

# THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

## Lesson 6 – Genesis 45-46

*“Then Joseph could not restrain himself...”* and he finally reveals his identity to his brothers! In these two chapters we also see more clearly the plan God has been working out through Joseph. God has done as He has purposed to do. Yet, He is far from finished with the individuals and the people He has called to be His own.

Begin your study with prayer...

**Memory Verse** – This week’s memory verse is Romans 8:28.

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

### Read Genesis 45:1-15.

1. In Genesis 45:1 Joseph cleared the room of everyone except his brothers and himself.
  - a. Why would he do this first?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. In Genesis 45:2, when he made himself known to his brothers, what was his emotional reaction?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. How strong were these emotions as revealed in verse 2?
  
2. Joseph had been holding back his emotions.
  - a. Why can this be a good thing to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Why can this be a bad thing to do?
  
3. In Genesis 45:3-4 we finally hear Joseph speak those words, *“I am Joseph.”*
  - a. What was his first question for them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What was the reaction of his brothers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What does this word mean?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. Why would they have this reaction?

4. In Genesis 45:4-5, as Joseph called his brothers to come near, notice in each verse he uses the word *you*.

a. Find both phrases where he said *you* to the brothers and write them below.

b. What reasons can you think of for Joseph to point this out?

5. God had revealed His purpose and plan to Joseph, as he explains in the following verses. Write the phrase from each verse that contains the given words.

a. Genesis 45:5

*...for God* \_\_\_\_\_

b. Genesis 45:7

*And God* \_\_\_\_\_

c. Genesis 45:8

*So* \_\_\_\_\_, *but God...*

6. What do you find in the following verses that reflects what we have seen in Joseph's revelation and his explanation?

a. Psalm 138:8

b. Isaiah 14:24

c. Romans 8:28

7. What was the purpose for Joseph coming to Egypt given at the end of Genesis 45:7?

8. From Genesis 45:8 Joseph makes a profound statement that reminds us that things are not always what they seem. Write the first statement from this verse below.

9. Summarize the plan in Genesis 45:9-13 that Joseph laid out for them to go back and tell Jacob.

10. Notice the word hurry in verses 9 and 13. What does this tell you about how Joseph is feeling?

11. As we read Genesis 45:14-15, we see a true reunion. With the emotion we see expressed, we see something very different than we have yet seen among these brothers. As they talked together and wept together, consider all they have been through. What are some of the changes you have seen in the hearts of the brothers?

**Read Genesis 45:16-20.**

1. In these verses, what did Pharaoh do when he heard of Joseph's reunion with his brothers?

2. What does this tell you about the Pharaoh's opinion of Joseph?

3. The provisions from Pharaoh show us how God used him to provide for God's people. How do the following scriptures reveal the heart of God for all of His children?

a. Ephesians 3:20

b. Philippians 4:19

**Read Genesis 45:21-28.**

1. Using verses 21-23, describe what Joseph did for his brothers to prepare for their trip home.

2. What did Joseph say to his brothers in Genesis 45:24?

a. What might the brothers have started thinking once they left Egypt?

b. Why did Joseph need to say this to them?

3. Verse 25 tells us, “*Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father.*”

a. What did the brothers tell their father Jacob in Genesis 45:26?

b. What was Jacob’s reaction in verse 26?

c. Why might he doubt their words?

d. What caused Jacob’s spirit to be *revived* in verse 27?

4. Consider Genesis 45:28 and share your thoughts on the concluding words of Jacob in this chapter.

### **Read Genesis 46:1-4**

1. Once Jacob believed that Joseph was really alive and well, he took action. According to Genesis 46:1, what did Jacob do?

2. Beersheba was close to the border, and it was the last city of the Promised Land on the way to Egypt. What had happened in the past at Beersheba as revealed in the following scriptures?

a. Genesis 21:33

b. Genesis 26:24-25

c. Considering all of this, in what way might Jacob’s actions here have significance?

3. Using Genesis 46:3-4, complete the following four statements that God spoke to Jacob at Beersheba.

- a. Verse 3: I am \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Verse 3: for I will \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Verse 4: I will \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Verse 4: and I will \_\_\_\_\_

4. Notice how many times the Lord said “I will” to Jacob. What do those words, coming from the Lord, mean?

5. Jacob was apparently afraid to go to Egypt. We can read of the time his grandfather Abraham had traveled to Egypt in a time of famine in Genesis 12:10-20. Those times did not go well for him, as he lied to protect himself.

a. Again in a famine, Isaac was going to Egypt. Read Genesis 26:1-2 and record the words of the Lord to Jacob’s father, Isaac.

b. What is different for Jacob as he now travels to Egypt?

6. It is important as we seek to follow the Lord that we don’t make our decisions just based on what others have done, but we seek the Lord for His direction for us and do what He tells us to do.

a. How does Proverbs 3:5-6 apply to this?

b. Share any other scriptures you find.

**Read Genesis 46:5-34.**

1. What did Jacob do in Genesis 46:5-6, after God spoke to him?

2. Genesis 46:7-25 lists the children and grand-children who went to Egypt with Jacob. From verse 27, how many in total went to Egypt?

3. Using Genesis 46:29-30, describe the reunion of Joseph and his father, Jacob.
  
4. Joseph was very specific to give his brothers instructions about what they were to say to Pharaoh when he asked about their occupation.
  - a. First, what did Joseph tell Pharaoh in Genesis 46:31-32?
  
  - b. What did Joseph tell his brothers to say when Pharaoh asked, from Genesis 46:33-34?
  
  - c. In verse 34 we are told why this was important. Complete this statement:

“...that you may \_\_\_\_\_”

5. The last phrase in Genesis 46:34 tells us of an extreme prejudice of the Egyptians.
  - a. How is the strength of this prejudice against shepherds written in this verse?
  
  - b. Considering this, why did Joseph want to make the point very clear that his family were shepherds?
  
  - c. What does Leviticus 20:26 say that might explain this?

### **In closing...**

1. Often God does not reveal His plan to us in the beginning or even the middle, but waits until the plan has come to fruition. What have you learned from Joseph that can be applied in your own life when you are in the midst of a situation or trial and do not know what God’s plan is?

### ***Memory Verse***

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*Romans 8:28*