

## *Patriarchs Study and Discussion Questions*

### *Lesson Nine: Joseph's Exaltation – Genesis 41-45*

Genesis 41: Read Genesis 41-45 in one sitting.

- 1) Recalling how Genesis 40 ended, what are the implications of the writer's opening words in Genesis 41: "When two full years had passed...?"
  
- 2) a) How many years did Joseph endure humiliation? (Compare Genesis 37:2 and 41:46.)  
 b) According to verses 14 and 41, what events occurred quickly and unexpectedly?
  
- 3) With Joseph's sudden exaltation in mind, read Psalm 30:5b and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What lessons can we learn from these passages?

Genesis 41

- 4) Which phrase in Joseph's first recorded words spoken outside prison summarizes an important lesson learned through years of servitude and suffering (41:16)? What was the lesson (implied by his words)?
  
- 5) Refer to Genesis 41:41. What else had Joseph presumably learned in Potiphar's house and in prison that equipped him for his new role?

- 6) Reread Genesis 41:32. Pharaoh's dream came in two forms. Can you tell of an experience where God used repetition to make sure you clearly understood something He was saying to you?

Genesis 42-44

- 7) What was the significance of Joseph's brothers bowing down to him (42:6)?
- 8) Read Genesis 41:56-57 and 42:3. List the people who would receive help from Joseph. What promise had God made to Abraham that was partially fulfilled in this event (see Genesis 12:3b)?
- 9) According to Genesis 42:15-16, Joseph tested his brothers. How and why did he do this (chapters 42-44)?

Genesis 44-45

- 10) Reread Judah's speech to Joseph in Genesis 44:18-34. For whom is Judah concerned in verses 30 and 31? In what way has Judah changed since chapter 38?
- 11) Try to imagine yourself in Joseph's place. What do you think caused his tears in Genesis 45:2?

- 12) When Jacob's sons told him Joseph was alive, "the spirit of their father Jacob revived" (Genesis 45:27). Whose spirit can you revive with words of encouragement today?

Genesis 41-45

- 13) What part of this drama did you most enjoy?

- 14) How do these four chapters show that God's work in one life spills over to impact the lives of many others? Cite verses if you can.

- 15) Give an example of God's work in another person's life spilling over to impact you for good?