**SDG - Lesson #25**

**Genesis – Chapter 45**

1. “Then Joseph could not control himself.” What caused this?

The love that Judah had for his father and his willingness to take Benjamin’s place brought a flood of emotions to Joseph. There was truly a change in his brothers.

2. Who did Joseph send of the room? Why?

Joseph sent the Egyptians out. The Egyptians did not think highly of the Hebrew people. This action would:

1. Protect his reputation with Egyptians
2. Allow him to speak candidly
3. Protect his brothers’ reputation. The Egyptians did not know they had sold Joseph and there was no need for them to know.
4. This allowed him to speak to his brothers in Hebrew.

3. How did the brothers react to Joseph’s revelation, “I am Joseph”? Why?

They were dismayed and couldn’t believe it. Joseph was dressed like an Egyptian, had been speaking Egyptian and it was unheard of for a slave to become a ruler.

4. What was the first step that Joseph took to help his brothers understand that he truly was Joseph? What was his second step?

Joseph told them to come close to him so that they could recognize him. He then told them that he was their brother whom they had sold into slavery.

5. According to Joseph, why had he been sold into slavery?

Joseph said it was God’s plan so that he could preserve life.

6. What does Joseph reveal in verse 6? What is unusual about this revelation? Why did Joseph reveal this?

Joseph revealed that there had been two years of famine and there was going to be five more years. This is quite a revelation because in saying this Joseph is claiming to know the future. Joseph had just told them it was God’s plan for him to be sold so he could preserve life. This revelation, tied to his words about God’s plan indicates that God had made it known to him.

7. What is meant by the phrase, “a father to Pharaoh?”

As an adviser, Joseph would have given advice to Pharaoh like a father to a son. Some scholars believe this means that Pharaoh had died, and his son had taken the throne and relied on Joseph for direction and advice.

8. What were the four parts of Joseph’s message to his father? (vs. 9)

Joseph’s message:

1. Revealed that he was alive and had power by saying, “Thus says your son Joseph.”
2. Gave credit to God for making him lord of all Egypt.
3. Told Jacob to come to him.
4. Told Jacob not to tarry or waste time. This last part was probably a result of Judah’s talk with Joseph and his sharing that Jacob had delayed their return.

9. Read Romans 8:28. Interpret what Joseph has said in the context if this verse.

Joseph loved the Lord and was called according to His purpose. God’s purpose for Joseph was to save his family. Therefore, God used the evil action of his brothers to bring about good.

10. Read 1st Corinthians 10:31. Interpret what Joseph has said and done in the context of this verse.

In everything Joseph did and said he brought glory to God. His deeds were righteous, and people noticed this. But, Joseph never took the credit; he always gave the credit to God.

11. Read Genesis 15:13-16. What is the significance of these verses when compared to 45:10-11?

God had told Abram that his descendants would live in a foreign land for 400 years. Joseph’s invitation or statement to Jacob is the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy.

12. Where did Joseph say his father would live? What do we know about this land from these verses?

Jacob would live in the land of Goshen. This land was close to where Joseph lived and would be able to support Jacob’s flocks and herds. From this we can infer that it was an area that had water. This makes its likely location in the region of Nile’s delta.

13. Why did Joseph mention that his brother’s eyes had seen, and Benjamin’s eyes had seen that he was truly Joseph?

His brothers were going to have to admit to their father that they had lied to him. Benjamin was a witness to the fact.

14. What is the significance of Joseph’s kissing his brothers?

This is known as a kiss of peace. This was Joseph’s way of showing that there was truly peace between him and his brothers.

15. What is the significance of Joseph’s brothers talking to him? (vs.15) This is a sign of reconciliation.

16. How did Pharaoh respond to the news that Joseph’s brothers had come to Egypt? Why?

Pharaoh gave Joseph as order to bring his family to Egypt. Joseph had saved the entire country of Egypt. Pharaoh is returning the favor.

17. Joseph gave his brothers gifts, wagons and provisions for their and their father’s journey. He then sent them on their way and said, “Do not quarrel on the way?” Why?

This was an admonition to tell the truth to their father. On their way back they would undoubtedly think about how they were going to tell their father what they had done. They were not to waste time on such efforts.

18. How did the brothers inform their father about Joseph?

They did not bring up the past, they simply said, “Joseph is still alive and he is ruler over Egypt.”

19. How did Jacob respond to this?

Jacob was numb, he didn’t believe until he was told everything.

20. How long had it been since Jacob had seen Joseph?

According to 41:46, Joseph was 30 years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh. Since the 7 years of plenty and two years of famine had passed, Joseph was 39 years old. According to 37:2, he was 17 when he was sold. Twenty-two years had passed.

21. What is the meaning of the phrase, “before I die”? (see - 37:35)

Jacob had said he would see Joseph again when he died. This is a statement of triumph. He wouldn’t see Joseph in death! He would see him before he dies!

Chapter 46

22. Why would Jacob stop in Beersheba and offer sacrifices there?

Both Abraham and Isaac had lived there. It was where Abraham entered into a covenant with Abimelech. It marked the southern border of the Promised Land. Before he left the land, Jacob worshipped God.

23. What was the result of Jacob’s sacrifices?

God came to him in a dream and told him:

1. To go to Egypt and not be afraid
2. He would become a great nation
3. He would return (at his burial)
4. Joseph would close his eyes in death

24. How is the recording of Jacob’s family presented? (vss. 8-26)

The sons of Jacob are arranged in four groups according to their mothers.

25. How many descendants of Jacob entered Egypt?

Sixty-descendants. This did not include his three remaining wives or his sons’ wives.

26. How many sons did Joseph have?

Joseph had two sons.

27. How does Moses, the author, come up with the number of Jacob’s house being 70? What is the significance of this number?

It is the sum of:

1. His 66 descendants
2. Joseph’s two sons
3. Joseph himself
4. Jacob himself.

70 is the number of perfect completion.

28. Who did Jacob send ahead of him to prepare the way? Why?

Jacob sent Judah. By this time, it is apparent that Jacob had raised Judah to the position heir or first-born. Judah had pledged to care for Benjamin. Not only did he do that he also came back with the news of Joseph. Judah is the one who also talked his father into letting them go to Egypt.

29. Why did Joseph go to meet his family?

By taking his chariot and going to meet his family, Joseph, as a ruler of Egypt, was showing the great importance of these immigrants.

30. What was meant when Jacob said, “Now let me die?”

This puts his reunion with Joseph as the highlight of his life. Jacob needed nothing more.

31. Why did Joseph tell his brothers to tell Pharaoh that they were keepers of livestock?

This was a very honest answer. It let Pharaoh know the kind of land they needed. At the same time the Egyptians saw shepherds as an abomination. Therefore, Pharaoh would give them good pasture in a separate area of Goshen.

32. Joseph’s advice was very wise. How would this advice benefit or bless the following generations of the Hebrew people?

Since they were set off from the Egyptians, it helped preserve their cultural heritage, faith, and beliefs.