

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

Joseph - Genesis 50

Lesson 8

After the death of Jacob, the fear of retribution from Joseph for the evil they had done to him resurfaced in the brothers' thoughts. They assumed Joseph had treated them well for the sake of their earthly father, forgetting Joseph's life was based on his devotion to His heavenly Father. Joseph reassured them that he was not *in the place of God*, yet his life consistently represented the heart of God. May the study of this chapter stir in you a desire to do the same.

OBSERVATION: Read Genesis 50

1. Read Genesis 50 using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?

2. List two things Genesis 50 reveals about:

God

Jacob

Joseph's brothers

Joseph

JACOB'S LAST REQUEST: Read Genesis 49:29-33; 50:1-3

1. In Genesis 49, Jacob gathered his family together that *I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days*. The remainder of the chapter recounts Jacob's blessings and pronouncements upon each of his sons. What was Jacob's last request?
 - a. If you knew that you were going to die today, what would your last request be?

2. How did Joseph respond to his father's death?
 - a. In what ways are you encouraged, that even though we know we will see a loved one again in heaven, that grieving is still an acceptable reaction to death?

3. Jacob's body was *embalmed* according to Egyptian customs. Although *forty days* were required, how many days did the *Egyptians mourn for him*?
 - a. What does it say to you that even the *Egyptians mourned for Jacob*?

 - b. Write the promise of Matthew 5:4.
 - 1.) Define the words:
mourn

comforted
 - c. How would you personally describe the *comfort* of God in times of *mourning*?

JACOB'S BODY CARRIED BACK TO CANAAN: Read Genesis 50:4-14

1. *And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh. What was Joseph's request?*
 - a. Our culture does not specify the length of *days of mourning*. That time is different for each of us. Why do you think God has determined *days of mourning*?
 - b. The grief over a loss rarely goes away. Yet, there is a time that we must gather our strength and return to life as it now is. What has helped you to move from *days of mourning*?
2. What promise was Jacob given in Genesis 46:3,4?
 - a. Why do you think it was important to Jacob that he be buried in *Canaan*?
3. Genesis 50:5-9 describes Pharaoh giving Joseph permission to return to Canaan to bury his father. What did Joseph and all who accompanied him do when they arrived at *the threshing floor of Atad*? Verse 10
 - a. Scan through verses 10-11 and list each instance of words referring to their *mourning* and *lamenting* over Jacob's death.
 - 1.) What did the Canaanites who viewed the depth of the *mourning* and *lamenting* think?
4. Reflect upon the words of Genesis 50:12. Why is it important to honor the wishes of another when we can?
5. Joseph fulfilled the promise he made to Pharaoh at the end of verse 5. What does Genesis 50:14 tell us that Joseph did?

JOSEPH REASSURES HIS BROTHERS: Read Genesis 50:15-21

1. What was the concern of Joseph's brothers after their father was dead?
 - a. Even years after their reconciliation with Joseph, there was still the haunting memory of their past sin. What word did they use to describe their sin? (verse 15)
 - b. Why is forgiveness so difficult to receive?

2. Make a list of a few things forgiveness
is

is not

3. Take a moment to bask in the following verses about forgiveness and share your thoughts.
Psalm 32:5

Psalm 65:3

Jeremiah 33:8
 - a. What contrary thoughts can arise if we do not walk in the forgiveness God has granted to us?

4. Joseph's brothers had jumped to a conclusion about Joseph. In what ways does assumption about the intentions and thoughts of others create problems?

5. Using Genesis 50:16,17, summarize the words of the brothers' messengers to Joseph.

6. What was Joseph's response:
 - physically (verse 17)
 - verbally (verse 19)
- a. Read Hebrews 10:30 and explain how this verse relates to Joseph's question, *am I in the place of God?* Verse 20
- b. Genesis 50:20 is quoted often. What are we saying to someone who has offended us when we quote this verse to them?
- c. In what ways are we affected when we apply the truths of this verse to the painful situations in our lives? Verse 21
- d. Notice Joseph used the words *do not be afraid* in verses 19 and 21. Why is fear often the result of not feeling forgiven?

DEATH OF JOSEPH: Read Genesis 50:22-26

1. As Joseph neared his death, what promise of God did he remind *his brethren* of? Verse 24
 - a. According to Genesis 15:13,14 what did God promise?
2. As did his father Jacob, Joseph *took an oath from the children of Israel*. What did he say to them? Verse 25
3. How old was Joseph when he died?
 - a. List a few things you remember about Joseph's life.

REVIEW: Read Genesis 50

1. What have you learned about trusting God to use bad circumstances for good?
2. Both Jacob and Joseph made requests of their family before their deaths. Why is this a good thing to do?
3. Consider Joseph's life and share two things you have learned that you desire to apply to your own life.

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God,
to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

- Romans 8:28

Observation Worksheet

Genesis 50

¹ Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him, and kissed him. ² And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. ³ Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those who are embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days. ⁴ Now when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying, ⁵ 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am dying; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.' " ⁶ And Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear." ⁷ So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, ⁸ as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's house. Only their little ones, their flocks, and their herds they left in the land of Goshen. ⁹ And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen, and it was a very great gathering. ¹⁰ Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father. ¹¹ And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians." Therefore its name was called Abel Mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan. ¹² So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them. ¹³ For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place. ¹⁴ And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father. ¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, ¹⁷ 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. ²¹ "Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. ²² So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. ²³ Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees. ²⁴ And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." ²⁵ Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." ²⁶ So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.