



Life Group
Sermon Guide Questions
2 AUGUST 2026

THE BIGGER STORY

PART 2:

WHEN MY SCENE ENDS

GENESIS 46-50

Questions for Further Discussion: Read Genesis 46:29-30, 47:29-31, 48:1-4, 49:28-33, 50:1-6

1) **Read Genesis 46:28-30:** After 22 years of believing Joseph was dead, Jacob finally sees his son again and says, *"Now I can die."*

- Why do you think seeing Joseph alive gave Jacob such peace? What does Jacob's statement reveal about his attitude toward death?
- Is there anything about Jacob's perspective that you find attractive-or difficult?

Read Philippians 1:21-24: How does Paul's attitude toward life and death resemble Jacob's?

2) **Read Genesis 47:7-10:** Jacob describes his 130 years as a "pilgrimage" and says they have been "few and difficult." Think back over Jacob's life: family conflict, deception, fleeing for his life, difficult marriages, conflict among his children, losing Joseph, famine, and finally moving to Egypt.

- Why is it significant that Jacob describes his life as a pilgrimage?
- How does Jacob's honesty about life's difficulty challenge the idea that a faithful life should necessarily be an easy life?
- How does **Romans 8:18-25** help us understand the relationship between present suffering and future hope?

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3) **Read Genesis 47:27-31:** Jacob makes Joseph swear that he will not bury him in Egypt but will take him back to Canaan. This wasn't merely a burial preference. Jacob was clinging to God's covenant promise concerning the land.

- Why was it important to Jacob to be buried in Canaan? What does his request tell us about what Jacob believed about God's promises?
- **Hebrews 11:13-16** describes God's people as people who recognize that they are "strangers and exiles" on earth. How does that help us understand Jacob and give us peace when it comes to die?

4) **Read Genesis 48:1-4, 15-16:** When Jacob is dying, he summons his strength and reminds Joseph of what God has done and promised. He doesn't begin with his possessions, his accomplishments, or his final financial instructions. He reminds Joseph of God's covenant.

- Why do you think Jacob's final words to Joseph focus so much on God's faithfulness?
- What would you say are the three or four biggest ways God has been faithful to you? How might regularly remembering those things change the way you face your own future?

5) **Read Genesis 48:15-16:** Jacob blesses Joseph's sons and says: "The God before whom my fathers' Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long..." Jacob's final testimony is essentially: **"God has been faithful to me."**

- What do you think Jacob most wanted Joseph, Ephraim, and Manasseh to remember about him?
- What would you hope your children, grandchildren, or closest friends would say about your faith after you are gone? Would they primarily remember what you accomplished, what you owned, or what you believed about God? What story of God's faithfulness in your life do you need to tell the next generation?

Read Psalm 78:4-7: Why does Scripture place such importance on one generation telling the next about God's works?



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6) **Read Genesis 49:29–33; 50:12-14:** Jacob clearly tells his sons what he wants done with his body. After he dies, his sons carry out his wishes together. The sermon points out that preparation isn't commanded in Scripture, but it can be a profound act of love toward those who remain.

- Why do you think people are often reluctant to talk about death or make plans for it? How might planning ahead actually be an act of **love rather than morbidity**?
- What could we do now to make things easier for those we leave behind?

7) **Read Genesis 49:33; 50:15-26:** Jacob dies. His sons mourn. They bury him. Then life continues. But God's covenant continues through the family.

- What strikes you most about the way Genesis describes Jacob's death: "he was gathered to his people"? Do you find those words peaceful or troubling? How does Jacob's death demonstrate that his scene ended, but God's story did not?

If your scene ended sooner than you expected, what would you most want the people you love to know about God's faithfulness to you?

