

Sermon Notes 8/22/21

“Family Reunion”

How should we respond to Genesis chapter 46?

1. Use every _____ to follow Jesus.

Genesis 46:1

Genesis 46:6

Genesis 46:31-32

1 Peter 4:10-11

2. Do not be _____ to follow Jesus.

Genesis 46:3-4

Genesis 15:13-14

Genesis 46:33-34

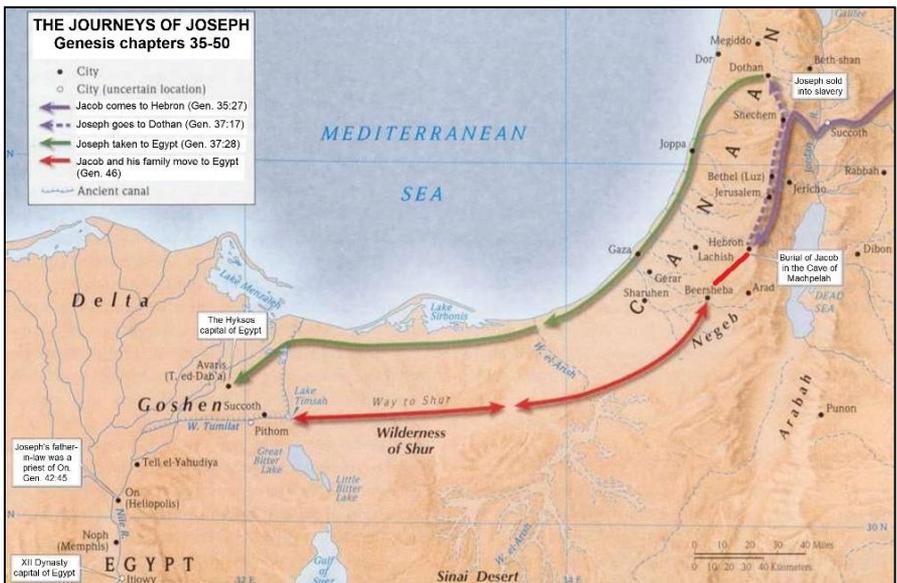
Revelation 2:10

3. Help our _____ to follow Jesus.

Genesis 46:5

Genesis 46:7

Matthew 18:12-14



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 46: August 22-29

Genesis 46

Depending on who is in your family and how much they love each other, your family reunion can be a blessing or a curse. Fortunately for Jacob, his sons loved each other. The older brothers were reconciled to Joseph. So, in chapter 46, Jacob is finally going to be reunited with Joseph after thinking he was dead for the last 22 years. The whole family is together, and it is a joyful family reunion. However, this chapter is also a major transition in the history of God's people. God tells Jacob to leave the Promise Land and bring his family to Egypt. And this chapter is practical for us today. It gives us the wisdom we need when we are facing difficult decisions and major transitions in life.

Read Genesis 46:1-7

1. What did Jacob (Israel) do when he came to Beersheba? (46:1)

In Genesis 35, Jacob went to live with his father Isaac in Hebron. Isaac died at the age of 180, just ten years before Jacob moves to Egypt (Gen. 25:26; 35:28; 47:9). On his way to Egypt, Jacob stops at Beersheba where his father had built an altar (26:25).

2. How did God address to Jacob in verse 2? How did Jacob respond?

3. How did God describe Himself in verse 3?

John Walton notes,

God uses a fourth different designation to identify himself. In chapter 28 he identified himself as *Yahweh*, in chapter 31 as *El Bethel*, and in chapter 35 as *El Shaddai*; here he is “[The] God [Heb. *ha’el*], the God of your father.” By now this is recognizable as a reference to the God of the covenant. Consequently, the instructions to leave the land should be seen as part of the big covenant plan, not a change.¹

¹ John H. Walton, *The NIV Application Commentary Genesis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2001), 683.

4. What promises did God make to Jacob in verses 3-4?

Beersheba was as far south as you could go while still being in the Promise Land. Isaac may have been afraid to go to Egypt because God told Isaac not to go to Egypt (26:2). Jacob may have also been concerned about the prophecy of God's people being oppressed in a foreign land for 400 years (15:13). As in times before, God assures Jacob that He will be with him (28:15; 31:3). When God calls us to do something that we are afraid to do, He reminds us that He will be with us. Tremper Longman writes,

Just as God assured Jacob he would be with him as he descended into Egypt, so God will assure Moses and Joshua as they lead Israel back to the promised land and face the Canaanites (Deut 31:6; Josh 1:5). In the New Testament, Jesus assures his disciples that he will be with them even after he ascends into heaven (Matt 28:20).²

5. How did Jacob and his sons transport all their family members to Egypt? (46:5)

6. How much of their belongings did Jacob and his sons take with them to Egypt? (46:6 see also 45:20)

Paul Kissling observes,

Although Pharaoh had instructed Joseph to tell Jacob to leave his possessions behind, Jacob took all of them including the sheep and other animals. These were signs of God's blessing him while he lived in Canaan and would not readily be abandoned.³

7. Who did Jacob take with him to Egypt? (46:7)

Read Genesis 46:8-27

8. How many sons did Benjamin have according to verse 21?

² Tremper Longman, *The Story of God Bible Commentary: Genesis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2016), 536.

³ Paul Kissling, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Genesis Volume 2* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2009), 544.

9. How many descendants of Jacob traveled with him to Egypt according to verse 26?

10. How many descendants of Jacob were living in Egypt when we include Joseph and his family? (46:27)

The number 70 here is probably symbolic for the idea of being whole and complete. While the Hebrew text says 70, the Septuagint (a Greek translation of the Old Testament) says 75. In Acts 7:14, Stephen—who was ministering to Greek speaking Jews—quoted from the Septuagint. In addition to all the direct descendants of Jacob there were also dozens of servants who also came to Egypt (Gen. 34:29).

Read Genesis 46:28-34

11. Who did Jacob send ahead to get directions from Joseph? (46:28)

12. What did Joseph do when he saw his father in verse 29?

13. What did Jacob (Israel) say to Joseph in verse 30?

14. How did Joseph describe his brothers to Pharaoh? (46:31-32)

15. What did Joseph tell his brothers to say to Pharaoh? Why? (46:33-34)

This is another example of God's providence in the Joseph narrative. God was working in the details to create the perfect environment for Jacob's family to grow into a great nation. We saw in chapter 38 that the Canaanites were already having a negative influence on God's people. God prepared a place in Egypt for his people to live where the indigenous pagans would tolerate the Israelites from a distance.

16. What are some things you have that you can use for God's purpose and glory?

17. Who has God used to be a blessing in your life recently?

18. What are some things God wants us to do that require courage?

19. What can we do to overcome our fears and obey God?

20. How you help a family member to follow Jesus this week?