

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.

Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway! Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)

Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)

Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)

Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker: If you had a country that you had to move to, which one would you choose- and why?

Read Genesis 45:16-28

The Hunger that leads to death

Think about the situation Jacob's family finds themselves in when the brother's made this last trip to Egypt. What worries did they have? (Genesis 43 if you want a reminder)

Think about all the interactions Joseph has had with his brothers up until this point of the story. How would you characterize that relationship?

- Full of deceit and suspicion
- Rocky, at best
- Outright hostile
- Other: _____

The scriptures tell us that we can "overcome evil with good." Have you seen this worked out in your or someone else's life? What was the result?

Despite their strained relationship, Joseph still turns his blessings into his family's blessings. What are good ways to "bless those who curse you":

- When you've been hurt?
- When you've been cheated of something?
- When you've been taken for granted?
- When you've been forgotten?

How might the life of this family change after they move down to Egypt?

The Satisfaction that comes with life

Look at Jacob's first response to the brother's (v.26). What might have Jacob had the hardest time believing?

- That his 11 "surviving" sons all came back, and with food in a famine?
- That Jacob, "eaten by ferocious animals" 20 years ago is alive?
- That the same Jacob is not just alive, but "ruler over all Egypt?"
- That his sons were finally telling him the whole truth?
- Other: _____

Jacob "the deceiver" is renamed to Israel "struggled with God and man and prevailed", why might the text switch from calling him Jacob to Israel when he hears of Joseph's life?

Joseph's "resurrection" leads to Jacob's revivification. Joseph sees God working each step of the way, but Jacob spends decades in the dark, and he's still bitter years later. Do you feel God is working in your struggles? Does He feel distant?

Colossians 1:18 tells us that Christ, in His resurrection, is like the head. We, as the body, are sure to follow.

How does Christ's resurrection provide comfort when you think of:

- Financial hardship
- Strife in relationships
- The sins of others
- Your own sin
- Death

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
