

22 It was by faith that Joseph, when he was about to die, said confidently that the people of Israel would leave Egypt. He even commanded them to take his bones with them when they left.

—Hebrews 11:22

22 So Joseph and his brothers and their families continued to live in Egypt. Joseph lived to the age of 110. 23 He lived to see three generations of descendants of his son Ephraim, and he lived to see the birth of the children of Manasseh's son Makir, whom he claimed as his own. 24 "Soon I will die," Joseph told his brothers, "but God will surely come to help you and lead you out of this land of Egypt. He will bring you back to the land he solemnly promised to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." 25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath, and he said, "When God comes to help you and lead you back, you must take my bones with you." 26 So Joseph died at the age of 110. The Egyptians embalmed him, and his body was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

—Genesis 50:22-26

Discussion/Journal Questions

Read all of Hebrews 11. What do the men and women mentioned have in common?

Read Hebrews 11:22 and Genesis 50:22-26. What do you know about Joseph from Genesis? Why do you think this is what gets special mention in Hebrews 11?

Why do you think Joseph did not want to be buried in Egypt?

In the sermon, Sam emphasized that Joseph was rejecting Egypt, the land of prosperity and idolatry, for God's promised land. How is Joseph's relationship to Egypt similar to our relationship with America?

What is the Promised Land that we as Christians are waiting for?

What happens when we get too caught up in this world that we stop looking towards the promise of God?

How does it change our lives when we live as though we are aliens and strangers in America?

Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What weight and sin do you need to strip off (cut out of your life) so you can run with perseverance and live the life Christ has for you?

How can your group pray for you this week?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?