

After Joseph is reunited and reconciled to his brothers in chapter 45, he sends them back to their father in Canaan, seeking to bring him to Egypt in order that the two of them might be reunited as well. Gathering up his entire family, Jacob heads out toward Egypt in order to live in the land with all his family, surviving the great famine.

Genesis 46:1-34

Joseph

Brings His Family to Egypt

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Life is full of journeys. Some are extravagant and memorable, containing danger and adventure, while other journeys are more metaphorical, involving time and decisions in life as we grow and age. Whatever the “journey”, they all include a destination of some kind, obstacles, experiences, and usually some kind of guide.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

SHARE one journey you’ve experienced in your life that’s memorable.

WHAT are some of the things that tend to make a journey memorable?

HOW have the memorable journeys you’ve taken included people (or the lack thereof)?

HOW have the experiences, obstacles, or hardships experienced in a particular journey affected the outcome of it in your life?

EXPLAIN how our spiritual experience is somewhat like a journey.

Genesis 46:1-34 Read Genesis 46:1-34

Joseph Brings His Family to Egypt

OBSERVATION

Who speaks to Jacob as he makes his way to Egypt, and what is revealed (vs. 2-4)?

What does Jacob take with him to Egypt (vs. 5-7)?

What is recorded in vs. 8-27?

According to vs. 27, what is the total population of the house of Jacob?

In vs. 28, who goes ahead of Jacob's family in order to show the way to Goshen?

How do Joseph and Jacob respond to meeting each other in vs. 29-30?

What does Joseph coach his brothers to say to Pharaoh regarding their vocation in vs. 31-34?

INTERPRETATION

When God speaks to Jacob in vs. 1-4, what promise does He give him in vs. 3? Why is this significant? Consider Genesis 12:1-3 for insight.

What is the meaning of vs. 4, specifically, "Joseph's hand will close your eyes"?

Why do you think Scripture takes such labor to spell out the census of Jacob's house in vs. 8-27? What significance might the covenant given in 12:1-3 have to do with this?

Why do you think Judah is now leading the journey as opposed to Reuben (the oldest)? Consider Judah's change of heart in 44:18-23 and what is yet to be revealed in 49:10.

What does the text reveal about Egypt's attitude toward shepherds in vs. 34?

How does God use this reality to establish his purposes, specifically those laid out in 28:1-5?

APPLICATION

In Matthew 9:9-13 Jesus calls his disciples to follow him, by faith, to new locations. How is the journey Jesus calls his disciples to similar to that of what God is calling Jacob?

What are the parallels between Jacob's journey, the disciples, and yours?