

# Small Group Guide: Jacob's Journey to Egypt

Genesis 46:1-27 | The Story of Joseph: Seeing the Bigger Picture (Week 14)

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## Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

**Icebreaker Question:** What's one significant moment when you felt God's presence after a long period of waiting or silence?

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## Review Key Points (5 minutes)

### Quick Recap:

- Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers and explained God's plan
  - Jacob (Israel) and his family prepared to relocate to Egypt during the famine
  - Jacob stopped to worship at Beersheba, where God spoke to him
  - God reassured Jacob and promised to be with him in Egypt
  - The family of 70 men traveled to Egypt, preserving the covenant line
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## Discussion Questions

### Section 1: Worship in Times of Transition (15 minutes)

**Genesis 46:1** - *"So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac."*

1. **Why do you think Jacob stopped to worship before completing his journey to Egypt?** What does this teach us about approaching major life decisions?
2. **Jacob hadn't heard from God in over 20 years** (since Genesis 35). During that time, he lost his wife Rachel, his father Isaac, and believed Joseph was dead.
  - Have you experienced seasons of spiritual silence? How did you respond?
  - What does Jacob's continued worship despite silence teach us?
3. **The sermon stated: "God was working, even in the waiting."**
  - Where have you seen this truth in your own life?

- How can we maintain faith when God seems silent?

## Section 2: God's Reassuring Promises (15 minutes)

**Genesis 46:3-4** - *"I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. I myself will go down with you to Egypt..."*

4. **God told Jacob four specific things:**

- Don't be afraid
- I keep my promises
- I will be with you
- You'll die peacefully with Joseph near you

**Which of these reassurances do you most need to hear in your current season? Why?**

5. **Jacob had reasons to fear going to Egypt** (Abraham's earlier mistake there, God telling Isaac not to go).

- What fears or past experiences sometimes hold you back from obedience?
- How does God's promise "I will be with you" address our fears?

6. **God connected this moment to His promise to Abraham 215 years earlier.**

- How does remembering God's past faithfulness strengthen your faith today?
- What promises from Scripture do you need to hold onto right now?

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## Section 3: Thinking in Generations (15 minutes)

**Genesis 46:8-27** - *The list of 70 men who went to Egypt*

7. **The sermon said: "Jacob sees a famine; God sees a future nation."**

- How does this shift in perspective change the way we view our current circumstances?
- What might God be doing in your life that's bigger than what you can currently see?

8. **These 70 men would become the nation of Israel.**

- Why does God care so much about preserving generations?
- How does this passage show that "God thinks in generations"?

9. **Regarding generational faithfulness, the sermon challenged:**

- *"Those who come before them, be faithful (prayer, example, worship, service)"*
- *"Those who are coming behind, step up and trust God (He wants to use you)"*

Which group do you fall into? What is one specific way you can respond to this challenge this week?

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## Key Takeaways

Choose 2-3 to highlight based on your group's discussion:

1. **Worship should mark our transitions** - Jacob paused to seek God before making a major move
2. **God's silence doesn't mean God's absence** - He was working during Jacob's 20+ years of waiting
3. **God's promises are multi-generational** - What He starts in one generation, He completes in another
4. **Fear is normal, but God's presence overcomes it** - "Do not be afraid...I will be with you"
5. **Our faithfulness impacts the next generation** - We're part of something bigger than ourselves
6. **God sees the bigger picture when we only see the immediate problem** - Trust His perspective

## Practical Applications

### Individual Application (Choose 1-2)

**This week, I will:**

- **Pause to worship** before making a significant decision or transition
- **Journal about a "waiting season"** and look for evidence of God's hidden work during that time
- **Memorize Genesis 46:3-4** to combat fear with God's promises
- **Reach out to someone from a different generation** (older or younger) to encourage their faith
- **Pray specifically** for the next generation in my family or church

- [ ] **Share my testimony** with a younger believer about God's faithfulness through difficult seasons
- [ ] **List God's past faithfulness** in my life to strengthen my faith for current challenges

## Group Application

**As a group, we commit to:**

- [ ] Praying specifically for the students and next generation in our church
  - [ ] Finding a practical way to support youth ministry this month
  - [ ] Sharing stories of God's faithfulness across generations in future meetings
  - [ ] Mentoring or being mentored by someone from a different generation
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## Closing Reflection (5 minutes)

**Read together:** *"God often uses the faithfulness of one generation to shape the faith of the next."*

**Silent Reflection Questions:**

- What is God asking me to trust Him with right now?
  - How can my faithfulness today impact someone else's tomorrow?
  - What step of obedience do I need to take, even if I'm afraid?
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## Prayer Time (10 minutes)

**Prayer Focus:**

- Thank God for His faithfulness through generations in our families and church
- Ask for courage to obey even when afraid
- Pray for the next generation to step up and trust God
- Pray for patience and faith during seasons of waiting
- Ask God to help us see the bigger picture He's working on

**Close with this prayer or your own:**

*"Father, like Jacob, we pause to worship You in our transitions. Thank You that Your silence never means Your absence. Help us trust that You're working even when we can't see it. Give us courage to move forward when You call, knowing You go with us. Use our faithfulness today to impact generations we*

*may never meet. Help us see beyond our immediate circumstances to the bigger story You're writing. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

### **For Next Week**

- Read Genesis 46:28-47:12 (Jacob meets Pharaoh)
- Reflect on how you've seen God work through your obedience this week
- Come prepared to share one way you applied this week's lesson