

Patriarchs Study and Discussion Questions
Lesson Ten: Israel Moves to Egypt and Prospers – Genesis 46-50

Genesis 46:1-47:12: Skim Genesis 46-50 for general familiarity.

- 1) In Genesis 46:3, God told Jacob, “Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt.” Jacob certainly would have been eager to see Joseph. Can you think of reasons from earlier lessons why he might have feared going?

- 2) According to Genesis 47:5-6, how did Pharaoh show gratitude to Joseph for his service?

- 3) Genesis 47:7 and 10 tell us that Jacob blessed Pharaoh. List some ways you can bless others this week.

Genesis 47:13-31

- 4) Explain how Joseph saved the lives of the Egyptians (see Genesis 47:13-26).

- 5) What promise did Israel ask Joseph to make (Genesis 47:28-31)? Why might this have been important to Jacob (see Genesis 12:7; 13:14-17; 24:5-7)?

- 6) Most translations of Genesis 47:31 indicate that after Israel [Jacob] finished instructing his son Joseph, he “worshipped.” Based on what you’ve learned in *Patriarchs*, what reasons did Israel have for worshipping the Lord?

7) The essence of worship is awe. What inspires awe (worship) of God in you?

Genesis 48

8) Genesis 47:29 and 48:1-2 indicate that Israel was at the end of his life. What name did he use for the Lord in 48:3? Look at other passages where this name for God was used: Genesis 17:1-8, 28:3-4, 35:11-12, 48:3-4 (also 43:14, at which time Israel may have used this name as a reminder of the way it had been used on other occasions). In what *shared context* was the name used on each occasion?

9) How does Genesis 48:5-7 explain the fact that there is no “tribe of Joseph” named among the tribes of Israel?

10) Explain how the countercultural way in which Jacob blessed Ephraim and Manasseh (48:12-20) mirrored his own experience (Genesis 25:23) and that of his father Isaac (Genesis 21:2-12). What does the New Testament tell us about the people God chooses (see Romans 9:10-12 and 1 Corinthians 1:26-31)?

Genesis 49-50

11) Using any Bible knowledge you have, try to explain Jacob’s prophetic words to his sons.

a) Reuben (49:3-4)

b) Simeon and Levi (49:5-7)

c) Judah (49:8-12)

d) Joseph (49:22-26):

- 12)** Genesis 50:7-14 tells of the fabulous processional (including Egyptian dignitaries) that buried Jacob. Consider the kind of man Jacob was in his early years and this description of honor at the end of his life. What *specific* choices are you making right now to ensure you continue to grow to become the person God wants you to be, even into old age?

Genesis 50

- 13)** Reread the touching conversation between Joseph and his brothers in Genesis 50:15-22, after their father's death. Can you testify to a past or current situation where you were mistreated, but God used it for good (please don't identify the person who mistreated you by name)?
- 14)** According to Genesis 50:24-25 and Hebrews 11:22, what event did Joseph anticipate, by faith, at the end of his life?
- 15)** What lessons from Joseph's life can you apply to your own life today?