

# Small Group Guide: Settling into Egypt

The Story of Joseph Week 15 | Genesis 46:28-47:12

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## Opening Prayer & Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

**Ice Breaker Question:** What is one of the longest waits you've experienced for something important? How did it feel when that wait finally ended?

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## Review the Big Idea (5 minutes)

This week we saw Jacob and Joseph reunited after 22 years of separation. Through Joseph's wisdom and God's provision, the family settles in Goshen, Egypt. We explored the question: **Is it ever too late for heart change or to right a wrong?**

**Key Verse:** *"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation."* - Luke 2:29-30

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## Discussion Questions (30-40 minutes)

### Section 1: Reunion and Fulfillment

- Jacob waited 22 years to see Joseph again.** What emotions do you think Jacob experienced during those years? How might prolonged grief or loss have shaped his faith?
- Compare Jacob's reunion with Joseph to Simeon's encounter with baby Jesus (Luke 2:25-32).** What do both stories teach us about God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises, even when the wait seems unbearable?
- Joseph was taken from Jacob at age 17, and Jacob lived exactly 17 more years with Joseph.** What does this symmetry suggest about God's attention to detail in our lives?

### Section 2: Joseph's Protective Strategy

- Joseph strategically placed his family in Goshen to keep them separate from Egyptian culture.** Why was separation important? When is it appropriate for Christians to maintain separation from the surrounding culture today?
- Joseph wanted his family to be seen as "an abomination" to Egyptians.** What does this tell us about Joseph's priorities? How do we balance being "in the world but not of it" in our own lives?
- Joseph coached his brothers on what to say to Pharaoh.** How does this demonstrate both wisdom and care? When have you needed to help someone navigate a difficult situation?

### Section 3: Living as Sojourners

7. **Jacob described himself as a "sojourner" whose days were "few and evil/hard."** How does viewing ourselves as sojourners change the way we approach our daily lives, possessions, and priorities?
  8. **Read Hebrews 11:8-10.** Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all lived as sojourners looking forward to "the city whose designer and builder is God." How does this eternal perspective impact the way you handle current difficulties?
  9. **Jacob, the deceiver and blessing-stealer, ends his life blessing Pharaoh.** What does this transformation teach us about God's ability to redeem our past and change our character?
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## Key Takeaways (10 minutes)

Discuss which of these truths resonates most with your group:

1. **God wastes nothing** - Even Jacob's painful, complicated life was used by God for His purposes.
  2. **We are sojourners** - This world is not our final home; we're passing through on the way to something better.
  3. **Separation protects identity** - Sometimes keeping distance from cultural influences helps preserve our faith and focus on God.
  4. **It's never too late for transformation** - Jacob went from deceiver to blessing-giver; God can change anyone at any stage of life.
  5. **The greatest gift we can leave is God's blessing** - Like Jacob blessing Pharaoh, sharing the Gospel is the most valuable thing we offer others.
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## Practical Application (15 minutes)

Choose 1-2 of these applications to commit to this week:

### Individual Reflections:

- **Identify one area where you've been living like Egypt is "home"** rather than living as a sojourner. What needs to change?
- **Journal about your spiritual journey.** Like Jacob reflecting on his "few and hard" years, how has God been faithful even through difficulties?
- **Consider what "cultural separations" you need to maintain** to protect your walk with God and your family's faith.

### Group Actions:

- **Share the blessing.** Identify someone this week (believer or unbeliever) whom you can intentionally bless with encouragement, prayer, or the Gospel.
  - **Practice eternal perspective.** When facing a current challenge, ask: "How would I view this differently if I truly believed I'm just passing through?"
  - **Accountability partners:** Pair up and share one area where you struggle to live as a sojourner rather than settling into worldly patterns.
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## Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

### Prayer Focus:

- Pray for those waiting for God's promises to be fulfilled
  - Ask God to help us live as sojourners with eternal perspective
  - Thank God for His transforming power that can change anyone
  - Pray for opportunities to bless others with the Gospel this week
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## Before Next Week

**Read ahead:** Genesis 47:13-31 (next week's passage)

**Memorize:** *"For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God."* - Hebrews 11:10

**Reflect:** In what ways are you settling into "Egypt" rather than preparing for your true home?

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*Remember: The greatest thing we can leave with others is the blessing of God and the Gospel message.*