

{ Dinnertime Devotionals }



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Weekly Theme: Joseph: Part 17

Verse #1: Genesis 48:1-7

(I use the ESV Bible for these devotionals. Questions are based on that text.)

All Ages Discussion Starter: For younger audiences this text might be a bit challenging. Try your best to help them understand how a patriarchal society was ordered. A few questions...What was Jacob doing to/for Joseph's sons? Why was it important for Jacob to do this?

Verse #2: Genesis 48:8-16

All Age Discussion Starter: The blessing of the patriarch of the family was indeed a big deal. Jacob (Israel) has the chance to see his grandsons up close. Joseph purposely positions himself and his boys so they can receive a blessing from Israel. What was the significance of all three of them bowing before Israel? Why was it important that Manasseh be under Israel's right hand and Ephraim be under Israel's left hand? Do we still do anything like this today in our culture?

Verse #4: Genesis 49:1-12

All Age Discussion Starter: This section of the text can be a really fun read for the family. How would you react if your father gave you a closing prediction for the rest of your life?

In this text Israel tells his sons 'how it is.' He has seen their actions and knows them.

What would you say about your future outcomes? Based on the things you are doing in life today, what would your father say about you if he had to do what Israel did?

Verse #3: Genesis 48:17-22

All Age Discussion Starter: Israel purposely gives the blessing to the younger son Ephraim instead of the elder son Manasseh. What did Joseph try to do?

What would be the importance of this change of order in the blessing? Had this happened before in the family?

This is a challenging concept for modern minds to grasp because of our societal standards, but this was a BIG deal.

Verse #5: Genesis 49:13-27

All Age Discussion Starter: Some of the predictions in this section are short while others are more detailed. Joseph of course gets a long and positive prediction from his father.

What can we take away from this interesting section of text about the life of Joseph and his brothers? What lessons can we learn that we can apply to our lives?