

# *Genesis Part 5*

## *Leader Guide*

(NASB and ESV)

KEEPING YOUR  
FOCUS WHEN  
YOUR DREAMS  
ARE SHATTERED

A STUDY ON JOSEPH

*Keeping Your Focus When Your Dreams Are Shattered: A Study on Joseph  
Genesis, Part 5, Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)*  
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## USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

### Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

### Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**  
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**  
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

### Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


#### When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

#### For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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## GENESIS, PART 5

### LEADER GUIDE

#### Lesson 1

#### Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 37–39
- Joseph

#### GENESIS 37

##### Verses 1-4

To begin this discussion, you might ask what your group learned about Joseph from these verses.

Verse 2 tells the timing of this chapter; Joseph was 17 years old. He was described as the son of Jacob's old age.

His brothers hated him and were not even friendly toward him, because he gave a bad report about them to their father but mostly because their father loved him more than them.

Jacob made a special garment for Joseph—a varicolored tunic, a robe of many colors.

At this point, you might begin to draw the simple diagram at the end of this lesson's guide as a visual aid of the ups and downs in Joseph's life.

Ask what they learned about Jacob and his family from the cross-references in Day One. Tell them to look at the birth order chart and the map in the Appendix as visual aids.

Jacob's name was changed by God to Israel, because he had striven with God and with men and had prevailed, Genesis 32:28. He was blessed by God and was the recipient of the covenant promises made by God to his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac, Genesis 28:13-15.

The land of Canaan was part of the promises God had made in this covenant. This land was for them and their descendants / offspring after them. So, Jacob was living there in the land as Isaac had.

In Genesis 35, it says that Isaac died at the age of 180 years, and Jacob and his brother Esau buried him.

Jacob's wife, Rachel, was the daughter of Laban—the brother of Isaac's wife Rebekah, Genesis 28:5, of Paddan-aram. Jacob loved her and worked 7 years for her but was deceitfully given her older sister Leah instead. He then worked 7 more years for Rachel, Genesis 29.

Jacob had ten sons and a daughter by Leah, Bilhah—Rachel’s maid, and Zilpah—Leah’s maid. Then God remembered Rachel, and she bore Joseph, Jacob’s eleventh son, Genesis 30.

After Jacob and his wives and children left Paddan-aram and were back in Canaan, Rachel died giving birth to Jacob’s twelfth son Benjamin, Genesis 35:16-20. From these twelve sons came the twelve tribes of Israel, God’s covenant people.

Lead your discussion back to Genesis 37.

#### Verses 5-11

What was the next problem Joseph had with his brothers?

The problem related to the content of his dream. He and his brothers were in the field binding sheaves when his sheaf rose up and his brothers’ sheaves bowed down to his.

The result was that his brothers hated him even more when he told them the dream.

He had a second dream for which even Jacob rebuked him, but which he kept in his mind. In this dream, the sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to him. His father and brothers had no trouble interpreting the meaning of his dreams; but they weren’t convinced that it would happen. These dreams were from God.

After the second dream was recounted, his brothers were jealous. This is stated in verse 11, but it is clear from the entire chapter. Jealousy is a terrible thing to have to deal with and can bring such devastating actions.

Give time for your group to discuss application.

#### Verses 12-36

What happened in these verses?

Jacob lived in Hebron, and sent Joseph to his brothers who were in Shechem pasturing their flocks.

Joseph found his brothers in Dothan, which was north of Shechem.

When they saw him coming, they plotted / conspired to kill him.

Reuben, who was the oldest, warned them against killing Joseph because he planned to rescue Joseph later and take him back to Jacob.

They stripped Joseph of his tunic / robe, the symbol of his father’s favor, and put him in a pit. Evidently Reuben was not with the other brothers at that time.

A caravan came by, and Judah suggested selling him to the Ishmaelites. He said there would be no profit to kill him and cover up his blood. Joseph was their brother, their own flesh, so they listened to Judah and sold Joseph instead of killing him.

*NOTE: The Ishmaelites and the Midianites of verses 25-28 and 36 can cause some confusion. First came the Ishmaelites in their caravan from Gilead to Egypt. Then some Midianite traders passed by. Verse 28 says the brothers sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites, while verse 36 says that the Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar. Genesis 39:1 says Potiphar bought him from the Ishmaelites. Ishmael was the son of Abraham and Hagar, Genesis 16. Midian was the son of Abraham and Keturah, Genesis 25:2.*

*Maybe the Midianites joined the caravan of Ishmaelites, and Joseph was sold to the whole. Some think the Midianites and Ishmaelites had some type of relationship so that the names were used interchangeably. Be careful if questions come up here; you could lose your time.*

Reuben was not there when Joseph was sold, because when he returned to the pit to rescue Joseph, he was surprised and tore his garments. Since he was the oldest, he was the one to bear the responsibility for the others.

They dipped Joseph's tunic / robe in blood to take to Jacob as evidence that an animal had attacked and killed Joseph.

You might spend a few minutes discussing the outcome of their jealousy and hate for their brother. Relate this to today. Jealousy and hate can destroy families.

Jacob mourned and wept and would not be comforted by any of his other sons or daughters. Since only Dinah was listed as his daughter, this would be a reference to his daughters-in-law.

This chapter ends with a description of the one who bought Joseph—Potiphar. He was one of Pharaoh's officers, the captain of the bodyguard. This is the point where chapter 39 begins. But chapter 38 is an interlude happening at the same time.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

Generations of Jacob; Joseph's dreams / his brothers hated and sold him

## **GENESIS 38**

Who and what is this chapter about?

Judah and Tamar

It's about how Judah got his sons.

It's an account of evil, deception, and sexual sin.

Verses 1-11

What are the events? Discuss relevant cross-references.

Judah left his brothers, and visited an Adullamite.  
There he met a Canaanite woman, married her, and had three sons by her.  
His first son married a woman named Tamar.  
Er, Judah's firstborn, was evil, and God killed him.

Judah instructed his second son Onan to marry Tamar.

Deuteronomy 25:5-10 and Matthew 22:23-33

According to the Law, if a man died without an offspring, his brother was to marry the widow and produce an heir / offspring to establish a name for his dead brother. The Sadducees questioned Jesus about this.

Though the Law had not been given at the time of Genesis 38, it was evidently the custom of the time. Onan didn't comply with this, and what he did was displeasing / wicked in God's sight, so God killed him as well.

God takes very seriously the seed / semen of a man because it is the source of life, or procreation.

Judah told Tamar to wait for his last son to grow up, and he would marry her. But Judah was afraid that Shelah would die, too, so he didn't give him to her.

Verses 12-30

What happened in these verses?

Judah's wife died, and Tamar deceived him into producing heirs / offspring through her. She posed as a prostitute, and Judah paid her for sex. A report was brought to Judah that Tamar was pregnant, and he called for her to be burned. But when she showed the proof that he had fathered the twins, he remarked that she was more righteous than he was.

How does the cross-reference in Matthew 1 relate to this chapter?

Matthew 1

Tamar's firstborn, Perez, was in the lineage of King David and Jesus.

Judah let his passions rule at least some of his life. What was the result? How can believers rule their passions, instead of being ruled by them? How did Joseph?

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for Genesis 38.

Judah and Tamar



## **GENESIS 39**

You might ask your group what the most repeated statement in this chapter is.

It was said four times that the Lord was with Joseph—verses 2, 3, 21, and 23.

God caused all that Joseph did to prosper / succeed, verses 2-3 and 23.

God also gave Joseph favor in the eyes of Potiphar and the chief jailer, verses 4 and 21.

### Verses 1-10

What are the main events?

Potiphar saw that God was with Joseph and how He caused all that he did to prosper / succeed. Maybe Joseph told Potiphar that it was because of his God.

Potiphar then made Joseph overseer of all he had.  
From that time on, God blessed Potiphar's house because of Joseph.

Joseph was also very handsome in form and appearance, which caught the attention of Potiphar's wife. She tried day after day to seduce Joseph, but he would not consent or be with her.

Contrast this behavior with Judah's. What did Joseph call this?

In verse 9, Joseph said that it would be a great evil / wickedness and sin against God.

Give time for your group to discuss relevant application.

### Verses 11-18

What happened in these verses?

Potiphar's wife tried to grab Joseph when no one was around, but he fled, leaving his garment in her hand.

Her desire changed to accusations then. Maybe she even tried to blame Potiphar in her accusations when she said, "The Hebrew slave / servant, whom you brought . . ."

Ask your group what they learned about sexual sins from the cross-references.

#### Exodus 20:14

God's direct command: "You shall not commit adultery."

#### Leviticus

The law states that both parties of adultery should be put to death.

Deuteronomy 22:13-30

This is a list of evil sexual practices, some punishable by death to purge the evil from Israel.

Job 31:1, 9-12

Job made a covenant with his eyes concerning sexual sin.

Proverbs 5:1-23; 6:20-35; 7:1-27

God warns against the smooth tongue of the evil woman that leads to adultery.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

God's will is sanctification—holiness—for believers. Paul wrote another warning against sexual sin.

Matthew 5:27-30

Jesus said that if one continually lusts after another, it is adultery.

Hebrews 13:4

God will judge fornicators and adulterers.

Ephesians 5:5-6

No immoral or impure person has an inheritance in God's kingdom, but will face His wrath.

Revelation 21:8

The last word on the subject says that immoral persons, adulterers will be in the lake of fire, the second death.

Verses 19-23

How does this chapter end?

When Potiphar heard this, he became angry, but the text doesn't say against whom.

*NOTE: Some think that he didn't believe his wife, because he didn't have Joseph put to death, the common punishment for such behavior. These think that his anger was against his wife because he knew she was lying. The text doesn't say clearly, so don't allow for speculation.*

He was angry, and Joseph was put in jail where the king's prisoners were confined.

Then Joseph was again put in charge because of God's workings in his life.  
God gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.

Joseph did what was right. He was innocent, yet was put in jail. There is no indication from the text that Joseph was bitter or resentful toward his circumstances.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Joseph in Potiphar's house; jail

To end your discussion, you might use the following as a review of the main points in this lesson. Also, point to the visual aid you drew for each point.

Why was Joseph where he was?

His brothers hated him and sold him as a slave.

A woman tried to seduce him, then accused him falsely.

Did he have any reason to feel bitter or resentful?

He had been his father's favorite son, then a slave.

He had been the head of the household, then a prisoner.

What kept Joseph being the kind of man he was?

Who was in charge of his life? His father, his brothers, or Potiphar?

You might ask your group, "If you were imprisoned for something you didn't do, how would you respond? When you are in adverse circumstances, do you remember that God is sovereign—that He is in charge?"

Encourage them that the next lesson, Genesis 40–41 tells how Joseph's circumstances were a part of God's plan.



## **GENESIS, PART 5**

### **LEADER GUIDE**

### **Lesson 2**

Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 40–41
- God’s attributes

#### **REVIEW**

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember as the main themes of Genesis 37–39. Direct them to their At a Glance chart and map as visual aids.

Genesis 37	Generations of Jacob; Joseph’s dreams, his brothers hated and sold him
Genesis 38	Judah and Tamar
Genesis 39	Joseph in Potiphar’s house and jail

You might also ask about the main events in Joseph’s life. Use the diagram at the end of this lesson’s guide as a visual aid.

Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob, Israel.

He was the favorite son and given a special tunic / robe by his father.

His brothers were jealous and hated him, because their father loved him more.

He had dreams of his family bowing to him.

His brothers plotted / conspired to kill him, but instead sold him to a caravan going to Egypt.

He became a slave in Egypt but was put in charge of Potiphar’s household.

God was with him and made what he did prosper / succeed.

Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce him, but he fled.

She falsely accused him, and consequently he went to jail.

He prospered / succeeded in jail and was put in charge there.

Four times in chapter 39 it says that the Lord was with Joseph.

## GENESIS 40

What are the main events in this chapter?

Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker offended him, and they were put in the same jail / prison with Joseph.

It was in Potiphar's house, the captain of the bodyguard, Genesis 39:1. It must have been a special place, because the king's prisoners were kept there, Genesis 39:20.

The cupbearer and baker each had a dream that Joseph interpreted. Joseph said in verse 8 that interpretations belong to God.

The interpretations were:

The cupbearer would be restored to his former position in three days.  
But the baker would be killed in three days.

Verses 20-22 tell that Pharaoh's birthday was three days later, and the interpretations of these two dreams came to pass as Joseph had said.

What was the only request Joseph made of the cupbearer?

In verse 14 Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him when he was restored to Pharaoh, but he was not remembered for two more years, Genesis 41:1.

Ask your group what they learned about Joseph.

Joseph was a godly man of action, doing whatever he needed to be doing. People saw that God was with him not only because of what he said but also because of what he did.

Ask what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

Joseph interpreted 2 dreams in jail

## GENESIS 41

### Verses 1-46

What are the main events of these verses?

Pharaoh had two dreams—one of cows and one of ears of grain. In both dreams, the seven good and healthy were eaten by the seven thin. They were, in essence, the same dream.

Pharaoh called for an interpretation, but no one could do it.  
The chief cupbearer then remembered Joseph.

Joseph was brought from the jail to Pharaoh and interpreted the dreams to him.

In verse 16, Joseph told Pharaoh that it was God, not him, who would give the interpretation of the dreams. In verses 25 and 28, Joseph again made it clear that God had told Pharaoh what He was going to do.

What was the meaning of the dreams, and what happened to Joseph?

God told Pharaoh that there would be seven years of abundance / plenty, but then after that there would be seven years of famine so severe that the years of abundance / plenty would not be remembered. Verse 32 says that because of the repetition of the dream, God had determined / fixed it and was going to do it quickly / shortly.

Joseph then gave Pharaoh a good word of advice about finding a discerning and wise man to put in charge of gathering produce during the years of abundance so that there would be food during the famine.

In verses 38 and 39, Pharaoh gave a wonderful description of Joseph as the man to be in charge, “in whom is a divine spirit (ESV—the Spirit of God) . . . Since God has informed / shown you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are.”

Joseph was set in charge of all of Egypt, except for Pharaoh’s throne. Verse 46 says Joseph was thirty years old at that time. Compare this with Genesis 37:2. Joseph had been in Egypt for about thirteen years.

God had been preparing Joseph for at least thirteen years. He gave Joseph favor with both Potiphar and the jailer. Potiphar put him in charge of all that he owned, and the chief jailer committed all the prisoners to Joseph’s charge.

Give your group time to discuss any relevant application.

#### Verses 47-57

What happened in the seven years of abundance / plenty in Egypt?

Joseph stored the grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea.

During these years, Joseph and his wife, Asenath, had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

The names he gave to his sons showed his heart toward God and his family situation.

Manasseh means, “causing to forget,”<sup>1</sup> and Ephraim means “double fruit.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>James Strong, *The New Strong’s Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). H4519.

<sup>2</sup>Charles L. Feinberg, “אֶפְרַיִם 151,” *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, eds. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, Jr. and Bruce K. Waltke, electronic ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), p. 66.

Joseph said God made him forget his trouble and God made him fruitful after his affliction.

How does Psalm 105:16-22 add to the Genesis account about Joseph?

His feet were in fetters, irons.

He was tested until the time that his word came to pass—perhaps God’s words to him in his dreams.

You might ask your group what they learned from Joseph about how to respond in difficult family situations.

Joseph’s life can help someone understand that even if he were not brought up in the best family situation, he doesn’t have to be ruined by it for the rest of his life. Many people today need to see this lesson from Joseph’s life, then move on from the pains of the past and not be crippled by them.

Review Joseph’s life.

Favorite son of his father

Hated and sold by his jealous brothers

Slave in a foreign land while a teen

Put in charge of his master’s household

Refused seduction of master’s wife and was falsely accused

Put in jail

Put in charge of jail

Put in charge of Egypt and grain of all the earth

How did this chapter end?

The seven years of famine began just as God had shown Pharaoh in the dreams.

The famine was not only severe in Egypt but also in all the earth.  
All the people came to buy grain from Joseph.

What is a possible theme for Genesis 41?

Pharaoh’s dreams; Joseph over Egypt



## **GOD’S ATTRIBUTES**

Ask your group what they learned about Joseph’s God and famine.

Haggai 1:9-11; 2:17 and Isaiah 26:9

God sends famine to draw people to Himself.

And for the earth’s inhabitants to learn righteousness.

Deuteronomy 32:39 and Isaiah 45:7

God kills and makes alive, causes well-being and creates calamity.

What are God’s attributes or character traits? How were they manifested in God’s dealing with Joseph?

Omniscient—

God gave the interpretations of the dreams, which were all from Him.

God knew the future. Everything that happened in Joseph’s life was preparation for what was to come.

Omnipotent—

He said that abundance and famine were coming, and He sent them as He said.

He rescued Joseph from his brothers’ plot to kill him.

He rescued Joseph from the punishment—death—which could have come as a result of the false accusation by Potiphar’s wife.

Omnipresent—

God wasn’t only in the land of Canaan, but with Joseph in Egypt as well. He was with Joseph in Potiphar’s house and in the king’s prison.

Eternal—

All of the events in Joseph’s life were in God’s timing, relative only to His timetable.

Joseph could only see his individual circumstances, but he could trust God, knowing God has a more infinite eternal plan.

Immutable—

Joseph could trust God because He is always the same—with his father and brothers, in Potiphar’s house, in the jail, as the ruler.

Joseph’s circumstances changed, but his God did not.

Incomprehensible and Infinite—

The dreams that Joseph had were unbelievable to his family, but God had a plan.

Pharaoh's dreams were beyond the understanding of any person.

Self-existent and self-sufficient—

God depends on nothing for His existence. He acts out His will without assistance.

Transcendent—

God is above all His creation and exists before it.

Sovereign—

God is the Ruler over all. What He says—what He plans—will come to pass whether concerning the whole earth, countries, or individuals.

God had a plan for Israel, the nation, and He was accomplishing it.

God had a plan for Joseph, and He was accomplishing it.

God sent the famine. He rules over all.

Holy—

Joseph knew that adultery with Potiphar's wife was a sin against God.

Gracious—

All of Joseph's life was full of the evidence of God's grace.

Grace chose him, the next to last son, to be ruler of all.

Grace spared him from death.

Grace gave him favor in the eyes of his masters and prospered all he did.

Righteous and Just—

Joseph knew what was right to do, because God was with him—communicated it to him. God rewarded him for his righteousness.

Merciful—

God extended mercy to Joseph as his life was spared from his brothers' plot to kill him.

God spared Egypt and those who came there for grain when He gave Pharaoh the dreams of the abundance and famine which were to come.

Slow to anger—

This attribute or character quality was in Joseph himself as he learned patience from God those long years he waited in Egypt.

Wise—

This is another attribute exhibited in Joseph's life. It was evident that God was the One interpreting the dreams and giving the life-saving plan for storing grain.

Loving—

God loves, and He is love. His love is seen in Joseph's life.

Good—

God gave to Joseph according to His goodwill and kindness.

Wrathful—

God hates all unrighteousness and punishes it. Joseph suffered unrighteous acts from his brothers and Potiphar's wife. But the account in Genesis doesn't show God's wrath against either.

Truthful—

God had told Joseph what was to come. He was true in giving the interpretations.

Faithful—

Joseph was faithful to God Who had been faithful to him.

Jealous—

God doesn't share His glory with another.

Encourage your group to live in the light of the truths they have learned.

Have you learned something about God this week that you did not know before?

When you are in difficult situations, do you live in the light of God's character as Joseph did?

Do you remember that He is sovereign and nothing and no one can thwart His plan?

Do you remember that He is immutable? Though everyone else changes, He never does.



## GENESIS, PART 5 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 3

### Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 42–47
- Joseph and his brothers

### REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember as the main points of Genesis 37–41. Direct them to their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Genesis 37	Joseph's dreams / Brothers hated and sold him
Genesis 38	Judah and Tamar
Genesis 39	Joseph in Potiphar's house and jail
Genesis 40	Joseph interpreted 2 dreams in jail
Genesis 41	Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams of famine, rule over Egypt

What do Joseph's two sons' names represent?

Manasseh

God made him forget his trouble and his father's household

Ephraim

God made him fruitful in the land of his affliction

How does this show that Joseph handled his afflictions?

How does this apply now?

What happened at the end of Genesis 41? When was it?

At the end of the 7 years of plenty the severe famine came on all the earth.

People from everywhere came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph.

## GENESIS 42

### Verses 1-18

What happened in these verses?

Joseph's ten older brothers went to Egypt to buy grain.

They bowed before Joseph and he recognized them.

Verse 9 says that he remembered the dreams that he had had about them, 37:5-10. His testing was over, and his first dream was fulfilled.

Joseph tested them to see if they would be truthful with him.

Then he put them in prison for three days before sending them home to get his younger brother Benjamin.

### Verses 18-25

What are the events of these verses?

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day Joseph told them he feared God. He then sent them away to carry grain for their households and return with their youngest brother, but bound Simeon and kept him.

What did Joseph's brothers confess in verses 21-22?

They were guilty for what they did to him years before.  
They knew they deserved to be judged by God, verse 28.

### Verses 26-38

What happened when they got home?

They found the money in their sacks, put there by Joseph's servants, and told their father what had happened.

Jacob refused to let Benjamin go to Egypt with them.  
He thought that two of his sons were dead already.

Reuben offered to take Benjamin to Egypt in his care, saying Jacob could put his two sons to death if he did not return Benjamin safely to Jacob. Jacob refused.

Ask your group what they noted as a possible theme on their At a Glance chart for Genesis 42.

Ten brothers went to Egypt to buy grain; Joseph recognized them

Also, ask what they learned about God from this chapter.

**GENESIS 43**

What are the main events of this chapter?

Verses 1-10

Judah reasoned with his father the need for them to buy more grain in Egypt, which meant taking Benjamin.

Judah took responsibility for Benjamin's safety, offering himself as surety. Judah had changed during the twenty years Joseph was in Egypt. He was willing to take responsibility and offer himself for his brother—even Benjamin whom Jacob obviously favored.

Verses 11-15

Israel sent his sons back to buy more grain, telling them to take double the money and sending some of the best products of the land. Israel let them take Benjamin, as he made statements of trust in God.

Verses 16-25

When they arrived, Joseph had them brought to his house. The men were afraid, thinking it was because of the money they had found in their sacks. They told the steward about the money, and he responded that he had had their money.

The steward brought Simeon out. At noon, Joseph came.

Verses 26-34

The brothers presented their gifts and bowed to the ground before him. He asked about their father. The brothers responded and bowed down in homage. Joseph saw Benjamin and hurried out to weep. Then they ate—Joseph at one table, the Egyptians by themselves, and the brothers by themselves, seated in order from firstborn to the youngest.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask about a theme for this chapter.

Joseph's brothers' second trip to Egypt, Benjamin went

**GENESIS 44**Verses 1-13

How did Joseph test his brothers?

Joseph instructed his steward to put each man's money in the mouth of his sack, and his silver cup in Benjamin's sack.

When Joseph sent the steward to overtake them, they said the one who had the cup would die, and the rest would be Joseph's slaves. The steward said only the one who had the cup would be his slave. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

Verses 14-34

What was the brothers' reaction?

The brothers tore their clothes, returned to the city, and fell down before Joseph. Judah said, "God has found out the iniquity / guilt of your servants; behold, we are my lord's slaves / servants . . ." Joseph said only the man in whose possession the cup had been found would be his slave / servant. Judah asked if Joseph would allow him to stay in Benjamin's place, explaining that Jacob would die if Benjamin did not return to his father.

What does this show about the brothers? About Judah specifically?

The brothers knew that God judges sin and could have thought that this was how God was dealing with them. There had been a change in Judah, the one who suggested they sell Joseph, in that he was willing to give his life in exchange for Benjamin's life because of his concern for his father.

What is a possible theme for this chapter?

Joseph and his brothers in Egypt

**GENESIS 45**

Verses 1-15

As chapter 45 began, what was Joseph's response to his brothers?

He could not control himself, asked for everyone to go out, and wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it. He made himself known to his brothers; however, they were dismayed at his presence. He told them not to be grieved / distressed or angry with themselves. God sent him before them to preserve life—to preserve a remnant in the earth and to keep them alive. It was not them who sent him to Egypt but God.

What does this show about Joseph? Discuss any relevant application.

Once again Joseph trusted God in all things. He knew God is in charge—that He is sovereign and has a plan and purpose.

Joseph instructed his brothers to go get Jacob and their families and bring them to Egypt. He would provide for them during the remaining five years of famine. He then fell on Benjamin's neck, and they wept.

Joseph still loved and cared about his family. He knew that God is sovereign, and was not bitter or angry with his brothers. He did not use his power to get revenge for what they had done.



Verses 16-24

What happened when the news about Joseph’s brothers reached Pharaoh’s house?

He told the brothers to take wagons and get their father and their families and bring them to Egypt. Joseph also sent money, changes of garments, and grain and bread. He told his brothers not to quarrel on the journey.

Verses 25-28

What was Israel’s response to the news about Joseph?

He was stunned, for he did not believe them. Then when they told him Joseph’s words and when he saw the wagons, his spirit revived. Israel said, “It is enough; my son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.”

Ask about a theme on the At a Glance chart.

Joseph revealed himself to his brothers

**GENESIS 46**

What happened in verses 1-7?

You can direct your group to their maps as a visual aid here.

Israel set out with all he had and came to Beersheba. At Beersheba, God spoke to him in visions of the night:

I am God, the God of your father.

Don’t be afraid to go to Egypt. I’ll make a nation of you there.

I will go with you and will bring you up again.

Joseph will close your eyes.

Israel went to Egypt.

What are verses 8-27?

The list of Israel

Jacob/Israel took all his family to Egypt—66 persons, not including Jacob himself and the wives of Jacob’s sons. The 70 mentioned included Jacob, Joseph, and his two sons.

What happened in verses 28-34?

Joseph met them in Goshen. He fell on his father’s neck and wept a long time. They were to say to Pharaoh that they were keepers of livestock, so that they could live in Goshen, for every shepherd was loathsome / abomination to the Egyptians.

How do Genesis 15:12-16; Exodus 1:1-14; 2:23-25; and Psalm 105:16-24 relate to this?

**Genesis 15**

When God made a covenant with Abraham, He told him that his descendants / offspring would be strangers in a land that was not theirs, where they would be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.

**Exodus 1 and Psalm 105**

After Joseph and his brothers died, the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly. A new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He oppressed Israel with hard labor.

**Exodus 2**

The Israelites cried out to God for help because of their bondage. God heard their groaning and remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

What is a theme for this chapter?

Israel went to Egypt

**GENESIS 47**

What happened between Pharaoh and Joseph's family in chapter 47?

Verses 1-6

Joseph presented five of his brothers to Pharaoh. The brothers told Pharaoh they were shepherds and wanted to live in Goshen. Pharaoh said the land of Egypt was at their disposal. They could live in Goshen.

Verses 7-12

Joseph presented Jacob before Pharaoh. Jacob was 130 years old and said his years had been few and unpleasant. Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

Verses 13-26

What are these verses about?

Joseph gathered all the money in the land for the grain, and then he gathered all the livestock and all the land, except for the land of the priests. He gave the people seed with instructions that 1/5 of their harvest would belong to Pharaoh. The people of Egypt became slaves of Pharaoh.

What happened to Israel in Egypt in verses 27-31?

Israel acquired land in Egypt, and they lived in the best of it.

Jacob lived 147 years. When the time for him to die drew near, he called Joseph, asking him to swear that he would be carried out of Egypt and buried with his fathers. So Joseph swore to him. You might ask your class why that was important to him.

Jacob wanted to be buried with his fathers in the land that God had promised to them. In Genesis 46:4, God promised that He would go with Jacob to Egypt, and bring him up again.

Then Jacob bowed in worship, worship of his God who had let him see Joseph again.

Ask what your group noted as a theme for this chapter.

Israel lived in Egypt; Joseph bought all in Egypt for Pharaoh

As you conclude your discussion, you might ask questions to help your group to think about what they have learned and how it applies to them, such as:

Joseph was different because he knew God. What about you?

Have you ever wondered why God put you in a certain position? Are you willing to walk godly in any circumstance as Joseph did, so that God can use you greatly? Are you willing for God to put you anywhere He wants to?

What about Joseph's response to his brothers? Are you willing to forgive as Joseph did?



## GENESIS, PART 5 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 4

### Lesson emphasis:

- Genesis 48–50
- Joseph and Judah
- Forgiveness

### REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they learned from Acts 7:8-16.

Abraham was given the covenant of circumcision.  
He became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day.  
Isaac became the father of Jacob and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into slavery, but God was with him, rescued him, and granted him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh; and he made Joseph governor over Egypt.

Jacob sent his sons there for grain. On the second visit, Joseph made himself known to them and invited them to come to Egypt.

Jacob went down to Egypt, and he and his sons passed away there.

They were removed to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had purchased.

### Genesis 47:27-31

Ask about the content of these verses.

Israel lived in Goshen in Egypt. They were fruitful, and became very numerous.

Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years, so the length of his life was 147 years.

When the time for Jacob to die drew near, he asked Joseph to swear that he would not bury him in Egypt but carry him out of Egypt to be buried with his fathers.

## GENESIS 48

What is this chapter about?

Jacob blessed Joseph and his two sons, giving him the double portion of the birthright.

Jacob said Manasseh and Ephraim became his own sons as Reuben and Simeon were, but Joseph's sons who were born after them would be Joseph's. By his adoption of Manasseh and Ephraim he was giving a double portion to Joseph.

When blessing Joseph's sons, Jacob put Manasseh on Israel's right and Ephraim on Israel's left. Israel crossed his hands, putting his right hand on the head of Ephraim, although Manasseh was the firstborn. So the younger was blessed above the older.

*NOTE: If your group studied Becoming a Friend of the Faithful God (Genesis Part 3) and Wrestling With God (Genesis Part 4), relate this to Ishmael and Isaac and Esau and Jacob.*

Jacob then spoke of the God before whom his fathers Abraham and Isaac walked. He referred to God as his shepherd all his life and the angel who had redeemed him from all evil.

Ask your group what they learned from their study of walking with God.

### Genesis 5:22-24

Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and he was not, for God took him.

### Genesis 6:9

Noah, a righteous man and blameless in his time, walked with God.

### Genesis 17:1

God told Abraham to walk before Him and be blameless. Relate this to Genesis 48:15.

### Micah 6:8

Micah spoke to Israel, saying that the Lord required that they do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God.

### Ephesians 4:1-3

Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Lead your discussion back to Genesis 48.

What are verses 17-22 about?

Joseph was displeased that Jacob put his right hand on Ephraim's head, but Israel said Ephraim would be greater than Manasseh and his descendants / offspring would become a multitude of nations.

Israel told Joseph he was about to die, but God would be with Joseph and bring him back to the land of his fathers.

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for Genesis 48.

Israel blessed Joseph, 2 sons

## **GENESIS 49**

What are the two main points in this chapter?

Israel blessed his sons, and then he died.

Give time for your group to briefly discuss the blessing for each of the twelve sons; focus on Judah and Joseph.

Jacob summoned them, saying he would tell them what would befall them in the days to come. Their blessings contained prophecy.

God is sovereign, and what He has planned will happen. He used Jacob's blessing of his sons to tell some of the future. No one can thwart God's plan.

Reuben

Even though Reuben was the firstborn, he did not have preeminence, because he committed adultery with one of his father's wives. Genesis 49 and 1 Chronicles 5:1-2 say that Joseph was given the birthright instead.

Simeon and Levi

They are blessed together as violent and angry. They are cursed for their fierce anger and cruel wrath.

*NOTE: If your group studied Wrestling With God (Genesis Part 4), relate this to Genesis 34. Simeon and Levi killed every male in the city of Shechem as revenge for (the man) Shechem's rape of their sister Dinah.*

Judah

Judah was blessed with leadership, indicating future King David and Jesus.

Direct your group to their charts in the lesson on Day Four. Use it as a visual aid here.

The word “Shiloh” in Genesis 49:10 is simply a transliterated form of the Hebrew expression meaning “one to whom it belongs.” (ESV uses the word “tribute.”)

Judah would hold the status of leadership among the tribes of Israel until “he comes to whom it belongs,” (ESV—until tribute comes to him) that is the one to whom the kingship truly belongs, Jesus Christ.

Verse 10 also says that “to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.”

Discuss what your group learned from the cross-references about this.

Matthew 1:1-6

David and Jesus were both descendants of Judah.

Psalm 60:7

God says Judah is His scepter.

Matthew 2:5, 6

Out of Bethlehem in the land of Judah will come a ruler who will shepherd God’s people Israel.

*NOTE: Continue discussing the blessings in Genesis 49, but watch your time.*

Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, and Naphtali are shorter blessings.  
The last four were the sons by Jacob’s concubines, Bilhah and Zilpah.

Joseph

The birthright went to Joseph, and he received a double portion in Ephraim and Manasseh. He was the firstborn son of Jacob’s second wife Rachel.

God was referred to as the Mighty One of Jacob, the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel, the God of your father, the Almighty who blesses.

Point your group to the chart on Day Four in the lesson as a visual aid here.

In Genesis 49 and in Deuteronomy 33, Joseph’s blessing was of fruitfulness and of one distinguished among (ESV—set apart from) his brothers.

Genesis 49:23 seems that Jacob had heard what Joseph’s brothers did to him.



How does this chapter end?

The blessings were appropriate / suitable to each one of them.

Jacob charged them to bury him with his fathers in the cave Abraham bought for Sarah. Isaac and Rebekah were also buried there. Verse 31 tells that Leah died before Jacob came to Egypt and was also buried there.

The last verse of chapter 49 tells that Jacob died.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart, and ask about a theme for this chapter.

Israel blessed his sons and died

## **GENESIS 50**

What are the main events in this chapter?

Jacob died at 147 years.

He was embalmed, and the Egyptians mourned him for seventy days.

With Pharaoh's permission, Joseph left to take Jacob to Canaan to be buried in the cave of Machpelah. At the threshing floor of Atad, he observed seven days mourning for his father. After burying his father, Joseph and his brothers and all who had gone with them returned to Egypt.

They returned to Egypt even though there was no more famine. God's plan was for them to multiply in Egypt and to deliver them from slavery. Relate this to Genesis 15:13-16.

The next event in chapter 50 took place when Joseph and his brothers returned to Egypt. The brothers were concerned that Joseph might bear a grudge against them and pay them back for the wrong they had done to him.

The brothers sent a message to Joseph saying that their father had charged before he died, asking Joseph to forgive the transgressions of his brothers. Then they came and fell down before him.

What was Joseph's response? What did this show that he knew about God?

He wept and told them not to be afraid of him.

He recognized that it is the Lord Who will judge. He told them that they had meant evil against him, but God meant it for good in order to preserve many people alive.

He assured them that he would provide for them and their little ones.

Joseph recognized the sovereign hand of God in all that had happened. He trusted God.

You might ask your group how knowing about the sovereignty of God can help them when they have to go through the hard times of life. How was Joseph's life a good example?

Relate this to Romans 8:28.

God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. He used all that happened in Joseph's life for his good. He will do the same in the lives of believers.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references about forgiveness.

Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:12-13

Believers are to forgive each other, just like God forgave us.

Matthew 6:9-15

Unforgiveness is sin. If people continue in their sin of unforgiveness, then God doesn't forgive them.

Matthew 18:21-22

Jesus told Peter to forgive seventy times seven.

Forgiveness should be a way of life for a believer.

You might ask your group if there is anyone that they need to forgive.

Lead your discussion back to Genesis 50:22-26.

Joseph and his father's household stayed in Egypt.

Joseph lived 110 years and saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons.

When he was about to die, he told his brothers or maybe the sons of his brothers, that God would take care of them and bring them up from Egypt to the land He promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then he made them swear to carry his bones from there.

Hebrews 11:22 says he did this by faith.

How could Joseph make a promise that God would take care of them?

Joseph knew God. He had seen what God had done in his own life and knew what God had done in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He knew God keeps His promises.

Relate this to Genesis 15:13-16.

God told Abraham that his descendants / offspring would be strangers / sojourners in a land that was not theirs, where they would be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. In the fourth generation, they would return to Canaan.

To end the study on Joseph, you might ask your group what truths they learned or were reminded of that are especially pertinent to their lives.