankful for the way he speaks. Now, a little bit of background. The children of Jacob have gone to Egypt, and they found out not only is there food in Egypt while there's a famine in Canaan where they live - but that their brother Joseph, who they betrayed years earlier, is in command. He has promised them, "If you will come back and bring our father Jacob, I'll take care of you. Everything you did to me is not going to be held against you. I have moved past it, and I'll take care of you."

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- **So, with this message, they arrive to Jacob who, remember, 22 years earlier, was told that his son was dead, or led to believe that his son was dead, when, in fact, it wasn't true. He'd been pushed in a pit, but he wasn't dead. He was sold into slavery, but he wasn't dead. He was falsely accused years later and went to prison, but he wasn't dead. Tell your neighbor, "Somehow I'm still here." Just tell them, "Somehow I'm still here. That's why I'm praising him."**
- Now we pick up the narrative in Genesis 45:25. "So they..." The brothers of Joseph, the sons of Jacob. "So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. And they told him, 'Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt.' And his heart became numb..." Isn't that unexpected? He gets the greatest news he could ever hope to receive, and instead of his heart being happy, his heart goes numb. Now, after his heart goes numb, the writer gives us a little bit of an explanation as to why he was unable to receive this good report. It said, "...for he did not believe them. But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. And Israel said, 'It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.'"
- Now chapter 46, verse 1. "So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, 'Jacob, Jacob.' And he said, 'Here I am.'" That's presence. "Here am I." "Then he said, 'I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes.'" The one you said goodbye to is going to be the one who says goodbye to you in your dying breath. The final verse I want to read to you before we preach... "Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him."
- **The prophetic word I've been assigned to preach to you today may come across, on the surface, as very simple, but it is really the deepest belief you could ever hold, and it is this: “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load.” I know you had a lot on your mind even coming in today, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know sometimes people take advantage of you because you're available to them, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know you've done some bad things in your life, and you feel kind of guilty about them, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know you're trying to make a plan right now, and stuff keeps moving, and stuff keeps shifting, and people keep moving, and people keep shifting, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know you're stubborn and you don't like to ask for a lot of help, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know your shoulders are tense. Lord will lighten your load.**
- Turn around and tell 12 people, "The Lord will lighten your load." Put it in the chat. "The Lord will lighten your load." Put it right there in the chat. "The Lord will lighten your load." And you may be seated. You can rest for the rest of the message. The Lord will lighten your load. Now, I have a love/hate relationship with simple sayings like that. "The Lord will lighten your load."

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- On one hand, I think that the highest degree of clarity in communication is simplicity. So, really, for me, the art of studying the scripture is to simplify the Scripture, to find one message in the Scripture that we can all take, whether we're 12 or whether we're 82 or whether, like Jacob here in this passage, we are 130 years old. Did you know Jacob was 130 years old when the Lord told him, "Get up and go to a place 300 miles away, a place you've never been in, a place that you will not recognize, a place that you will not fit into, a place that you will be tempted to reject?"
- But I'm sending you to Egypt because there's a famine where you are, and you have to move."
- As we step into this moment of Jacob's life... I gave a little bit of this away. I intended to save it so I could tell the story and keep you in suspense. He is really on the verge of one of the greatest moments he has ever experienced. In just a few weeks, he will be reunited with his son, the son that he mourned for 22 years. But you can't exactly call it a happy moment for Jacob either, can you? Because as we saw in the Scripture that I read, sometimes you get good news, but you can't take it in because of what you've been through. Sometimes you can't receive truth because the truth has to work its way through the trauma. Sometimes you can hear something that actually is factual, but your frustration or your pain or your failure will take you into a moment where even though you hear the truth, even though you hear the word, and even though it's something you desire to believe, unbelief does not unwind automatically.
- Through a process of coming before the Lord and spending time with the Lord and putting yourself in environments like this... Go ahead and give yourself a hand for coming to church today, by the way. I learned to look at it differently. I used to think, "I don't have time to go to church" if I was busy. Now I've learned that when I'm really busy, I don't have time to not come to church, because I need to be in a place where my heart is not numb. I need to be in a place where I can be known by God and accepted by him. So, you wouldn't exactly call this moment in Jacob's life happy, would you? He has lost two decades plus two years with his son, and he's kind of suspicious that his boys were the ones who were up to it. And he's right. But at the same time, there is a hope for him that "Maybe, just maybe, I'm going to see Joseph. I'm going to see Joseph. This is better than going to Disneyland, y'all. I'm going to see Joseph.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- I've been told that Joseph has secured a spot for me in Goshen, and I'm going to live off the fat of the land as the father of Joseph, who has risen through all adversities. Like a fruitful vine, he climbed over every wall. They shot their arrows at him, but Joseph's hand remained steady. I'm going to see Joseph." At least he hopes. But here is the lesson from Jacob's response to the news that Joseph may be alive. When you've been really hurt, it is hard to keep hoping. When you have been really hurt, it is hard to keep hoping. I promise you I won't depress you the whole message, but I just don't want to bring you in like this is some glorious reunion and reconciliation, because if we oversimplify and we make it a cliché ("The Lord will lighten your load"), then what happens when three hours from now you get some bad news? Or what happens when you get to work tomorrow and your boss did not get my sermon title that the Lord wanted to lighten your load? "Didn't you get the memo? The man of God said the Lord would lighten my load." Well, they are not the Lord, and they may put more on you. Isn't that a dumb cliché, by the way, when we say, "The Lord will never put more on you than you can bear"? The Bible doesn't say that. Read the Bible. Stop quoting what you heard from your grandma without checking it against the Bible. She was approximating what she heard one time, but the Bible says that no temptation has overtaken you and God will give you a way of escape. It doesn't say that God won't put more on you than you can bear. He most certainly will put more on you than you can bear so you won't get confused and think you're him. That's actually God's job security, to call you to do things you can't do without him, so you won't get there and be without him and think you can do it.
- You'll say, "Pastor Steven, anxcited ain't a word." And I'll say, "It may not be a word, but it is a reality." The fact is if I focus on getting it wrong, I'm going to feel completely paralyzed.
- If I focus on pleasing people, I'm going to feel completely paralyzed. If I focus on not leaving anything out, I'm going to stand up here like I'm performing for you, but this ain't Vegas. If I focus on feeding you what God gave me for what you're going through in your life, I'm excited. So, I want you to understand that both options are always available. I can be anxious. I can be excited. I'm like Jacob sometimes. I can't really name how I feel. I can't really name the season I'm in. On one hand, I'm really happy to be in front of you. I'm really thrilled with the prospect of being a vessel for God to use, and on the other hand, I'm terrified.
- And don't look at me judgmentally, because you don't like to give speeches or hear your own voice either. So I'm excited. I'm anxious. I'm anxcited. I don't know how to spell that, but I certainly know what it feels like. I'm anxcited. And I believe there's somebody in the room today that feels that way about this season of your life. "I'm anxcited." Tell your neighbor, "I'm anxcited."
- "I'm kind of shaky in it, but I'm kind of looking forward to it. I'm kind of relieved that things are changing, and I'm kind of terrified that things will never be the same." "I'm kind of feeling a sense of adventure in my life because I got fired, and I'm also watching my bank account, and it's running the wrong way from abundance. It's moving in the wrong direction. So, I'm kind of excited to have free time, but I'm kind of not excited. I'm a little anxious about having less money, because now I'm stretched, and I'm stretching toward something I didn't expect. In this season of my life, I'm anxcited."

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- Somebody asked me recently, "What do you and Holly feel about being empty nesters soon?" I said, "Soon? Abbey is 14. Why are you trying to run her out of the house? She just started wearing makeup. Give me a few more years." I'm anxited about my kids growing up. I'm anxited about releasing them into the world.
- I'm anxited about being in Charlotte. Some of you just moved here in the last month. Some of you moved here to be a part of this church. How do you feel about it? "I'm anxited." That's an anxited praise. That's "I'm clapping sometimes; I'm crying sometimes. I miss my friends in Austin, and I'm looking forward to meeting new ones here." I'm just trying to tell you that sometimes the clichés we use oversimplify the depth of the human experience and to remind you that you will always be both.
- **Anxious and excited both look like shaking hands. Anxious and excited both feel like sweaty palms. Anxious and excited both put butterflies in your stomach, but whether those butterflies are a burden or blessing depends on which one you lean into.**
- The news reaches Jacob. "Joseph is on the throne in Egypt. He is the prime minister of the most powerful nation on earth, and he has sent us with an instruction to bring you back. He said we don't even have to worry about bringing our own stuff with us, because when we get there, he's got us." I don't know who this is a word for, but when you get there, God's got you. Don't overburden the process by overplanning your steps. I said, "Don't overburden the process by overplanning your steps." When you get there, he's got you. The process of God speaking to Jacob is a very complicated process, because he's already changed his name to Israel. In fact, if you read the account in Genesis, chapter 46, you are forgiven if you are a little confused.
- Let's read it together again and see why it's confusing. Remember, Israel is Jacob's new name. It's not only the nation that he fathered, but it is the name he was given. It's the name of his strength. Jacob, on the other hand, is the name of his weakness. It speaks of his tendency to deceive and manipulate and chase and compare.
- So, the Bible says in Genesis 46, at this pivotal moment in Jacob's life, "So Israel took his journey..." We're talking about a man whose name has been changed. "...with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. And God spoke to Israel..." New name. God spoke to Israel. Strength. God spoke to Israel, which means prince. God spoke to Israel, the changed Jacob. "God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, 'Jacob, Jacob.'" If his name is Israel, why are you speaking to Jacob?
- I want to give you a principle to take with you today into every situation you encounter this week. Wherever God calls your Israel, you have to take Jacob with you. It's going to be good in a minute. Let me work on this word for a minute. You've been confused lately, because some habits have been sneaking back up on you that you thought you let go of. Because some sins have been trying to strangle the life of you, but you thought you broke the choke hold.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- **Because some things you said you never would do again, you started doing them again, and you're carrying it like a secret in your heart. Because somebody got up and told you that if you accepted Jesus, you would leave the old you behind, and that is true positionally. God no longer relates to you on the basis of any sin you've committed. Every single one of the sins you committed was nailed to the cross. Its effect was canceled. Your record is clean. Your sins have been blotted out. All of that is true. You have been delivered from the penalty of sin. You have been delivered from the power of sin. Sin is no longer your position. Sin is no longer your identity. But although you have been delivered from the power, although you have been delivered from the penalty, and although it is no longer your position, you still have some patterns called sin that go with you into your future called now. I want to preach this, because you are Israel, and you are Jacob, but you are kind of "Israe-acob." I'm going to preach it till you get honest. I'm going to preach it till you stop polishing your halo and pretending like you didn't cuss once this week. I'm going to preach it till you stop pretending like you've got the right to make comments on YouTube about other people's faith when you know good and well you are not always on a church website, when you know good and well there's some Jacob that came with you to church.**
- "Aren't you just giving the people permission to sin?" Uh, they're doing pretty good without permission, ma'am. Trying to give you power, perspective, and presence, that when God speaks to your Jacob, you don't run away and hide.
- Okay. Something very meaningful. I always prepare three illustrations for each point, and then I try to stand in the room and figure out which one makes sense for right now. Usually, if you're looking at me all stuffy, I'll go to the safe one, but today I feel kind of free. One time I apologized to Holly because I'm not always relaxed. We were on vacation, and I said, "I know you really like this version of me." It had been three weeks since I had to work on a sermon, and three weeks of not having to be anxited puts me in a very relaxed state of mind, relaxed and lazy. "Relazy." I get "relazy." I said, "I know you love this version of me." Man, you should see my Southern small-town charm come out. I'm speaking to everybody, holding doors for everybody, buying ice cream for skaters that I used to would have said were punks, but I'm buying ice cream. They smell like weed. I'm buying them ice cream, telling them about Jesus. It's a great state. I said, "I know you love this version of me." She said, "Yeah, I do." She said, "But I love all of them." (That was the biggest collective "Aw" in church history. You made history today, church.) - That did something for me. It did something for me, because I realized that she knew that we wouldn't be on vacation if I was never stressed, at least not staying indoors with plumbing.
- That meant a lot to me. That means a lot to a man. It means a lot to a woman. When you appreciate the fact that the parts of me that are not that great come with the package, not so that I can continue to be a complete schizophrenic before I preach, but...It unburdened me a little bit. I'll tell you what it was. I'm going to give you four things that were a part of Jacob's journey today that you can practically apply to your life.
- The first one I've spoken of, but I want to be really clear. I want to talk to you about the weight. Write it down, please...W-E-I-G-H-T, weight. Not wait as in a period of time that lapses before you know a conclusion, which would be appropriate too. Twenty-two years that he has held in his heart the horror of losing his son Joseph. "It's kind of hard to get happy in five minutes when I've held this 22 years."
- Have more compassion on people as they change, including you. You know how when you drive down the interstate they have weigh stations for truckers? I wish we could have one of those in the church for Christians.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- We wouldn't be measuring whether you're down three pounds or not. I would love to know if you carry too much into this room today so that we could unburden you before you head back out, because you are dangerous with too much weight, and you're dangerous with too little weight. There are some responsibilities that God has placed on you that are the answers to the prayers you prayed. The Lord was telling me one time that I was complaining about prayers I had prayed six months ago being answered. Do you follow me? In other words, he did it, and then I got it, and it was heavy. Nobody ever tells you this. Blessings are heavy. Blessings are heavy. Everybody who's praying God will give you a baby, blessings are heavy. I don't care 8 pounds, 10 pounds, 12 pounds.
- The truth of the matter is that the weight Jacob is carrying...I just want to talk to you a little bit about it today, because he's carrying not only his own pain and his uncertainty but the responsibility that his name represents an entire nation. Talk about weight. Talk about heaviness. A few weeks ago, I talked about how heaviness and happiness sit at the same table, how heaviness and happiness live in the same heart. If we wait for the heaviness to go away to be happy, we will defer our joy and postpone it indefinitely. Waiting on a future time to praise God when all of your kids are doing well is a trap. Waiting on a future time to praise God when all your debts are paid off is a trap. Waiting on a future time to praise God when nothing in your body hurts is a trap. Waiting to praise God, waiting to enjoy your life, waiting to be thankful, waiting to smile, waiting to laugh until you know how this is going to turn out, waiting until the outcome is clear for you to make a commitment to serve Jesus is a trap. That's why Jacob had to set out with a heavy heart.
- Sometimes you have to head there heavy. Sometimes you have to take a step forward, knowing, "I don't even know about the next one yet, but I will take this one." So, the process of coming to the Lord is to learn how to take the weight he gives you. But I will remind you today that God can't help you carry something he never called you to.
- **Carrying The Wrong Things - One New Testament writer said to lay aside all the sin and the weight that easily besets you. Sometimes I think we're carrying sins that we won't give up, but other times I think we're carrying weights that aren't exactly sins but are taking up the space in our life that could be used for trusting God - that could be used for creative solutions. If the Devil wants to destroy you, he will get your mind so full of stuff that it does not matter anyway - to get you moved off of what you are uniquely called to do.**
- And to realize that Jacob in this moment is receiving good news, but he is still grieving what he's been through; receiving good news, but very anxious about where he's going. It may give you a little compassion for yourself that I have this weight. It's not that my heart is hard; it's that it's heavy. As he is considering this... I mean, picture it. He has to decide, "Am I going to believe that this is possible?" Just like you are deciding, Dove's Nest, "Am I going to believe that my recovery is possible?" Just like you are having to decide, college student, "Is it really worth it to live for Jesus?" Just like you are having to decide in this season of your life, "Am I going to call a therapist and start to work on this so I don't just carry this forth as my template for the rest of my life?"

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- As he is trying to decide whether to leave what is familiar and walk in what is fearful and point himself in the direction of the unexpected pregnant possibility that God has answered his prayers that for 22 years lay dormant, not dead... The Bible says in verse 27 that as he was carrying this weight... Everybody say, "Weight." Come on. Say it louder. Say, "Weight." I want you to say it as loud as it is heavy to you. One, two, three. Yeah, the crushing expectations that you had of yourself, the crushing disappointment of what didn't happen. Some of you are like, "I'm doing good today." Weigh in next week. We'll check you next week. Something could happen between... You know, something could get on your truck this week that could make you break down in tears and not be so arrogant. So never judge somebody because of what they are carrying.
- One sidenote. I met a man a year ago, and when I met him I said, "He is so arrogant." All he did was talk about himself. I've never met somebody so arrogant. I walked away and thought, "I have discernment." I saw him again a year later. He said, "I wanted to tell you something. The first time you met me...you couldn't have known this, but I had just received news the day before that I lost my job. I had been throwing up in a hotel room all night, so I apologize if I came across a certain way." I'm like, "You did. You did."
- Isn't it crazy that I couldn't even see who he really was because all I could see was what he carried? Tell your neighbor, "I'm really a good person. If you catch me at the right time, I'll buy you some ice cream." See, the Lord is speaking to Jacob while he's trying to move forward as Israel. I said, the Lord is speaking to Jacob while he's trying to move forward as Israel.
- He's trying to decide, "Do I believe?" How would you believe these boys? Do you remember what they did? They brought Joseph's coat to their dad and said, "Is this the coat you gave Joseph?" Because they were always jealous of him. They dipped it in blood to make it look like he was mauled by animals. And he was. They were the animals. Now, he was on his way to Egypt, and God was using all of that sovereignly, but in that moment, all Jacob felt was sadness. He kept that coat for 22 years. It's all he had left of his son.
- Now these same boys... They've gone down to Egypt. They found out there's food. There's going to be five more years of famine, and Joseph says, "Come. I've got you. When you get here, I've got you." So they go back to Canaan and they say, "Dad, we've got to go. Joseph is alive. He's going to take care of us." There's hope in his heart, and there's heaviness in his heart.
- The weight almost... Watch this. It almost keeps him from going. I love this word in the Bible.
- (Put up verse 27.) "But when they told him the words of Joseph, which he had said to them..." Now, get ready to shout a little bit, because this part that comes next is really important. It was one thing to hear their words, because they've said a lot of things, and they've lied about it. It is one thing to believe people. It is one thing to believe a preacher.
- But it is another thing when God gives you evidence of his presence that you can't deny. I believe I'm talking to about 225 people today somewhere in this room at Ballantyne, that your heart has been heavy, but you've got evidence that God is not quite through with you yet.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- Now, the Devil would love for you to look past the evidence, but watch this. The Bible says he was trying to believe, trying to take it in, trying to wake up his heart, trying to revive his spirit, trying to convince himself, trying to get a move on, trying to make a plan, but his heart was numb and he couldn't move. Now give me my verse. When he heard the words of Joseph, which he had said to them secondhand, and when he saw the wagons... That's the second word I want you to write down: wagons.
- I've got weight. I'm going through some things. I've got weight. I've got unanswered questions. I've got weight. There are some people who have disappointed me. I've got weight. Somebody say, "I've got weight, but I've also got wagons." This is the part where if you are Pentecostal even by 5 percent, I want you to look out your window today, spiritually speaking, and look at all the wagons that God has sent to bring you where you're supposed to be.
- Now we've got a choice to make, because I'm anxcited. I'm heartbroken but I'm hopeful. The weight is trying to get me to stay depressed, but the wagons are calling me to move on. I want to know which one is your faith in, the weight or the wagons. God sent me with a prophetic word for somebody.
- You've got wagons waiting for you. You've got transportation waiting for you.
- High-five everybody you can reach and say, "Here come the wagons. Here come the wagons." And there is no way... Ooh, I feel like testifying. There is no way I'd be here... There is no way I'd be here if it had not been for the wagons.
- All right. Y'all help me get happy about the wagons. The wagons, the wagons, the wagons.
- Jacob is like, "I don't know if this is true. I don't believe these boys. These boys are rascals. These boys are liars. Reuben is a liar. Simeon is a liar. Judah is a liar. Who can I trust? All my boys are dysfunctional. All this weight is too much for me. I've been 22 years in this condition.
- I don't know if I should believe this." And while he's listening to them, he is stuck in the weight. But when he saw the wagons, when he saw those wagons... When Joseph sent his brothers back, he said, "Take the best wagons that Egypt has to offer. Hold on. Let me ask my boss. Pharaoh, I've got to go get my dad and bring him back. Would you let me borrow some wagons?"
- Pharaoh said, "Yeah. I don't even worship their same God, but I will send them the transportation to bring them here to eat." God doesn't even have to use the right thing to get you where you're supposed to go. Can I say it like I feel it? God is going to use some stupid stuff to get you there. God is going to use some ridiculous things to get you there, some weird wagons. "What are these wagons? I've never seen wagons like this before.
- Aren't these Pharaoh's wagons?" Yeah, but they're under God's jurisdiction.
- So, I'm explaining how God came to get him with the wagons, because God knew he had a limp.
- He knows where you're weighty, and he knows where you're weak, and that's what the wagons are for. Give me the verse again. Ain't that anointed, Mom? I said, ain't that anointed, Mom? If my mom doesn't think it's anointed, I need to shut it down.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- But when he saw the wagons... Are you back there, Justin? Can you circle "When he saw the wagons"? Oh, when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him... I want you to circle carry too. I think that's the key right there for the Lord lightening your load today.
- **I don't think he needs to take something off you; I think he needs to put something under you. The Lord will lighten your load, not by decreasing the weight but by sending the wagons.** What are your wagons, and why won't you get in them? Why do you keep not joining an eGroup? You think the whole group has COVID but you? You aren't going to catch nothin' from them maybe but Jesus. You might catch some joy, might catch some peace, might catch some better habits, might catch some accountability, might catch some spiritual discipline, might catch a Dave Ramsey budget makeover. You might catch something good.
- You keep praying about the weight of your financial burden, but you won't get on the wagon. Get on the wagon. Limp to the wagon. You can get on the wagon weeping. Just get on. You can get on the wagon worried. Just get on. You can get on the wagon with all of your weight. These are good wagons. These are trustworthy wagons, because Joseph sent them, because God sent them. He will help you carry what he called you to and nothing that he didn't, which is why it becomes so important.
- I talked about the weight. I talked about the wagons. Can I talk for a moment about the worship? Okay. This is important. He sets out in the wagons. He says, "Oh, the wagons are here. That must mean it's true." I use this to illustrate all of the things God is sending in your life to convince you that he's with you in spite of all of your feelings saying that he isn't. They are there. Sometimes you can't see the wagons through your weeping.
- So he gets on. Right? I would love to read the whole chapter to you where it lists all the people he had to take, because you would start to feel how weighty it is, and you would start to identify. He has to take them, their children, and some grandchildren, because he's 130 and he has accumulated a lot.
- Now they're on there with animals. They're on there with people. They're on there with people that act like animals. I did not mean to describe your family vacation. But let's make this real. Let's make this live.
- Let's not leave this in BC. Let's bring it to right now. Let's bring this to your life. He's on the wagons, but he's still worried. I think this is the part that maybe can help you Wednesday, to worship God Wednesday. I don't really preach with the intention for you to worship God Sunday. I want you to worship Wednesday when it's weighty, when you are on your way and you're worried. So, in Genesis 46:1, it looks like they're going straight to Egypt to get the food, because that's where the food is. That's where Joseph is. But Israel, the better part of Jacob, took his journey with all that he had, including Jacob. I'm going to say it again. Your silence does not intimidate me from making my point.
- You bring you with you. You bring you with you. If you get a promotion, I hope you're a good boss, because you bring you with you. If you get a partner, you bring you with you. If you have kids, you bring you with you, and all they are going to do is show you you in a fun house mirror. You bring you with you. So, when it says Israel took his journey... And then people say, "Enjoy the journey." I hate that cliché. How am I supposed to enjoy the journey with 70 jokers I can't trust, with a land I'm headed to that I have never seen that I cannot research, that I can't even really understand what it's going to be like, with the sadness of my past following me here? "So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba..."

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- **Beersheba is on the border of southern Canaan. What does that mean? It's right there on the edge of going to Egypt. If he gets past Beersheba, he's going all the way. So he stops there. Watch what he does when he stops. He takes some of those animals that were in that wagon that would have represented something he accumulated in Canaan, and he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. Next verse. "And God spoke..." Verse 1. He offered sacrifices, and God spoke. He gave God something, and God gave him something. I am not saying this is a transaction, but it is a fact. Worship is heaven's strategy to unburden the human heart. Worship is heaven's strategy to see you with your messed-up mind, to see you with your jacked-up habits, to see you with your cluttered state of mind, to see you in all of your burdened-ness and say, "Let me lighten your load."**
- When he offered sacrifices, God spoke and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am. I'm here. I'm anxited about this journey." Verse 3 says, "Then the Lord said, 'I am God.'"
- Aren't you glad that both of those are true? You're still Jacob, but he's still God. I told you I had a word for you today. The word is you need to pull over to worship when you feel the weight. Pull the wagon over and worship. "Uh, what do you mean, Pastor Steve? I'm driving right now. Should I lift my hands?" Put your hands on 10 and 2 and worship. Rehearse the greatness of God until you forget the frustrations of you. "Jacob, Jacob." "Martha, Martha." "Simon, Simon." "Moses, Moses." "I am God."
- **I don't care who you think you are or who you're not. You're not bound by any of that. "I am God, the God of your father." By the way, Isaac made n offering in Beersheba too. So did Abraham. This was a significant place for Jacob, but he was having to do something his fathers never did. When you come to a place where you've never seen a model for it, when you come to a place where you've never seen an example for it, when you've come to a place where you didn't have anybody to show you the way, when you come to a place and you don't know how, worship. Worship, and the Lord will lighten your load.**
- I'm not talking about singing. He didn't sing; he sacrificed. True worship is you giving up something that you weren't meant to carry. The Lord will lighten your load. Before you go forward into this next thing, I see you giving up what people think about it. That's worship.
- **When you give up what people think about it and you get serious about what God has said about it, that's worship. Some of us cannot move forward in strength because we are too stuck in status. When you give up on what people say about it, people think about it, whether you're going to be embarrassed about it... When you worship and you say, "God, you're so sovereign. Look at all of these wagons you sent..." I'm telling you, if you want to get from weakness to strength in your spirit this week, start counting wagons. Instead of telling him how much it weighs, start thanking him for wagons."**
- Look at what you've done for me, God. Look at what you've brought to me, God. Look at how you've helped me." The Lord said, "Jacob, Jacob, I am God. I know this isn't the same way your fathers went. I know this isn't the same strategy they had, but I'm the same God. So do not be afraid to go down to Egypt."

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- Now, I don't know what you need to put in that sentence, but leave it up there. "Do not be afraid to..." There are two specific times in Scripture that God says specifically what not to be afraid of. He tells Joseph, "Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is in her is of me," and he tells Jacob, "Do not be afraid to go to Egypt, even though it seems dangerous, even though it seems risky." Remember, I'm not telling you to start a hair salon.
- Egypt does not represent just whatever thing you want to do. It is what God as called you to do that you are afraid to do, that you are unfamiliar with. Do not be afraid to do it. Watch this. "For there [in the unfamiliar place]..." There, in the place nobody in your family has lived in before. There, in the place where you thought Joseph was dead, but he's actually waiting for you. "...there I will make you into a great nation."
- Verse 4: "I myself will go down with you to Egypt..." To the hospital. Into your senior years. Into the ninth grade. "I myself," God says, "will go down with you." In other words, "I'm going to lighten your load, because not only do you have weight, not only do you have wagons, and not only do you have worship, but when you worship me, the weight lifts and your wagons have wings. I'm carrying you, because I've got wings. I put wings on your wagon. I put strength in your weakness. I put a step in your limp. I put power in your spirit. I put wings on your wagons."
- My wagons have wings, y'all. I'm going to get there because he's with me. My wagons have wings. Yeah, I've got weight on me. Yeah, I've got burdens about the future. Yeah, I'm anxited about it. Yeah, I'm still Jacob, but I'm not traveling alone, because "They that wait on the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up on wings like eagles." I'm going to Egypt on eagles' wings.
- I'm going on wings. "They shall run and not row weary. They shall walk and not faint."
- I'm going in the strength of the glory of God. My wagons have wings. My wagons have wings.
- I've got angels all around my family. My wagons... Don't be surprised when I rise above it.
- The Lord has lightened my load. My wagons have wings. My tears have intention. My worship has purpose. I know you're carrying a lot, but you're carried too. Your wagons have wings.
- He's going with you. I don't know where you're going. You don't either. But I know one thing: he's going with you. (Give me my camera.) I speak to your burdened soul today. He's going with you.
- Awhile back, I was doing ministry with somebody. It was tag team. I looked over at them before we went up. I could see he was so nervous. I put my arm around him, and I said, "Are you doing all right?" He said, "No." I said, "Why not?" He said, "I don't know what to do up there." I said, "Hmm. I'm not good at much, but I'm good at this. The Lord's prepared me. So when we go up there, I don't want you to worry about anything. I'm going up there with you. And if you stop talking mid-syllable, I'll pick it up and say the next syllable like we meant to do it." I could tell he was carrying weight. So I told him, "I'll be your wings." I could see a tear come in his eye, because he was carrying so much. "I'll be your wingman."
- That's what I was telling him. Then I looked him in his eye, and I said something to him.

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- **I believe the Lord would say this to each of his children today too. "Hey, hey, I won't let you fail." I know every bone in your body that's skeptical is screaming right now. "Then why did my best friend die of cancer? Then why did the business fail? Then why did the marriage fail?" Maybe it wasn't a failure. Maybe even when they died their purpose on earth was just getting started. Maybe the business that failed wasn't the one you were called to run. Did you think about that? Maybe God's failures are foundations. I want you to let him lighten your load today.**
- I'm going to tell you something, Jacob. If you try to ride in that wagon and you let Jacob steer, you won't make it where you're supposed to be.
- The word of the Lord came to Israel in the night to speak to the part of you that knows, "Worship gives me wings." And it can be just the smallest transition in your life.
- **I'm telling you, I know there are people in here today who are carrying weight, unimaginable weight, but stand on your feet right now. In the presence of your God, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob ("Jacob, Jacob"), the God of "Simon, Simon," the God of "Martha, Martha," the God of "Abraham, Abraham," the God of "Moses, Moses..." That God knows your name, knows your needs. He knows your limp. He knows your loss. He wants to give you wings on your wagon today. The truth is if you're here, it's because you were carried.**
- That verse really spoke to me, man...verse 5, where it says, "Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him."
- You know how I know you can? Because you're carried. Say that out loud as a confession. "I can because I'm carried." "I can make it through this. I can find a solution. I can forgive them. I can continue to work through this. I can recover. I can." Say it. "I can because I'm carried." Some people will see that, and they'll think your confidence is cockiness. I'm not cocky; I'm carried. I'm carried. My confidence is in the fact that God is carrying me.
- Don't you see how his hand has carried you this far? Then why wouldn't you let him lighten your load? I imagine Jacob getting back on the wagons, and they felt a little lighter because he took a few of those animals and sacrificed them.
- I imagine him getting back on the wagon and feeling a little bit lighter because he was reminded of who he really was. I see him getting on the wagon and it's a little bit lighter, because you can't see it, but my wagon has wings. Be prepared this week. Somebody is going to tell you, "You look different. Have you lost weight?" Tell them, "Yeah."
- Tell them, "Two things happened." Come on. Look at your neighbor and say, "Two things happened today." Tell them, "I lost weight, and I got wings."

# Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation sermon notes – “The Lord Will Lighten Your Load” by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Detailed sermon notes:

- **Heads bowed, eyes closed. God is here. He's here to forgive sin. He's here to heal hearts. He's here to make new. Right now, there are hundreds, if not thousands of people under the sound of my voice who desperately need to give your life to Jesus today. You cannot carry it any longer. You cannot do it by yourself any longer. You were not meant to. He died for you. He rose again to give you life. It is by grace you are saved through faith, this not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one can boast. And today, God brought you to this place so you could be saved. So, right now, I'm going to lead you in a prayer, whether you're online or in the room, and if you'll repeat this prayer after me and believe it in your heart... The Bible says that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Right now, the hand of heaven is stretching to you in the person of Jesus Christ. Will you receive this gift? This is a new beginning for you. This is a defining moment for you. God is calling your name right now. I want to lead you in this prayer, whether you're coming to him for the first time or you've wandered and you're coming back. This is your day. This is your moment. He's calling your name. Call on his name, and you will be saved. Repeat after me as a church family out loud. Heavenly Father, today is my day of salvation. I am a sinner in need of a savior, and I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. And today, I make Jesus the Lord of my life. I believe he died that I would be forgiven and rose again to give me life. I receive this new life. This is my new beginning. I am a child of God.**

## **Part 2: eGroup study questions**

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Sermon Discussion: "Time to Rise and Shine" by Pastor Larry Brey

Denial starts with a little distance." Where in your life have you noticed a "little distance" creeping in between you and God? How can you actively resist this drift?

Grace Christian School – Cary, NC Commencement Address - By Dr. Scott Huelin – Professor at Union University in Western, TN - Director of the Honors Community, Professor of English, Ph.D. - University of Chicago, M.A. - University of North Carolina, B.A. - University of North Carolina

*"Our ultimate fulfilment can only be found in loving and being loved."*

*"Near the middle of the novel, Father Zosima is approached by a doctor to profess his sins – in particular his failures in loving.*

*Here is what the Dr. says to Father Zosima: "Well I love mankind. But, I am amazed at myself. The more I love mankind in general, the less I love in particular - that is individually as separate persons. In my dreams, I often go so far as to think passionately about serving mankind and maybe even would have gone to the cross for people if it were suddenly necessary. And yet, I am incapable of living in the same room with anyone for two days. This I know from experience. Because as soon as someone else is there and is close to me, his personality suppresses my self-esteem and restricts my freedom. In 24 hours, I begin to even hate the best of men – one because he takes too long to eat dinner and other because he has a cold and keeps blowing his nose. I have become the enemy of people the minute they touch me. On the other hand, it has always happened that the more I hate people individually, the more I love humanity as a whole."*

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Sermon Discussion: "Time to Rise and Shine" by Pastor Larry Brey

*"Can any you relate to this doctor?"*

*I certainly can. I find it much easier to want to change the world and go across the seas to be a missionary or to rally around some great cause at home than go through the struggle and pain of loving my wife daily and in particular – and loving my two sons daily and particularly – and loving all of the students in my classes daily and particularly.*

*Well, if you can identify with the doctor's plight in any way, you are probably on the edge of your seat waiting for Father Zosima's counsel to the Dr.*

*Don't be surprised if it feels like a bucket of cold water in the face.*

*Father Zosima says this: "I am sorry that I cannot say anything more comforting but active love is a hard and fearful thing compared to love & dreams. Love & dreams thirst for immediate action quickly performed and with everyone watching and applauding. Indeed, love and dreams will go so far as to giving one's life provided that it does not take too long – and everyone is praising – and the matter is over quickly (or as we might say today we can post onto Instagram). Whereas, active love is labor and perseverance and for some people a whole science."*

Sermon Discussion: "Time to Rise and Shine" by Pastor Larry Brey

*"What does Father Zosima mean by a whole science of love?"*

*Well, in part I think he means a single-minded devotion to active love. I think that Father Zosima thinks that there is something more specific than that – there is a knowledge that comes through loving in an active way.*

*I think what Father Zosima means when he says the science of love is this: Unless we surrender ourselves completely and totally to love as Christ commands us to love as He loves, there are certain things that we cannot know. Or that we cannot know well.*

*Because in surrendering ourselves to the command to love in action and to love God and neighbor, we will learn how unloving we are and how loving He is.*

*Here is how the advice from Father Zosima to the Dr. concludes: "But I predict that in that very moment when you see with horror that despite all of your efforts you not only fail to come closer to your goal, and even seem to come father from it—and that is the moment when you suddenly reach your goal. And you will clearly hold over you the wonderful working power of the Lord. Who all the while has been loving you and all the while has been mysteriously guiding you."*

Great opening comment by Pastor Furtick:

"The prophetic word I've been assigned to preach to you today may come across, on the surface, as very simple, but it is really the deepest belief you could ever hold, and it is this: "The Lord Will Lighten Your Load." I know you had a lot on your mind even coming in today, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know sometimes people take advantage of you because you're available to them, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know you've done some bad things in your life, and you feel kind of guilty about them, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know you're trying to make a plan right now, and stuff keeps moving, and stuff keeps shifting, and people keep moving, and people keep shifting, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know you're stubborn and you don't like to ask for a lot of help, but the Lord will lighten your load. I know your shoulders are tense. Lord will lighten your load."

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Sermon discussion "The Lord Will Lighten Your Load" by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Question how do we avoid the frustration when we oversimplify and we make it a cliché "The Lord will lighten your load?"

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Sermon discussion "The Lord Will Lighten Your Load" by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Question how do we avoid the frustration when we oversimplify and we make it a cliché "The Lord will lighten your load?"

Additional thoughts by Pastor Furtick:

"Use the gritty example of Joseph: "He has risen through all adversities. Like a fruitful vine, he climbed over every wall. They shot their arrows at him, but Joseph's hand remained steady."

"When you've been really hurt, it is hard to keep hoping.

The bible never said: "The Lord will never put more on you than you can bear" - but the Bible says that no temptation has overtaken you and God will give you a way of escape. It doesn't say that God won't put more on you than you can bear. He most certainly will put more on you than you can bear - so you won't get confused and think you're him."

The Lord will lighten your load, not by decreasing the weight but by sending the wagons.

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Sermon discussion "The Lord Will Lighten Your Load" by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

"Anxious and excited both look like shaking hands. Anxious and excited both feel like sweaty palms. Anxious and excited both put butterflies in your stomach, but whether those butterflies are a burden or blessing depends on which one you lean into."

What are you "Anx-cited" about this week?

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Sermon discussion "The Lord Will Lighten Your Load" by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

What did Pastor Furtick mean when he said: You are Israel, and you are Jacob, you are kind of "Israel-acob?"

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon discussion "The Lord Will Lighten Your Load" by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

What did Pastor Furtick mean when he said: You are Israel, and you are Jacob, you are kind of "Israe-acob?"

- Because some things you said you never would do again, you started doing them again, and you're carrying it like a secret in your heart.
- But although you have been delivered from the power sin, although you have been delivered from the penalty of sin, and although it is no longer your position to be in sin, you still have some patterns called sin that go with you into your future called now.
- I want to preach this, because you are Israel, and you are Jacob, but you are kind of "Israe-acob." I'm going to preach it till you get honest.
- I'm going to preach it till you stop polishing your halo and pretending like you didn't cuss once this week. I'm going to preach it till you stop pretending you are not always on a church website
- "Lord is speaking to Jacob while he's trying to move forward as Israel."

How does this speak to you today?

"Carrying The Wrong Things - One New Testament writer said to lay aside all the sin and the weight that easily besets you. Sometimes I think we're carrying sins that we won't give up, but other times I think we're carrying weights that aren't exactly sins but are taking up the space in our life that could be used for trusting God - that could be used for creative solutions. If the Devil wants to destroy you, he will get your mind so full of stuff that it does not matter anyway - to get you moved off of what you are uniquely called to do."

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon discussion "The Lord Will Lighten Your Load" by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

Closing comments:

"Worship is heaven's strategy to unburden the human heart. Worship is heaven's strategy to see you with your messed-up mind, to see you with your jacked-up habits, to see you with your cluttered state of mind, to see you in all of your burdened-ness and say, "Let me lighten your load."

When you come to a place where you've never seen a model for it, when you come to a place where you've never seen an example for it, when you've come to a place where you didn't have anybody to show you the way, when you come to a place and you don't know how, worship. Worship, and the Lord will lighten your load.

"True worship is you giving up something that you weren't meant to carry. The Lord will lighten your load. Before you go forward into this next thing, I see you giving up what people think about it. That's worship."

"When you worship and you say, "God, you're so sovereign. Look at all of these wagons you sent..." I'm telling you, if you want to get from weakness to strength in your spirit this week, start counting wagons. Instead of telling him how much it weighs, start thanking him for wagons."

"I know there are people in here today who are carrying weight, unimaginable weight - In the presence of your God, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob ("Jacob, Jacob"), the God of "Simon, Simon," the God of "Martha, Martha," the God of "Abraham, Abraham," the God of "Moses, Moses..." That God knows your name, knows your needs. He knows your limp. He knows your loss. He wants to give you wings on your wagon today. The truth is if you're here, it's because you were carried."

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon discussion "The Lord Will Lighten Your Load" by Pastor Steven Furtick on March 23, 2025

"Heads bowed, eyes closed. God is here. He's here to forgive sin. He's here to heal hearts. He's here to make new. Right now, there are hundreds, if not thousands of people under the sound of my voice who desperately need to give your life to Jesus today. You cannot carry it any longer. You cannot do it by yourself any longer. You were not meant to. He died for you. He rose again to give you life. It is by grace you are saved through faith, this not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one can boast. And today, God brought you to this place so you could be saved. So, right now, I'm going to lead you in a prayer, whether you're online or in the room, and if you'll repeat this prayer after me and believe it in your heart... The Bible says that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Right now, the hand of heaven is stretching to you in the person of Jesus Christ. Will you receive this gift? This is a new beginning for you. This is a defining moment for you. God is calling your name right now. I want to lead you in this prayer, whether you're coming to him for the first time or you've wandered and you're coming back. This is your day. This is your moment. He's calling your name. Call on his name, and you will be saved. Repeat after me as a church family out loud. Heavenly Father, today is my day of salvation. I am a sinner in need of a savior, and I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. And today, I make Jesus the Lord of my life. I believe he died that I would be forgiven and rose again to give me life. I receive this new life. This is my new beginning. I am a child of God."

# Back up material

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

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Sermon Discussion: "The Prayer That Repairs" by Pastor Steven Furtick on February 16, 2025

"The prayer that re-pairs. See how me and Holly are standing together like this? We're a pair. That's a visual illustration for you and Jesus. You keep thinking you are paired with people, so when people leave, you think it's over. You are a joint heir with Jesus. See Hebrews 7:25: ""Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." There is the prayer that prevents, there is the prayer that prepares, but I have a feeling I'm speaking to a few people online today, and even a few in the room, who's prayer didn't prevent it. Prayer didn't prepare. Like Simon, Simon, you are going through something right now, or you've been through something, where you need the prayer that re-pairs. The prayer that re-pairs is this: "Lord, if everything else goes away, if everything else is sifted, don't let this trial take my faith." Because if my faith doesn't fail, I can make it. If my faith doesn't fail, I can come back from this. If my faith doesn't fail, I can get resourceful. If my faith doesn't fail, I can reach out. If my faith doesn't fail, I can pivot. So, just like the Savior prayed for Peter, we want to right now pray for you, those of you who are "Simon, Simon." Don't let the pressure get the best of me." This is the prayer that brings you back to God."

And from his fullness, we have all received” - John chapter 1, verse 16: additional commentary by Charles Spurgeon: “There is a fullness of blessings of every sort and shape; a fullness of grace to pardon, of grace to regenerate, of grace to sanctify, of grace to preserve, and of grace to perfect. There is a fullness at all times; a fullness of comfort and affliction, a fullness of guidance and prosperity. Come believer, and get all of your needs supplied; ask largely in your receive largely, for this fullness is exhaustible and is treasured up where all the needy may reach it, even in Jesus - Emmanuel God is with us.

Sermon Discussion: "Where You Meet With God" – by Pastor Furtick on Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025

Closing Prayer #4: "May this be a year of recovery for you. May this be a year of clarity for you, for God to bring things up out of the muddy Jordan River. May this be a year that you don't stand swinging your stick, knowing this isn't working anymore. May this be a year that you don't just keep pretending like everything is fine when you know your effectiveness is at the bottom of the water. God will you come with me? The answer is "Yes." He already promised his presence. It lives inside of you. May this be the year where the place where you meet with God becomes the mountaintop of your victory and the valley of your midnight. The place you meet with God has been too small. If church is the only place you meet with God, the place you meet with God is too small. Expand your expectation of God's presence. I declare over your life a year of expansion. Not just that you would get more stuff but that you would get more him. May this be the year of his presence in your life. "God, come with me to work this year. God, come with me as I struggle to sleep at night. God, come with me into the challenge this year. God, come with me into the uncertainty. Will you come?" He says, "Yes," and he says, "When it falls, I'll show you where to reach to get it back."

Sermon Discussion: "The Battle Made Me" by Stephen Chandler from Union Church in MD – on Jan. 5, 2025

Daily devotional Spurgeon quote from 12/26/2024

“The reed is spongy and hollow - there is no substance in it. The reed lives in water and owes its very existence to the moisture. Let the water drain away, and the reed withers - do I only serve God when I am in good company - when faith is profitable and respectful? Do I love the Lord only when I am enjoying comforts from His hands? The reed cannot grow without water - but the Lord's plants can and do flourish, even when there's a drought - A godly man (and woman) often grows best when his/her circumstances are daunting - Lord - let me find my life in you and not in the shifting sands of this world's favor or gain.”

**Outstanding theology Here – I really lean in when Pastor Furtick talks about Gideon in Judges 6:**

“When God Goes In” by Pastor Steven Furtick – March 27, 2023

“Make Peace With Your Strength” by Pastor Steven Furtick – April 2, 2023

“Breaking The Bondage Of Wrong Belief” by Pastor Steven Furtick on 8/11/2024

Power quote from Pastor Furtick on 8/11/2024: *“They have come into a land whose customs have become their captivity. They have come into a land that God gave them, and the customs of that land have become their captivity. The Lord says, “Gideon, I want to use you to lead a revolt and a revolution. I’m going to enable you, strengthen you, supply you, and give the enemy into your hand, and you will strike them all down.” Gideon said, “Me? I’m the least in my family. My clan is the least in the nation. Why me?” God said, “Why you? Because me.” God turns 2s into 10s instantly. Only God can do that. The beauty of this is God doesn't say, “Gideon, I’m going to put you through a preparation process. This is going to take three years to get it done.” He has actually been preparing Gideon while Gideon has been hidden. Do you know God has been preparing you while you have been hidden too? Do you know God has been giving you tools, resources, lessons, words, and confirmations while you have been in the cave of what you perceive to be your abandonment and wasted season?”*

## Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon notes – “The Gift Of Grief” by Lisa Harper – on July 7, 2024

Awesome prayer by Lisa Harper on 7/7/2024 – in the sanctuary, most of the congregation is standing – those in grief are sitting – remarkable moment:

- Closing Prayer: “I'm near to those whose lives feel crushed today - this low point in your life - if you bring it to the Lord – He will lead you to a place of intimacy - a place of personal revival - that you probably haven't had the faith to carry – lower your pretense in this family of God - For those of you who are grieving - if the Holy Spirit confirms - would you be audacious enough to even right now say thank you God I'm going to choose to be grateful for this grief? - I can't see around the corner of my circumstances - yet I really do believe You will answer and I really do believe you're enough - and I really do believe you're close to the brokenhearted - and so I'm going to choose right now - I'm going to say thank you - I don't feel it yet - but I'm going to say thank you for this grief because somehow - some way you're going to use even this dead-dog of a season to make me more dependent on you - to make me lean into my brothers and sisters more closely - you're going to build in me a heart of flesh instead of allowing me to hide my heart of stone - King Jesus come and bring Revival - King Jesus come and bring healing - Thank you God.”

Have a good navigational beacon in 2022:

“Life and Leadership at the Highest” A quote from an unknown author and requoted by Pastor Tim Keller in his sermon “This is Jesus” part 4 “Two Grieving Sisters Encounter Jesus” at Oxford University in 2016: “The accounts of Him in the New Testament speak for themselves – He combines qualities that no one has ever seen – despite his incredible claims, we never see him pompous, offended, or standing on his own dignity. Despite being absolutely approachable to the weakest and most broken people, he is completely fearless before the powerful and the corrupt. Despite being weary and lonely, we find him remarkably human - filled with joy, fear, love, and anger. Yet, we never see him Moody. We never see him being inconsistent. We never see Him strong when He should be tender and we never see Him tender when He should be strong. Most interesting of all – Of all his encounters with people - we are continuously surprised – shocking us - but never disappointing us – it is difficult for us to imagine words that Jesus ought to have said or deeds that he ought to have done. Nothing he has done ever falls short - in fact He is always surprising us - because He is incomparably better than what we could imagine for ourselves. Why? These are the surprises of perfection – He has tenderness without weakness – He has strength without harshness – humility without the slightest lack of confidence – unhesitating authority without the slightest sense of self-absorption – Holy and unbending convictions without the slightest lack of approachability – power without insensitivity – passion without prejudice – there is never a false step – there’s never a jarring no – this is life at the highest.”