

{ Dinnertime Devotionals }



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Weekly Theme: Joseph: Part 18—The end

Verse #1: Genesis 49:29-33

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

All Ages Discussion Starter: The end of life comes for all of us. Jacob (Israel) knew the end was coming. What instruction did he give to his boys before he died? Why was it so important to be buried with his family? Remember the importance of family at this time in history.

Verse #2: Genesis 50:1-6

All Age Discussion Starter: Joseph is obviously grieved over the death of the father who he was separated from for so many years. It is interesting to note that Joseph had his father embalmed as was the tradition of the Egyptians. Who mourned for 70 days over the death of Israel? Joseph needed to travel to what land to bury his father? Who did he ask for permission to make the trip? What was the response to Joseph's request to bury his father?

Verse #4: Genesis 50:15-21

All Age Discussion Starter: Contained in these verses is the key point for the entire story of Joseph. Once their father died, what fear filled the minds of Joseph's brothers? What response did Joseph give his brothers?

His words - "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. What a powerful testimony! Do you think this is a conclusion that Joseph came to overnight?"

Verse #3: Genesis 50:7-14

All Age Discussion Starter: There are many times in the Bible where it can be difficult to grasp the scale of the events detailed. How large do you think the party was that traveled with Joseph to bury Israel? Do you have any clue how long they might have been gone? This was no small undertaking! Why do you think the officials of Pharaoh's court went with Joseph and his family? Can you see the impact that Joseph had made on the people of Egypt?

Verse #5: Genesis 50:22-26

All Age Discussion Starter: The Bible hits the fast forward button and many years pass. We find Joseph having lived a full life. How old is Joseph when he dies? Are any of his brothers still alive? What promise does Joseph make his brothers give him? Through all the hardships, God saw Joseph through to the end and gave him an amazing life that was a blessing to the world.