

Genesis 47-50

Psalms 90:12 (NIV)

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

1. God's wisdom is greater than our vision (47)

- a. Jacob is greeted and given land (47:1-12)
- b. Severe famine exhausted everyone's resources (47:13-19)
- c. Joseph saves the people through servitude (47:20-27)

2. Jacob finally learned to trust God (47:28-31) (48) (50:1-14)

- a. Jacob exercised faith by believing God

"While they themselves were silent the grave cried out that not even death would keep them from taking possession of the land." - John Calvin

- a. Jacob exercised faith through worship and rest
- c. Jacob exercised faith through obedience
- d. He exercised faith by preparing his family for the future

3. Joseph continually trusted in God (50:15-21)

- a. He acknowledged the providence of God
- b. He confirmed the future plan of God

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. If you could write your own epitaph, how would it read?
2. What are you most impressed with in Jacob's life? What are you most impressed with in Joseph's life?
3. Hebrews 11 commends both Jacob and Joseph. Does it surprise you what they were each commended for? Why or why not?
4. What impressions would the end of this book leave with our original audience?
5. What has the Genesis series taught you? What questions has it surfaced for you?
6. If you were a Jewish refugee fleeing Egypt, and wandering in the desert, would the message of Genesis have encouraged you to trust God? How about as an Alaskan refugee? Does this "family story" build your trust in our creator and redeemer?