

# NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

## *Joseph - Genesis 45 and 46*

Lesson 6

This study begins in Genesis 45 with Joseph taking off his mask and revealing himself to his brothers. It ends in Chapter 46 with Joseph's entire family arriving in the land of Egypt. God has done as He has purposed to do. Yet, He is far from finished with the individuals and the people He has called to be His own.

### **OBSERVATION: Read Genesis 45**

1. Read Genesis 45 using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. List three things Genesis 45 reveals about:

Jacob

Joseph's brothers

Joseph

## JOSEPH REVEALS HIMSELF TO HIS BROTHERS: Read Genesis 45:1-15

1. Chapter 44 closes with Judah interceding for his brother, Benjamin. Joseph had been taking the tact of an accusatory ruler. Record the beginning phrase of Genesis 45 that records a change in Joseph's behavior.
  - a. Joseph had been holding back his emotions. Why can doing this be:  
a good thing to do?  
  
a bad thing to do?
  - b. Jeremiah had resisted sharing the word of God. Consider the words he wrote in Jeremiah 20:9. How might this verse relate to Joseph?
  - c. There are times when we withhold our true feelings or emotions for God. Share a few of your thoughts about this.
2. Record and reflect upon three things Joseph told his brothers after he revealed who he was.
3. If you were one of Joseph's brothers, how do you think you might have reacted?
4. Share a time when you had not seen God in a situation and then you did.
5. Verses 14,15 expose the emotion of the brothers' reunion. It had been 22 years since Joseph had seen his brother, Benjamin. Much of these verses express the idea of "not holding back". What are some reasons people withhold expressions of love?
  - a. What are some ways we can express our love to God?

## THE REPORT OF JOSEPH'S BROTHERS REVEALED TO PHARAOH:

Read Genesis 45:16-20

1. What did Pharaoh do when he heard of Joseph's reunion with his brothers?
  - a. What does this tell you about his opinion of Joseph?
  
2. In what ways might the Pharaoh represent the heart of God as it is reflected in these verses?

## JACOB IS TOLD THAT JOSEPH IS ALIVE: Read Genesis 45:21-28

1. Using verses 21-23, describe what Joseph did for his brothers.
  
2. What does verse 24 tell us that Joseph said to his brothers?
  - a. Apparently, Joseph's concern was that they would become angry, or fearful, or *troubled along the way*. What might some of their thoughts have been?
  
  - b. How does it help to anticipate reactions?
    - 1.) What are some healthy ways of anticipating a situation?
  
3. *Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father* (verse 25). What did they tell Jacob? verse 26
  - a. What was Jacob's reaction?

4. Read verse 27. What caused Jacob's *spirit* to be *revived*?

a. Describe a *revived spirit*.

b. Recall a time that your *spirit* has been *revived*. What was that like for you?

5. Record and reflect upon the words of Jacob as revealed in verse 28.

**OBSERVATION: Read Genesis 46**

1. Read Genesis 46 using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?

2. List three things Genesis 46 reveals about:

Joseph

Joseph's brothers

Jacob

**THE REASSURANCE: Read Genesis 46:1-4**

1. Genesis 45 closes with Jacob's sons informing him of Joseph's well-being and status in Egypt. After seeing the provision sent by Joseph for moving to Egypt, Jacob's *spirit* was *revived*. According to verse 1, what did Jacob do?

a. Beersheba was the southernmost city of the Promised Land on the way to Egypt. In what ways does this action of Jacob reflect a returning to his relationship with God?

b. Record the significance of *Beersheba* as revealed in these verses:

Genesis 21:33

Genesis 26:24,25

2. Using Genesis 46:3,4, list what God told Jacob.

Challenge: Record the prior times God revealed Himself to Jacob.

3. Jacob was apparently afraid to go to Egypt. His grandfather Abraham had traveled to Egypt in a time of famine. Those times did not go well, as Abraham lied to protect himself. Also, read Genesis 26:2 and record the words of the LORD to Jacob's father, Isaac.

a. God spoke to Jacob *in the visions of the night*. Night time is often the time we slow down and rid ourselves of the business of the day. What is the reminder of Psalm 46:10.

1.) In what ways have you discovered the importance of this verse as it relates to knowing God's will for you?

**THE FAMILY: Read Genesis 46:5-27**

1. What did Jacob do after God spoke to him?

2. Genesis 46:7-25 lists the children and grand-children who went to Egypt with Jacob. How many went to Egypt? Verse 27

**THE ARRIVAL: Read Genesis 46:28-34**

1. Using Genesis 46:29,30, describe the reunion of Joseph and his father, Jacob.

a. What thoughts/feelings do you think

Joseph was experiencing?

Jacob was experiencing?

b. What might they both have learned about God?

2. In anticipating the area best for raising livestock and to protect his family from Egyptian prejudices, what did Joseph tell his brothers to say to Pharaoh?

**REVIEW: Read Genesis 45 and 46**

1. What did you learn from studying these two chapters that you will personally apply to your life?

Chapter 45

Chapter 46

*Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.*

*- Genesis 15:13*

## Observation Worksheet

### Genesis 45

<sup>1</sup> Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> "For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. <sup>7</sup> "And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> "So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. <sup>10</sup> "You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> "There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine." ' <sup>12</sup> "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup> "So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here." <sup>14</sup> Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. <sup>15</sup> Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him. <sup>16</sup> Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well. <sup>17</sup> And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan. <sup>18</sup> 'Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land. <sup>19</sup> 'Now you are commanded--do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come. <sup>20</sup> 'Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.' " <sup>21</sup> Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey. <sup>22</sup> He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments. <sup>23</sup> And he sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey. <sup>24</sup> So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way." <sup>25</sup> Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father. <sup>26</sup> And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them. <sup>27</sup> But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived. <sup>28</sup> Then Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

## Genesis 46

<sup>1</sup> So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. <sup>2</sup> Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>3</sup> So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. <sup>4</sup> "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes." <sup>5</sup> Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives, in the carts which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. <sup>6</sup> So they took their livestock and their goods, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him. <sup>7</sup> His sons and his sons' sons, his daughters and his sons' daughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt. <sup>8</sup> Now these were the names of the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt: Reuben was Jacob's firstborn. <sup>9</sup> The sons of Reuben were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. <sup>10</sup> The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman. <sup>11</sup> The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. <sup>12</sup> The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. <sup>13</sup> The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puvah, Job, and Shimron. <sup>14</sup> The sons of Zebulun were Sered, Elon, and Jahleel. <sup>15</sup> These were the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Padan Aram, with his daughter Dinah. All the persons, his sons and his daughters, were thirty-three. <sup>16</sup> The sons of Gad were Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli. <sup>17</sup> The sons of Asher were Jimnah, Ishuah, Isui, Beriah, and Serah, their sister. And the sons of Beriah were Heber and Malchiel. <sup>18</sup> These were the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bore to Jacob: sixteen persons. <sup>19</sup> The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife, were Joseph and Benjamin. <sup>20</sup> And to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him. <sup>21</sup> The sons of Benjamin were Belah, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard. <sup>22</sup> These were the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob: fourteen persons in all. <sup>23</sup> The son of Dan was Hushim. <sup>24</sup> The sons of Naphtali were Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem. <sup>25</sup> These were the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and she bore these to Jacob: seven persons in all. <sup>26</sup> All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all. <sup>27</sup> And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy. <sup>28</sup> Then he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way to Goshen. And they came to the land of Goshen. <sup>29</sup> So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him, and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. <sup>30</sup> And Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive." <sup>31</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and say to him, 'My brothers and those of my father's house, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me. <sup>32</sup> 'And the men are shepherds, for their occupation has been to feed livestock; and they have brought their flocks, their herds, and all that they have.' <sup>33</sup> "So it shall be, when Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' <sup>34</sup> "that you shall say, 'Your servants' occupation has been with livestock from our youth even till now, both we and also our fathers,' that you may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."