

Sermon Questions for Life Groups
Joseph, Jacob and the End of Genesis
Genesis 49:22-50:26
Pastor John Mahaffey
Sunday June 19, 2016

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. Jacob's pronouncement of these final blessings foretells the future of the tribes of Israel, with special emphasis on Joseph. Read Hos 12:8 and discuss this statement in the context of Jacob's blessings. How does this relate to Gen 48:20-22? Now read Hos 11:12- 12:14 and discuss the fuller context of this passage.
2. Read Gen 50:22-26 which describes the death of Joseph. Then read Joshua 24:32 for a further detailing of the final resting place of Joseph.
3. Comparing 50:1-13 with 28:13-15, reflect how faithful God had been in the fulfillment of His promises even in Jacob's own lifetime. Reflect on Psalm 146: 5,6.
4. Why were the brothers slow to believe that Joseph had forgiven them? What was Joseph's reaction? Do we ever similarly grieve God?
5. Why did Joseph remain so free from bitterness in the face of underserved suffering, and so unspoiled by sudden great responsibility? (consider Gen 39:9 and Gen. 50:20)
6. Consider Joseph as a 'type' of Christ. How many parallels can you find?
7. Pastor John commented that Genesis clearly reveals God's initiative in drawing us to Him. Why then is it our natural tendency to not seek Him?
8. We were warned that refusing to forgive is the highest form of arrogance – what in your life do you need to address to address an incomplete forgiveness?
9. What NEW understanding(s) of God do you have, as a result of this series in Genesis?