

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

**QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 1**

**OVERVIEW OF THE TEXT**

1. Read Genesis 26 - 50 in approximately one hour. You are not reading for depth information, but to find the main themes in each chapter. On the chart below write a title of seven words or less for each chapter.

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QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 2

ISAAC DECEIVES ABIMELECH

Genesis 26:1 - 35

1. There are five paragraphs in our best documents of Genesis chapter 26. Read each paragraph carefully looking for summary information for each paragraph. On the chart below, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph in the chapter.

26:1-11	
26:12-17	
26:18-22	
26:23-33	
26:34, 35	

2. In chapter 26:1-11, the author describes the famine and what this has meant in the life of Isaac.
  - a. God instructed Isaac not to go down to Egypt. Why was this so important?
  - b. Read 26:3 again. What was God doing?
  - c. What was God talking about when he said "all these lands"?
  - d. Compare God's promise to Isaac with God's promise to Abraham in 22:15-19. What did you learn?
  - e. Compare Isaac's deception of Abimelech, Genesis 26:7-11, with Abraham's deception of Abimelech, in Genesis 20:9-17. What did you learn?
  - f. Both Isaac and Abimelech violated a covenant made between Abraham and Abimelech. What is the significance of this?
  
3. In 26:12-17, Abimelech challenged Isaac.
  - a. There are some surprises in verse 12.
    - (1). What were the surprises?
    - (2). What do they mean?
  - b. In verses 12-14 there is an emphasis on the wealth of Isaac. What does this emphasis accomplish?
  - c. In Genesis 26:15, the author describes the struggle over wells and the destruction of these wells.
    - (1). Why was this such an issue ?
    - (2). What does this experience tell you about Isaac?
  - d. In 26:16, 17, there is an encounter between Isaac and Abimelech.
    - (1). What precipitated this encounter?
    - (2). Read this paragraph again. Put yourself in Isaac's position. What would you feel?
    - (3). What did you learn?
  
4. In 26:18-22, Isaac's men were digging wells and the herdsmen of Gerar were filling them up.
  - a. The author mentions that these wells were dug by Abraham. What is the significance of that fact?
  - b. What does it mean that Isaac was digging wells?
  - c. In 26:20, Isaac's men dug the well, but the Gerar herdsmen said, "the water is ours." Why would they say that?
  - d. In 26:21, Isaac's men dug a well and the Gerar herdsmen claimed it. Isaac's men dug another well, but no one challenged them. Why the difference?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- e. Study the names that Isaac gave each of these wells. What did you discover?
  - f. Notice the credit that Isaac gives concerning their uncontested well. What was he saying?
5. In Genesis 26:23-33, the tide has changed. Abimelech comes seeking a covenant with Isaac..
- a. In 26:24, God made a promise to Isaac.
    - (1). What promises did God make?
    - (2). Why did God make these promises?
  - b. In verse 25, Isaac responded to God's promises.
    - (1). How does Isaac respond?
    - (2). What does each response mean?
  - c. In 26:26, Abimelech came to see Isaac. Abimelech brought a personal advisor and a general with him. What is the significance of this?
  - d. In 26:27, Isaac responded to the visit of the three men.
    - (1). What was his response?
    - (2). What was the emotional tone of this event?
    - (3). What was the basis of Isaac's response?
  - e. In 26:28, 29, the three men affirmed that God was with Isaac. Notice their emphasis, "There ought to be a sworn agreement between us - between us and you."
    - (1). Study this affirmation.
    - (2). What did you learn?
  - f. In 26:31, the three men requested a covenant, but Isaac prepared a feast.
    - (1). Why would he do this when he was preparing to enter into a covenant?
    - (2). Compare and contrast the way Abimelech and the herdsmen sent Isaac away with the way Isaac sent the three men away.
  - g. In 26:32, 33, the author indicates that **on the same day** that Isaac was kind to his adversaries, his servants discovered water in the well they were digging. What is the significance of that information?
6. In Genesis 26:34, 35, the spotlight shifts to Esau.
- a. Verse 34 indicates that this happened when Esau was 40 years old. What makes this information meaningful?
  - b. The author tells us, in verse 35, that Esau married two Hittite wives. What is the significance of this information?
  - c. What does this tell you about Esau?
  - d. Why would the author include this little glimpse (verses 34, 35) of Esau immediately following the longer view of Jacob's actions (verses 1-33)?
7. There are serious contrasts in this chapter.
- a. Identify the contrasts.
  - b. What do these contrasts teach you?
8. Review this chapter. What have you learned about God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 3

JACOB DECEIVES ISAAC, FLEES ESAU

GENESIS 27:1 - 45

1. In our best manuscripts, there are five paragraphs in Genesis 27:1-45. On the following chart, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

27:1-4	
27:5-17	
27:18-29	
27:30-40	
27:41-45	

2. In verses 1 - 4, Isaac told Esau to prepare a meal for him.
  - a. What was the purpose of this meal?
  - b. What would have been different if they had forgotten about the food?
  - c. In 27:1, the author speaks of Esau as his "older son." What is the significance of this piece of information?
3. In 27:5 - 17, Rebekah schemes to deceive her husband.
  - a. Why would Rebekah want to deceive Isaac?
  - b. What impact does the Lord's message to Rebekah, in Genesis 25:23, have upon the events in this chapter?
  - c. Evaluate the parental example you see in Rebekah as described in this paragraph.
  - d. In this paragraph, Jacob is afraid of being cursed by Isaac. Who is taking the risks here and how serious are these risks?
  - e. Read Genesis 27:11, 12, again. What is the nature of Jacob's reluctance?
  - f. Study 27:13 again. This statement could have far reaching effects on Rebekah's life. See if you can detect some hint of Rebekah's motive.
  - g. In 27:15-17, the author described a tense, tragic event.
    - (1). In 27:15, the author indicates that Rebekah took "the best clothes of Esau her older son." What difference could this make? Why would she choose the "best clothes"?
    - (2). What reason can you find for the "best clothes" being kept in Rebekah's tent?
4. In 27:18 - 29, the author describes Jacob's deception of Esau.
  - a. In this passage, Jacob did and said several things that deceived his blind father.
    - (1). What were these deceptions?
    - (2). What are the implications of these deceptions?
  - b. Put yourself in the place of Isaac in this experience. What feelings would you have?
  - c. It appears that Isaac did not recognize that he was touching the fur coat of a goat instead of the hairy arm of his son. What does this tell you?
  - d. In 27:24, Isaac asked an emotional question. What does this question tell you?
  - e. In 27:25, Isaac asked his son to bring the food to him.
    - (1). What were the motives behind this request?
    - (2). Did this exercise settle Isaac's mind?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- f. In 27:26, Isaac instructed his son to come and kiss him.
    - (1). What was the significance of this request?
    - (2). What does this tell you about Isaac?
  - g. In 27:28, 29, Isaac blessed his son. Carefully study each statement in this fatherly blessing.
    - (1). In verse 28, Isaac blessed Jacob with four things:
      - (a). What are they?
      - (b). What is the importance of each blessing ?
    - (2). In Genesis 27:29a. There are two parts to this statement.
      - (a). What is the difference between the two?
      - (b). What is Isaac really promising Jacob in this statement?
    - (3). In the second part of verse 29 (29b), there are two more promises to Jacob.
      - (a). What does each promise mean?
      - (b). What is the difference between the two?
5. In Genesis 27:29c, Isaac blessed Jacob with two more statements.
- a. What were these blessings?
  - b. What did each one mean?
  - c. What effect do these final two blessings have on the overall paternal blessing Isaac gave Jacob?
6. In Genesis 27:30-40, the author describes Esau's discovery of Jacob's deception.
- a. In 27:30, Esau brought the food he prepared to his father.
    - (1). What instructions did Esau give Isaac?
    - (2). What is the emphasis of these instructions?
    - (3). What right did Esau have to make these requests?
  - b. In 27:32, the author describes Isaac's response to Esau's instructions.
    - (1). How did Esau respond?
    - (2). Why would he respond in this way?
    - (3). What indication is there of Isaac's emotional state when this happened?
  - c. In 27:33b, Isaac said, "I blessed him - and indeed he will be blessed."
    - (1). What does this comment mean?
    - (2). If Isaac was tricked, as he was, why then does he insist, "... and indeed he will be blessed"?
  - d. In Genesis 27:34, Esau reacts to Isaac's shocking discovery. Put yourself in Esau's situation.
    - (1). How would you feel?
    - (2). How did Esau conduct himself?
  - e. In Genesis 27:35, Isaac reacted to Esau's shocking outburst.
    - (1). How would Isaac know that Jacob had done this?
    - (2). What does this tell you about their relationship?
  - f. In 27:36, Esau responded to Isaac's discovery.
    - (1). In this verse, Esau did at least three things:
      - (a). What three things did Esau do?
      - (b). What does this tell you about Esau's personality and character?
    - (2). What does this tell you about how Esau solved problems?
    - (3). In this verse, Esau asked two questions?
      - (a). In your own words, what is the answer to each question?
      - (b). What do you learn from each answer?
  - g. In Genesis 27:37, Isaac answers Esau's questions in general terms.
    - (1). What answer does he give?
    - (2). Put yourself in Isaac's position.
      - (a). How would you feel?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (b). What would you say?
  - h. In 27:38, Esau responds to Isaac's disappointing response.
    - (1). Put yourself in Esau's position.
      - (a). How would you feel?
      - (b). What would you say?
    - (2). What was Esau's emotional response?
    - (3). What is the answer to Esau's question in this verse?
  - i. In 27:39, 40, Isaac gives a weak blessing to Esau. Study these verses carefully.
    - (1). Two parts of this blessing, in verse 39, deal with where Esau will live.
      - (a). What are these two parts of the blessing?
      - (b). What does each one mean?
    - (2). Three parts of this blessing, in verse 40, deal with Esau's future relationships.
      - (a). What are these three parts?
      - (b). What does each one mean?
    - (3). Compare the closing statement in Isaac's blessing of Jacob ( 27:29c) with the closing statement of Isaac's blessing of Jacob (27:40b.)
      - (a). What did you learn?
      - (b). In what position did Isaac put himself?
      - (c). In what position did Isaac put Esau?
7. In 27:41-45, Rebekah instructed Jacob to flee from his brother.
- a. In 27:41a, the author gives a description of Esau's feelings toward Jacob at this point.
    - (1). Describe his feelings in your own words.
    - (2). What does this tell you about Esau?
  - b. In 27:41b, Esau talked to himself.
    - (1). What does this mean?
    - (3). What does this tell you about Esau?
    - (4). What would this information mean in a court today?
  - c. In 27:42-44, again tries to control the situation.
    - (1). If Esau spoke to himself, in 27:41b, who could have told Rebekah about it in 27:42?
    - (2). Rebekah described, for Jacob, how Esau reacted to losing the blessing. In your own words, describe her evaluation.
    - (3). There is a basic flaw in Rebekah's plan. What is that flaw?
    - (4). What risks, if any, was Rebekah running by sending Jacob to stay with her brother?
  - d. In Genesis 27:45, Rebekah, described her plan for this cooling down period.
    - (1). What is the plan?
    - (2). What is wrong with it?
8. Look at the picture of Isaac as presented in this chapter.
- a. What actions of his can you find?
  - b. What attitudes of his can you find?
  - c. What does this tell you about the man?
  - d. What observations can you make on the basis of these facts?
9. Look at the picture of Rebekah as presented in this chapter.
- a. What actions of hers can you find?
  - b. What attitudes of hers can you find?
  - c. What does this tell you about her?
  - d. What observations can you make on the basis of these facts?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

9. Look at the picture of Esau as presented in this chapter.
  - a. What actions of his can you find?
  - b. What attitudes of his can you find?
  - c. What does this tell you about him?
  - d. What observations can you make on the basis of these facts?
  
10. Look at the picture of Jacob in this chapter.
  - a. What actions of his can you find?
  - b. What attitudes of his can you find?
  - c. What does this tell you about him?
  - d. What observations can you make on the basis of these facts?
  
11. Look carefully at Isaac's family.
  - a. How would you describe the quality of that relationship?
  - b. What reasons can you give for your conclusions?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 4

JACOB'S VISION AT BETHEL

GENESIS 27:46 - 28:22

1. In our best manuscripts, there are three paragraphs in Genesis 27:46 - 28:22. On the chart which follows, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph:

27:46-28:9	
28:10-17	
28:18-22	

2. In Genesis 27:46-28:8, the author describes Isaac's sending Jacob to Haran.
- a. Look at the experience of Rebekah, both in this paragraph and in chapter 27. How would you describe her spiritual condition?
  - b. Study 27:46 carefully. What information can you glean from Rebekah's statement? What did Rebekah fail to mention?
  - c. Think carefully about the meeting of Jacob and Isaac, apparently the first since Jacob's deception of his father, Isaac.
    - (1). Put yourself in Isaac's position.
      - (a). How would you feel?
      - (b). How would you feel about Jacob?
      - (c). How would you feel about Rebekah?
      - (d). What would be going through your mind?
    - (2). Put yourself in the place of Jacob.
      - (a). What would you be thinking?
      - (b). What would you think about Isaac?
      - (c). What would you think about Rebekah?
      - (d). What would be going through your mind?
    - (3). Put yourself in Rebekah's position.
      - (a). What would you be thinking?
      - (b). What would you think about your husband, Isaac?
      - (c). What would you think about Esau?
      - (d). What would worry you the most?
  - d. In Genesis 28:3, 4, Isaac used a different name for God - "God Almighty" when he blessed Jacob. What is the significance of this change?
    - (1). What is the content of Isaac's blessing upon Jacob?
    - (2). Compare this blessing, Genesis 28:3, 4, with the blessing given to Jacob in 27:27 - 29.
      - (a). In what ways are the blessings similar?
      - (b). In what ways are the blessings dissimilar?
    - (3). In 28:4, Isaac speaks to Jacob about living in the land as an alien. What is the significance of this statement?
  - e. In Genesis 28:6-9, there is a telling contrast between Esau and Jacob. Study these verses carefully.
    - (1). What contrasts, between Jacob and Esau, does the author draw?
    - (2). What does this information tell you?
    - (3). In Genesis 28:9, the author gives some information about the identity of Esau's third wife.



*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (a). What is the importance of the author's emphasis upon the fact that this is the **third** wife?
  - (b). The author carefully describes the genealogy of the third wife. Why is this important?
  - (4). What impact does the origin of the wives of Jacob and Esau have upon their position in terms of God's covenant with Abraham and Isaac?
3. In Genesis 28:10 - 17, the author describes Jacob's dream at Bethel.
- a. In 28:13, the author quoted God's message to Jacob in the dream.
    - (1). God identifies Himself by two different names - "LORD" and "God." Why would this be necessary?
    - (2). Why was it necessary to preface God's message to Jacob by calling Him, "the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac?"
  - b. In Genesis 28:13b-15, God makes some very specific promises to Jacob.
    - (1). What did God promise?
    - (2). What was the significance of these promises?
  - c. In 28:16, 17, the author described Jacob's response to God's promises.
    - (1). How did Jacob respond?
    - (2). What emotions can you identify in the text?
    - (3). Put yourself in the place of Jacob.
      - (a). How would you feel?
      - (b). How would you respond?
      - (c). Why would you respond that way?
4. In 28:18 - 22, the author describes Jacob's covenant with God.
- a. In 28:18, Jacob took his stone pillow and stood it up as a pillar.
    - (1). What is a pillar? (check in a Bible dictionary)
    - (2). Why did Jacob have to stand it up?
    - (3). Why did he pour oil on the pillar?
    - (4). What did this pouring of oil mean?
  - b. In 28:19, Jacob changed the name of the place from "Luz" to "Bethel".
    - (1). Why would he change the name?
    - (2). What is the difference between "Luz" and Bethel? (hint - check the meaning of both names in a Bible Dictionary.)
  - c. In Genesis 28:20-22. Jacob continued his response to God's generous promises.
    - (1). In these three verses, Jacob identifies a covenant between God and himself.
      - (a). What is God's part in this covenant?
      - (b). What is Jacob's part in this covenant?
    - (2). What is the significance of the "tenth" as described in verse 22?
      - (a). What was Jacob saying?
      - (b). What did he mean by these words?
5. Review this whole passage again.
- a. What does God's offer to Jacob say about your life?
  - b. What does God's offer say About our relationship with God?
  - c. What does Jacob's response say about our relationship with God?
  - d. What changes in your life does this passage suggest to you?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 5

LABAN TRICKS JACOB TO MARRY LEAH

GENESIS 29:1 - 35

1. In our best manuscripts there are four paragraphs in Genesis chapter 29. Read each paragraph carefully. On the table below, give each paragraph a title of seven words or less.

29:1-12	
29:13-20	
29:21-30	
29:31-35	

2. In Genesis 29:1-12, the author told of Jacob's arrival in the area of Haran.
- a. In Genesis 29:2, 3, the author described the use of a large stone used to cover the mouth of the well. What might be the purpose of this stone?
  - b. Put yourself in the place of Jacob. How would you feel when you saw the daughter of your uncle Laban?
  - c. In Genesis 29:7, Jacob argued with the shepherds, who were at the well. What was this argument about? What does Jacob want them to do? Why?
  - d. In Genesis 29:8, the shepherds claim that they can't water their sheep until all the flocks have arrived. What difference could that make?
  - e. In Genesis 29:9, 10, the author stresses the fact that Jacob rolled the stone aside. What does this tell you?
  - f. In 29:11, Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep. If you were Rachel, what would you think? If you were one of the shepherds at the well, what would you think?
3. In Genesis 29:13-20, Jacob began his long stay with Laban.
- a. In Genesis 29:13, the author tells us that Laban "hurried" to the well to meet Jacob. Why would he do this?
  - b. In Genesis 29:13, Laban embraced Jacob and kissed him. What would cause him to do this?
  - c. In Genesis 29:14, 15, Laban asked Jacob what his wages should be. That would never happen here. Why would Laban do such an outrageous thing?
  - d. Why did Laban wait a month before making this offer?
  - e. In Genesis 29:16, 17, the author described Laban's daughters. In view of this statement, how would you describe these two women?
  - f. In Genesis 29:18, Jacob loved Rachel and volunteered to work seven years to win her hand in marriage. Evaluate how generous an offer Jacob made.
  - g. Read 29:19 very carefully. Why would Laban make such a statement?
  - h. Read Genesis 29:20 again. Put yourself in Jacob's position. How would you feel?
4. In Genesis 29:21-30, the author describes Jacob's weddings with Leah and Rachel.
- a. In Genesis 29:21, 22, Jacob asked Laban to set up the wedding. Why would Jacob do this?
    - (1). Why would Laban bring all the people together?
    - (2). Why was it important for them to have a feast?
  - b. In Genesis 29:23, it appears that Laban is the one who did wrong in this experience.
    - (1). Is this an accurate perception?
    - (2). In Genesis 29:23, it appears that Laban totally deceived Jacob. Is there any possibility that Jacob was not deceived? Please explain.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- c. Read Genesis 29:24 again carefully. What does this verse tell you?
  - d. In Genesis 29:25, Jacob complained bitterly that he had been deceived. Was Jacob as shocked as he appeared to be? Explain.
  - e. In view of Genesis 29:26, was Laban totally honest with Jacob during the negotiations? Explain.
  - f. Study the exchange between Jacob and Laban as recorded in Genesis 29:27, 28. If you were Jacob, how would you feel?
  - g. Read Genesis 29:30 again. Record each piece of information you discover there. What did you learn?
5. In Genesis 29:31-35, the author described the birth of Leah's four sons.
- a. In Genesis 29:31, the author described the family situation. Look carefully at this verse. Write down everything that you discover.
  - b. In Genesis 29:32, Leah identified the reason she had a boy and why she named him "Reuben."
    - (1). Study this explanation carefully. What did you learn?
    - (2). If you were Rachel, how would you feel at this point?
  - c. In Genesis 29:33, a second baby was born to Leah.
    - (1). Who named the baby? Why?
    - (2). Why was this baby given this name?
    - (3). If you were Rachel, how would you feel now?
  - d. In Genesis 29:34, a third son was born to Leah.
    - (1). Who named this baby? Why?
    - (2). Why was the baby given this name?
    - (3). From this verse, what did Leah know about God?
    - (4). If you were Rachel, how would you feel now?
  - e. In Genesis 29:35, a fourth son was born to Leah.
    - (1). Who named this baby? What does this tell you?
    - (2). Why was this baby called "Judah?"
    - (3). If you were Rachel, how would you feel now?
  - f. Study again the names given these four boys and why these names were given.
    - (1). How did the reasons change between the first and fourth baby?
    - (2). What does this tell you?
6. Study the names of God that are used in this chapter.
- a. What names were used?
  - b. Where in the chapter are these names found?
  - c. What does this tell you?
7. In view of your study of chapter 29, what did you learn which will strengthen your spiritual walk?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 6

STRUGGLES: LEAH VS. RACHEL; LABAN VS. JACOB

GENESIS 30:1 - 43

1. In our best manuscripts there are five paragraphs in Genesis chapter 30. Read each paragraph carefully. On the chart below, record a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

30:1-8	
30:9-13	
30:14-24	
30:25-36	
30:37-43	

2. In Genesis 30:1-8, the author talks about Rachel's handmaid, Bilhah, bearing children.
- Why would Rachel give her handmaid to Jacob to bear children?
  - What emotion, in Rachel, does the author identify? Why would she have this emotion?
  - In Genesis 30:1, Rachel made a seemingly rash statement.
    - What did she say?
    - What did she mean?
    - Why did she make this statement?
  - In Genesis 30:2, Jacob responded to Rachel's outcry.
    - What did Jacob say?
    - What did Jacob mean?
    - What emotion of Jacob's does the author identify?
    - Why would Jacob speak this way?
  - Read Genesis 30:3 carefully.
    - What was Rachel saying?
    - What emotion do you detect in this verse?
  - Read Genesis 30:4, 5 again.
    - What do you feel as you read these verses?
    - If you were Rachel, when this occurred, how would you feel?
  - Read Genesis 30:6 again.
    - What does this verse tell you?
    - What two statements does Rachel make?
    - What does Rachel mean by these statements?
    - What do these two statements tell you?
    - In view of Rachel's religious background, what does this verse tell you about her?
  - In Genesis 30:7, 8, the author described the naming of Naphtali.
    - Why did Bilhah's second son receive his name?
    - What does this tell you about Jacob's family relationships?
    - What was the nature of this struggle?
3. In Genesis 30:9-13, the author dealt with the children Zilpah bore.
- Genesis 30:9 describes a particularly painful situation.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (1). Put yourself in Leah's place. Why would you give your servant Zilpah to Jacob?
  - (2). Why was Leah so determined to have yet another child, even if it meant giving her maidservant to her husband?
  - b. In Genesis 30:10, 11, the author described Leah's response to the birth of Zilpah's son.
    - (1). Why would Leah feel it was good fortune that her hand maid gave birth to a baby fathered by Jacob?
    - (2). What benefit would anyone gain by having one more son when you already had four?
  - c. Genesis 30:12, 13, describe the response of Leah to the birth of Zilpah's second son.
    - (1). The text says nothing about Zilpah's response. Why do you think the author did that?
    - (2). Why was Leah's joy so great that she named the child Asher, when it was Zilpah's baby?
4. In Genesis 30:14-24, the struggle continued between Leah and Rachel.
- a. In Genesis 30:14, the author tells the story of Reuben's mandrakes.
    - (1). The author carefully identifies that this takes place at the time of the wheat harvest. Why would he do this?
    - (2). What was a mandrake? (A Bible dictionary or encyclopedia may be helpful here)
    - (3). Why would Reuben bring these to his mother, Leah?
    - (4). Why would Rachel want some of the mandrakes?
  - b. In Genesis 30:15, Leah and Rachel had a confrontation relating to the mandrakes.
    - (1). In Genesis 30:15, Leah accused Rachel of taking away her husband.
      - (a). Is this true?
      - (b). If so, how could Rachel do that?
    - (2). Leah sarcastically challenged Rachel saying, "Will you take my son's mandrakes too?"
      - (a). Was Rachel trying to **take** Reuben's mandrakes?
      - (b). If not, then why would Leah make such a charge?
    - (3). Read Genesis 30:15 again.
      - (a). How would you describe Leah's emotional state as portrayed here?
      - (b). How would you describe Rachel's emotional state as indicated here?
  - c. In Genesis 30:16, the author described the way Leah dealt with Rachel's request.
    - (1). Put yourself in Jacob's position. How would you feel when Leah said these words to you?
    - (2). What does Leah mean by the word "hired"?
    - (3). Is it true that Leah had "hired" Jacob?
  - d. In Genesis 30:17, the author asserts that "God listened to Leah."
    - (1). What does the author mean when he said, "God listened to Leah"?
    - (2). What observations can you make on the basis of this verse?
    - (3). In view of Leah's background, what can we say about what she did?
    - (4). In what way is there a link between God hearing Leah's prayer and her pregnancy?
  - e. In Genesis 30:18, Leah identified her attitude toward what God had done.
    - 1). In view of the Christian understanding of persons having sexual relationships only with their spouse, how do you understand Leah's statement?
    - (2). How do you understand the fact that Leah called her fifth son "Issachar."
  - f. In Genesis 30:19, 20, Leah spoke about the birth of her sixth son.
    - (1). Leah, coming from an idolatrous background, spoke of her sixth son as a gift from God. What observations can you make about this ?
    - (2). Read these verses again. What do these verses say about the relationship between Jacob and Leah?
    - (3). Put yourself in Leah's place. What kind of conditions would be required to cause you to make such a statement?
  - g. In Genesis 30:21, the author tells us that Leah gave birth to a baby girl.
    - (1). Throughout the book of Genesis, there is little reference to the birth of daughters or of daughters at all. Why would the author change the policy at this point?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (2). Having mentioned the birth of Dinah, there is no further mention of Leah giving birth to children and almost no mention of Leah at all in the rest of the book. What, if anything, does this suggest?
- h. The author pointed out, in Genesis 30:22, that Rachel prayed and God heard her.
- (1). The author begins verse 22 saying "God remembered Rachel." Does this suggest that God had forgotten her? If not, what does it suggest?
- (2). Read Genesis 30:22 again. What observations can you make about the author's statement, "He listened to her and opened her womb"?
- i. In Genesis 30:23, the author described Rachel's response to the birth of her son.
- (1). How did Rachel feel?
- (2). What disgrace was she talking about?
- j. In Genesis 30:24, Rachel said, "May the Lord add to me another son."
- (1). If you were Rachel, what would you have meant by that statement?
- (2). In view of Rachel's idolatrous background, how does this statement relate to her faith?
- (3). Why would she call her first son "Joseph"?
5. Genesis 30:25-36 focuses upon the wage negotiations between Laban and Jacob.
- a. In Genesis 30:25, the author described Jacob's request that Laban send him on his way back to Canaan.
- (1). The author specifically stipulates that this took place after Rachel gave birth to her first son, Joseph. Why would this be important?
- (2). Jacob requested that he be sent on his way. He was a married man with children. What did he mean by this request?
- b. In the last sentence of Genesis 30:26, Jacob said, "You know how much work I've done for you."
- (1). If you were Jacob, what would have meant by these words?
- (2). If you were Laban, how would this statement make you feel?
- c. In Genesis 30:27, Laban responded to Jacob's request.
- (1). What was the atmosphere, the characteristic feeling of Laban's response?
- (2). Laban said he "learned by divination that the Lord has blessed me because of you."
- (a). What evidence of this blessing could Laban point to in his life?
- (b). What does this statement say about the Lord?
- (c). What does this statement say about Laban's spiritual life?
- d. Laban made an offer in Genesis 30:28.
- (1). How generous does that offer appear to be?
- (2). Was Laban offering Jacob a blank check?
- (3). In view of their previous relationships, is there any reason to believe that Laban is quite generous?
- e. In Genesis 30:29, 30, Jacob responds to Laban's question.
- (1). In these verses, Jacob reminded Laban of two things:
- (a). What were the two things?
- (b). Why are they important in these negotiations?
- (2). Jacob concludes his response, in verse 30, with a different concern:
- (a). What is that concern?
- (b). What does this tell us about their previous arrangements?
- (c). What was Jacob saying to his father-in-law?
- f. In Genesis 30:31, 32, the author described the next step in these wage negotiations.
- (1). Why does Laban continue to press Jacob to make a specific request?
- (2). In verse 31, Jacob answered on two levels.
- (a). How would you describe the emotional tone of Jacob's response when he said, "don't give me anything.?"
- (b). Why did Jacob include this sentence?
- (c). In the last part of verse 31 and all of verse 32, Jacob made his request:

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- [1]. Why would Jacob request this kind of animal rather than another?
  - [2]. Why would Jacob request this kind of animal rather than a specific number of animals?
  - [3]. Who was to make the selection?
  - [4]. Why would the identify of the one making the selection be an issue?
  - [5]. Why would Jacob select the "speckled," "spotted," "dark colored lambs," "speckled and spotted goats"?
- g. In Genesis 30:33, the author describes the way Laban will know if Jacob has been faithful to their agreement.
- (1). Why would this be important?
  - (2). What does this say about the relationship between Jacob and Laban?
- h. In Genesis 30:34, 35, the author described Laban's response to Jacob's request.
- (1). In verse 34, Laban did something out of character for him - he did not negotiate at all. Why would he do this?
  - (2). Compare the request (Genesis 30:32) with the action (Genesis 30:35).
    - (a) What comparison or contrast can you find here?
    - (b). What does this tell you about Laban?
- i. In Genesis 30:36, Laban put a distance between his sheep and those of Jacob.
- (1). What is the reason for this?
  - (2). What kind of message would this send to Jacob?
6. In Genesis 30:37-43, Jacob devised a plan to get even with Laban, his father-in-law.
- a. In Genesis 30:37,38, the author described Jacob's plan to insure that the flocks produced as many streaked animals as possible.
- (1). What effect would the peeled branches have upon whether or not the offspring of the animals were streaked or not?
  - (2). What facts does this plan suggest about Jacob?
  - (3). If you believe the striped branches had no effect on the coloring of the lambs, how do you account for the results Jacob achieved?
- b. In Genesis 30:39, the author records that the ewes produced streaked lambs as Jacob designed. Looking at this apparent success through manipulation, can you see any positive quality in Jacob?
- c. In Genesis 30:40-42, the author described a second scheme that Jacob employed.
- (1). What was the scheme?
  - (2). What two results does the author list for us?
  - (3). What was wrong with the scheme?
  - (4). Put yourself in Laban's position. How would you feel when you saw these results materialize?
- d. In Genesis 30:43, the author describes just how wealthy Jacob had become.
- (1). Why did the author find it necessary to mention the servants, camels and donkeys in this description of wealth?
  - (2). What does that tell you about Jacob? About Laban?
7. Read this paragraph again. There is a strong contrast that covers the entire paragraph. Record each contrast that the author mentions, between Jacob and Laban.
- a. What does this tell you about Jacob?
  - b. What does this tell you about Laban?
  - c. What do you observe about God?
8. Reread the entire chapter. There is a series of contrasts in the chapter.
- a. List the details of each contrast.
  - b. What does this tell you about conflict?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- c. Where is God in the midst of the struggles?
9. Think about your life in terms of such conflicts.
- a. Whom have you tried to surpass?
  - b. What does this chapter suggest concerning our own tendencies to be like Jacob?



QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 7

JACOB FLEES LABAN

GENESIS 31:1 - 32:2

1. In our best manuscripts there are six paragraphs in Genesis chapter 31. Read the chapter carefully. On the following table, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

31:1-16	
31:17-21	
31:22-32	
31:33-35	
31:36-42	
31:43-32:2	

2. In Genesis 31:1-16, the author describes Jacob's plan to flee from Laban.
- a. Read the closing paragraph of chapter 30 and the opening paragraph of chapter 31. What observations can you make? How are these two related to each other?
  - b. When Jacob explained to Rachel and Leah the reasons he wanted to leave Paddan-Aram, what three reasons did he give them?
  - c. Is there any significance to the fact that there are **three** reasons?
  - d. In Genesis 31:6-8, Jacob draws a serious contrast between Laban and himself. Describe that contrast.
  - e. In Genesis 31:6-8, Jacob also draws a strong contrast between God and Laban. Describe that contrast.
  - f. In Genesis 31:8, 9, Jacob attributes the type of lambs born in the flock to divine action. We also know that Jacob made serious efforts to affect this outcome. On the basis of the text, how can you explain Jacob's position that God was responsible for these results.
  - g. In Genesis 31:10-12, Jacob had a dream about the marking of the new-born lambs in the flock. What does this dream have to do with Jacob's attempts to control the kind of lambs the ewes bore?
  - h. In Genesis 31:13, God identified Himself as the God of Bethel:
    - 1. What does this mean?
    - 2. What difference does it make?
  - i. In Genesis 31:14, 15, the author said, "Then Rachel and Leah replied..." This was the first time the two women were mentioned in this order. What significance, if any, can you attach to this fact?
  - j. In Genesis 31:14, 15, Jacob's wives talked about being regarded as "foreigners." What does this mean?
  - k. In Genesis 31:16, there is a serious misunderstanding of the culture in which these people lived.
    - 1. What is the misunderstanding?
    - 2. How could Jacob's wives describe this situation correctly?
3. In Genesis 31:17-21, the author describes Jacob's escape from Laban.
- a. In 31:17, 18, the author mentioned that Jacob put his wives and children on camels and drove them ahead of him. Why is this significant?
  - b. In Genesis 31:19, the author highlights the fact that Rachel stole Laban's household gods while he was away sheering sheep. Why would it be necessary to do this while Laban was away from camp?
  - c. What reason could you suggest for the fact that Rachel stole the household gods rather than something far more valuable in which her father had invested?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

4. In Genesis 31:22-32, Laban caught up with Jacob.
- a. In verse 22, the author indicated that Laban learned of Jacob's surprise flight and immediately took his family, friends, and hired servants and pursued Jacob as quickly as possible. What does this tell you about Laban's purpose in this pursuit?
  - b. In 31:23, the author indicates that Laban caught up with Jacob in seven days.
    1. What does this tell you about the intensity of the pursuit?
    2. What do you learn from these pieces of information?
  - c. In Genesis 31:24, God appeared to Laban in a dream.
    1. Put yourself in Laban's position. How would you, as a worshipper of idols made of wood and stone, feel if Jacob's God spoke to you in a dream?
    2. Now look at what God said to Laban in the dream. What would these instructions mean to you?
  - d. In Genesis 31:25, the author indicates that Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country of Gilead when Laban caught up with him.
    1. What does this information tell you?
    2. How does it assist in understanding the message of the text?
  - e. In 31:26-28, Laban verbally attacked Jacob for leaving Paddan-Aram secretly.
    1. Put yourself in Jacob's position. How would you feel if this was said to you?
    2. Read each attack and question again.
      - (a). Is each one honest?
      - (b). Is each one fair?
      - (c). If Laban had been present when Jacob was about to leave, do you believe he would have thrown a party to celebrate their departure?
  - f. In Genesis 31:29, Laban told Jacob that God had spoken to him.
    1. He bragged, "I have the power to harm you..." Is that really true?
    2. Laban called God, "The God of your father."
      - (a). What did he mean by that name?
      - (b). How would this name affect Laban?
      - (c). Compare this verse with what you know of the idols Laban served. What did you learn?
    3. What instructions did God give Laban?
    4. What is the significance of this instruction?
  - g. In Genesis 31:30, Laban made a statement about Jacob's motive for leaving Paddan-Aram. Just how accurate was Laban's assessment?
  - h. In Genesis 31:30, Laban made a serious accusation against Jacob concerning the household gods.
    1. Jacob did not worship the household gods which Laban worshipped. Explain the reasoning that would cause Laban to accuse Jacob.
    2. Put yourself in Jacob's place. How would you feel when Laban made such a serious accusation?
  - i. In Genesis 31:31, 32, Jacob responded to Laban's fierce attack.
    1. Jacob claimed that he feared Laban would take Leah, Rachel and their children away from him. In view of the context, just how realistic was this fear?
    2. Jacob made two bold assertions about the theft. "The thief shall not live." "In the presence of our relatives see for yourself whether there is anything of yours here with me; and if so take it." What would be the effect of these assertions be upon Laban? Upon the relatives of both men?
    3. In Genesis 31:32, the author indicates that Rachel had stolen Laban's household gods. List all the possible reasons she might have for committing such a terrible crime? Which reasons seems most reasonable?
5. In Genesis 31:33-35, Rachel deceived her father.
- a. Notice that this paragraph begins with the word "so." What information does this fact provide for us?
  - b. In Genesis 31:33, the author described Laban's search.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

1. Record the order in which Laban searched the tents?
2. What does this tell you?
- c. In Genesis 31:34, 35, Rachel carried out her deception.
  1. Study what Rachel said and did. What does this study tell you about Rachel?
  2. Read verse 35 again. Rachel explained why she could not rise to let her father search the place where she sat. Explain why she would make this false comment to her father?
  
6. In Genesis 31:36-42, Jacob made a scathing attack on Laban.
  - a. Remember, Jacob did not know what Rachel had done. Read 31:36 again.
    1. Put yourself in Jacob's position. What would your feelings be?
    2. Now put yourself in Laban's position. How would you feel listening to this attack?
  - b. In 31:37, Jacob made at least three attacks on Laban. Write these down and study the list.
    1. In both 31:36 and 31:37, Jacob attacked Laban because of his accusations and the humiliation. What did Jacob say in 31:37 that he had not already said in 31:36?
    2. What hint of motive can you find for Jacob's continued attack in 31:37?
  - c. In Genesis 31:38, 39, Jacob continued his attack on Laban, but in a different direction. Read these two verses several times.
    1. What do these verses tell you about Jacob?
    2. What do these verses tell you about Laban?
    3. What hint can you find concerning the reason Jacob felt he needed to say these things?
  - d. In Genesis 31:40, Jacob again continued his attack.
    1. Jacob described what life had been like, for him, as a shepherd for Laban. In what way was Jacob's experience different from that of other shepherds?
    2. In view of your answer, what was Jacob seeking to accomplish by this part of the attack?
  - e. In Genesis 31:41, Jacob continued his description of his life as a shepherd for Laban. Read this verse carefully.
    1. There are three statements in the two sentences of this verse. List these three statements.
    2. Study these three statements:
      - (a). What are the statements?
      - (b). How many of these events could Jacob control?
      - (c). How many of these three statements benefited Jacob in one way or another?
      - (d). In view of these facts, why did Jacob include this verse in his tirade?
  - f. In Genesis 31:42, Jacob talked about God and identified Him in four different ways.
    1. What are they?
    2. What does each reference add to the thing Jacob said?
    3. Put yourself in Laban's situation. The gods he served were not known for their mercy, but for their frightening actions. How would you feel when Jacob said this?
  
7. In Genesis 31:43-32:2, the scene changed. Now Jacob and Laban entered into a covenant.
  - a. Read 31:43 and think carefully about the first sentence.
    1. List the statements that Laban made.
    2. Are all of these statements true?
  - b. In the closing question in Genesis 31:43, what was Laban saying? What was the expected answer to Laban's question?
  - c. In Genesis 31:44, there is an invitation to enter into a covenant.
    1. How would you describe the emotional tone of this invitation?
    2. In view of the context of this invitation, why would either Laban or Jacob want to enter into a covenant?
  - d. In Genesis 31:45, Jacob responds to Laban's request for a covenant.
    1. What was Jacob doing?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

2. What did this mean?
- e. In Genesis 31:46, the author reported two things:
  1. What were the two things?
  2. What did these things mean?
- f. In Genesis 31:45, 46, something is missing and this is a surprise.
  1. What is the surprising omission?
  2. How do you explain this fact?
- g. In Genesis 31:47, both Jacob and Laban give this place a name.
  1. What do these names mean? (If the margin of your Bible does not give this information, consult a Bible Dictionary)
  2. What is the significance of these names?
- h. Laban made a strong statement in 31:48. What did Laban mean by this statement?
- i. Across the country, many youth groups use the words of Genesis 31:49 as a closing benediction for their regular meetings.
  1. What emotion describes how Laban felt as he spoke these words?
  2. Explain why it is or is not appropriate to use this verse as a benediction.
- j. In simple terms, Genesis 31:50 is a threat.
  1. Was it appropriate for Laban to threaten Jacob in this manner over these issues?
  2. What did Laban mean when he said, "Even though no one is with us"?
  3. What did Laban say about God in this verse?
  4. What would this say to Laban about the household gods he served?
- k. There is a problem with what Laban said in 31:51.
  1. What is the problem?
  2. How do you explain this situation?
- l. In Genesis 31:52, Laban spells out the whole idea behind their covenant.
  1. What is the issue behind Laban's announcement?
  2. On the basis of the text and context, for whose benefit - Jacob's or Laban's - was this announcement made?
- m. In Genesis 31:53, Laban made a surprising appeal.
  1. Laban really made three appeals. What are they?
  2. Why would Laban appeal to the "God of Abraham" when he did not believe in Abraham's God?
  3. Why would Laban insult Jacob by appealing to the "God of Nahor" when Jacob did not believe in these household deities?
  4. What was added to the appeal to the gods when Laban said, "the God of their father?"
  5. What was Laban's motive in adding "the God of their father" to his appeal?
  6. What does Laban mean when he appeals to the gods to "judge between us"?
  7. The final sentence in 31:53, was Jacob's response to Laban's invitation.
    - (a). Why does the author mention that Jacob took an oath, but says nothing about Laban doing the same thing?
    - (b). What did the author mean when he said that "Jacob took an oath in the name of the fear of his father Isaac?"
    - (c). What is "the fear of his father Isaac."?
    - (d). Why didn't Jacob use the name for God that Laban suggested?
- n. Genesis 31:54 contains four symbolic statements:
  1. What are the four symbolic statements?
  2. What does each one mean?
  3. What does this verse add to our understanding of this entire story?
- o. The final picture of Laban in Scripture is found in Genesis 31:55.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

1. What does this picture describe?
  2. What does it mean?
  3. There is a symbol which, shockingly, is missing in this verse.
    - (a). What is the symbol?
    - (b). What has the author told us by this omission?
- p. In Genesis 32:1, the author tells us Jacob was met by the angels of God.
1. In view of what Jacob had been through and the frightening encounter he was about to experience with Esau, if you were Jacob, what would this encounter mean to you?
  2. How would you feel?
- q. Jacob expressed astonishment in Genesis 32:2
1. What astonished him?
  2. What did this mean?
  3. What is the significance of the name he gave this place?
8. Look carefully at your life during the past year. Most of us have encountered a Laban somewhere along the way. The message for these encounters in life is this:

*If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. **But God** has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands, and last night he rebuked you. Genesis 31:42*

The question is, What is your hope on the basis of your knowledge of God? What do you honestly expect God to do in the crucial times in life?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 8

JACOB WRESTLES WITH AN ANGEL AT PENIEL

GENESIS 32:3 - 32

1. There are three paragraphs in our best manuscripts of Genesis chapter 32. Read each paragraph carefully. On the table below, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

32:3-12	
32:13-21	
32:22-32	

2. In Genesis 32:3-12, Jacob was preparing himself for his meeting with Esau.
- a. In Genesis 32:3, 4, Jacob sent messengers to Esau. Compare the message Jacob sent to Esau with his actions on Genesis 25:31 and Genesis 27:19. What did you observe?
  - b. In Genesis 32:4, Jacob told his messengers what to say. He told them to speak of himself as "your servant." What difference would that make?
  - c. In Genesis 32:5, Jacob told the messengers to tell Esau about the herds he possessed. Why would that be important?
  - d. In Genesis 32:5, Jacob told the messengers to refer to Esau as "my lord." What difference would that make?
  - e. In 32:6, the messengers returned and told Jacob that Esau was coming with 400 men.
    - (1). What possible reasons could Esau have to bring 400 men?
    - (2). Put yourself in Jacob's position:
      - (a). What would you think?
      - (b). What would you do?
  - f. In Genesis 32:7, 8, Jacob explained his reasons for dividing his possessions into two groups.
    - (1). What kind of thinking would cause him to do that?
    - (2). What did he hope to accomplish?
  - g. In Genesis 32:9, Jacob prayed. In this prayer he referred to God in three different ways.
    - (1). What did this accomplish?
    - (2). What did Jacob MEAN by using these names?
  - h. In 32:10, Jacob continued his prayer.
    - (1). In this part of the prayer, what did Jacob say about himself?
    - (2). Why did he say it?
  - i. In 32:11, Jacob did something which was **not** characteristic of his usual way of life. What was it?
  - j. In 32:12, Jacob continued his prayer by reminding God of His previous promise.
    - (1). Why would he do that?
    - (2). To what extent, if any, was this a lack of faith?
3. In Genesis 32:13-21, Jacob gave his servants instructions concerning the way they were to go to meet Esau.
- a. In 32:13, the author gives two pieces of information:
    - (1). What are those pieces of information?
    - (2). What do they mean?
    - (3). If you were Jacob, in this verse, what would this verse say about you?
  - b. In 32:14, 15, the author described the gift Jacob sent to Esau.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (1). Study the list. What did you observe about the nature of the gift?
  - (2). We are haunted by Jacob's motive in sending this gift. List all the evidence you can which suggests Jacob's motive in sending the gift.
  - c. In 32:16, Jacob was very precise about the way the procession of animals was to be taken to Esau. What difference would this make to Esau?
  - d. In 32:17, Jacob gave specific instructions to the shepherds who would take the gift to Esau. Jacob gave them precise words to say to Esau.
    - (1). What did Jacob tell the shepherds to say?
    - (2). Why was it so important to say these precise words?
  - e. In 32:19, Jacob told the shepherd of the second flock, and each succeeding flock, to say exactly the same thing the first shepherd said.
    - (1). Wouldn't Esau tire of hearing the same words time after time?
    - (2). Why would Jacob instruct them to do this?
  - f. In 32:20, Jacob gave one final instruction. Study this verse very carefully.
    - (1). Jacob stressed something they were to be sure to say. This had already been said. What difference would this message make?
    - (2). In this verse, the author gives us a glimpse into the mind of Jacob.
      - (a). What was he thinking?
      - (b). What was his primary motive?
      - (c). How do you know this?
  - g. The author's statement, in 32:21, is puzzling.
    - (1). What is the puzzle?
    - (2). How can you explain it?
4. In Genesis 32:22-32, the author records the encounter between Jacob and the angel.
- a. In 32:22, there is another puzzling scenario. Read the verse carefully.
    - (1). What is the puzzle?
    - (2). How can you make sense out of Jacob's actions?
  - b. In 32:23, Jacob put his family and possessions on the other side of the river. This left him all alone. What possible reason could he have for doing all this and doing it during the night?
  - c. In 32:24, Jacob wrestled with a man all night.
    - (1). Who was this man?
    - (2). What is the nature of this struggle?
  - d. In 32:25, the man could not overpower Jacob. Explain how the man could put Jacob's hip out of joint when he could not overpower him.
  - e. In 32:26, there is an exchange of words between the Jacob and the angel.
    - (1). The man who wrestled with Jacob insisted that Jacob let him go because it was daybreak. What difference would that make?
    - (2). What is the significance of the fact that the man had to ask Jacob to let him go.
    - (3). Jacob refused to let the man go unless he blessed him. What does the blessing have to do with Jacob letting the man go?
  - f. In 32:27, the man who wrestled with Jacob asked him his name. In view of this whole experience, what does Jacob's name have to do with the wrestling?
  - g. In 32:28, The man who wrestled with Jacob changed his name from Jacob to Israel.
    - (1). What difference does this change make?
    - (2). Explain the reason the man gave for this name change?
  - h. In 32:29, Jacob tried to find out the name of the one with whom he wrestled.
    - (1). Why was the man's name important to Jacob?
    - (2). What was the man's reply?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (3). What does the scene over the name have to do with the blessing the man gave Jacob/Israel?
- i. In 32:30, Jacob named the place where this experience took place.
    - (1). What did he name the place?
    - (2). If you have access to a Bible Dictionary or Bible helps, what does this name mean?
  - j. In 32:31, the author indicated that Jacob limped when this experience was over. Record your thoughts about the fact that God made Jacob permanently vulnerable before He blessed him.
  - k. In 32:32, there is a parenthesis in the text about the Jews not eating the tendons attached to the hip socket. What does this information add to our understanding of the whole story?
5. In this chapter, we see the picture of a self-reliant man who had to become vulnerable before God could bless him. We see a man with grave concerns, determined to trust God rather than his own wiles. He discovered that he could trust God when it seemed impossible. Our modern technology has caused us to think that we can solve our problems when like Jacob, we really cannot. What is the message of this chapter to our self-sufficient situation?



QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 9

JACOB MEETS ESAU

GENESIS 33:1 - 20

1. In our best documents, there are two paragraphs in Genesis chapter 33. On the table below, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

33:1-17	
33:18-20	

2. Genesis 33:1-17 describes the meeting between Jacob and Esau.
- a. Verse one describes the time when Jacob and Esau met.
    - (1). Put yourself in Jacob's position.
      - (a). How would you feel?
      - (b). Why would you feel that way?
      - (c). What would you want to do?
    - (2). Why was it important to place each child with his/her mother as they moved toward Esau?
  - b. Read verses two and three again.
    - (1). The author carefully details the position of each wife and handmaid in this procession. What does this tell us?
    - (2). What difference does it make that the handmaids and their children were at the front of the line, just behind Jacob?
    - (3). What do we learn from the fact that Leah precedes Rachel in the procession?
    - (4). What difference does it make that Rachel and Joseph were at the back of the procession?
    - (5). If your name were Joseph, what would all this positioning say to you?
    - (6). Review verse three again.
      - (a) What shocking discovery did you make about Jacob?
      - (b). What does this discovery tell you about Jacob?
    - (7). What is the significance, if any, of the fact that Jacob bowed down seven times as he approached his brother Esau?
      - (a). Would it have had a lesser meaning if he bowed down six times?
      - (b). Would it have had greater significance if he had bowed down eight times?
  - c. Genesis 33:2-4 gives contrasting information about Jacob and Esau. On the table below record the contrasting information you discover.

JACOB	ESAU

- d. Genesis 33:4 describes Esau's actions when he met Jacob.
  - (1). Identify each thing Esau did in this verse.
  - (2). Explain what each of these actions meant to Jacob.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (3). The author concludes the verse saying, "and they wept." What additional information does this sentence give us?
- e. In Genesis 33:5, Esau asked a question about the people who followed Jacob in the procession.
- (1). What was Esau asking?
  - (2). Why did Jacob find it important to line up his family in the procession as he did?
  - (3). Study Jacob's response to Esau in this verse.
    - (a). What is the significance of the fact that Jacob sees God as responsible for his having these children?
    - (b). Observe the way Jacob identifies himself in this verse. What is the significance of this fact?
- f. In Genesis 33:6, Jacob's handmaids and their children met Esau. Why was it important for Jacob's wives and children to also bow down before Esau as Jacob did?
- g. In Genesis 33:7, both Leah and Rachel and their children met Esau.
- (1). It was Jacob who wronged Esau. Why was it necessary for his wives and their children to bow down before Esau?
  - (2). Compare the meeting of the maidservants with Esau, 33:6, and the meeting of the two wives with Esau, 33:7.
    - (a). What did you learn?
    - (b). What does this mean?
- h. In Genesis 33:8, a question and answer pass between Jacob and Esau.
- (1). State Esau's question in your own words.
  - (2). What did you learn from the question Esau asked?
  - (3). Study Jacob's response and restate it in your own words.
  - (4). What did Jacob mean by this answer?
  - (5). What significance can we attach to the title Jacob used here for Esau?
- i. Esau, responded to Jacob's gigantic gift in Genesis 33:9
- (1). Esau's response appears to be extremely generous. In view of this fact, make a comparison between the actions and words of Esau in Genesis 27:41 with his response to Jacob here in 33:9. What did you learn?
  - (2). Compare the way Esau addressed Jacob, in Genesis 33:9, with the way Jacob addressed Esau in 33:8. What does this tell you?
- j. In Genesis 33:10, Jacob, willingly or unknowingly, applied a degree of pressure to Esau.
- (1). What was Jacob's pressure?
  - (2). What was the consequence of this pressure?
  - (3). Study Jacob's reasons for insisting that Esau accept this monumental gift.
    - (a). What reasons does Jacob give?
    - (b). What did Jacob say it was like to see Esau and be received by him?
    - (c). What did Jacob mean by this statement?
- k. In Genesis 33:11, Jacob urged Esau to accept the gift he brought to him.
- (1). Why was it so important that Esau accept the gift?
  - (2). What reasons did Jacob give for insisting that Esau receive the gift which he did not really want to accept?
  - (3). What, if anything, does this tell you?
- l. In Genesis 33:12, Esau interjects a surprise element into the story.
- (1). What is the element of surprise?
  - (2). What possible reasons could Esau have for trying to get Jacob to do this?
  - (3). Which of these possibilities do you favor? Why?
- m. Genesis 33:13 reports Jacob's response to Esau's surprising offer.
- (1). Both Jacob and Esau were herdsmen. In view of this, what did Jacob tell Esau that he would not have known and considered in making his invitation?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (2). What light does this shed on Jacob's response in verse thirteen?
  - (3). What hint do you have, at this time, concerning what is really happening between Jacob and Esau?
  - n. In 33:14, Jacob made a counter-suggestion to Esau's invitation which he rejected.
    - (1). Read this verse very carefully. What specific pieces of information does it contain?
    - (2). Here, as in each conversation Jacob had with Esau in this chapter, Jacob refers to his brother as "my lord." What is accomplished by this repetition?
    - (3). Read the verse again. How much more slowly is Jacob suggesting that he travel than the pace at which Esau would move?
    - (4). Jacob specifically mentions his proposed arrival in Seir.
      - (a). What does this tell you?
      - (b). What problem might this create?
  - o. In Genesis 33:15, Esau and Jacob exchanged suggestions again.
    - (1). In 33:15a, Esau suggested that he leave men with Jacob.
      - (a). What would these men be left to do?
      - (b). Why would Jacob need these men now, in Canaan, when he traveled hundreds of miles without them or anyone else?
    - (2). In 33:15b, Jacob responded to Esau's offer.
      - (a). What did he say?
      - (b). What emotional tone do you detect in his response?
      - (c). Compare this refusal, in 33:15, with the previous one, in 33:13. What differences, if any, do you observe?
  - p. Study Genesis 33:16 for clues concerning the relationship between Jacob and Esau. What did you find?
  - q. In Genesis 33:17, the author identified the place to which Jacob went. On a map identify the location of both Jacob and Esau. What, if anything, did you learn?
3. In Genesis 33:18-20, Jacob bought land in Shechem.
- a. In Genesis 33:18, Jacob stopped near Shechem. Can you remember any reason why Jacob would want to stop here?
  - b. In Genesis 33:19, Jacob purchased a tract of land from "the sons of Hamor." Why would he purchase the land, when he could dwell there without paying for it?
  - c. In Genesis 33:20, Jacob set up an altar and called it, "El Elohe Israel."
    - (1). Why would he give the altar a name?
    - (2). Why would he give the altar this name?
4. Review chapter 33 very carefully. What have you learned that will impact the way you live your life for God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 10

THE SEDUCTION OF DINAH

GENESIS 34:-1- 31

1. In our best documents of the book of Genesis, there are two paragraphs in chapter 34. On the table which follows, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

34:1-17	
34:18-31	

2. Chapter 34 seems out of place following chapter 33.
- a. What possible reasons can you find for inserting this picture into the midst of the story of Jacob's life?
  - b. Read the chapter carefully.
    - (1). What does it tell you about Jacob?
    - (2). Make a chart comparing Jacob and his sons on the one hand and Hamor and his son on the other.
3. In Genesis 34:1-17, the author deals with the humiliation of Dinah by Shechem.
- a. In verse one, the author reported that Dinah went to visit the women of the land.
    - (1). Think carefully about this information. Why is it important for our consideration? What issues are involved in this information?
    - (2). Why does the author emphasize the fact that Dinah was the daughter of Leah?
    - (3). What information can we gather from verse one?
  - b. Verse two is a report of Shechem's crime.
    - (1). If you were Shechem, how would describe this event?
    - (2). If you were Jacob, how would you describe this event?
  - c. Make a comparison/contrast between 34:2 and 34:3.
    - (1). What did you learn from this exercise?
    - (2). How do you account for the problem that exists in these verses?
  - d. In Genesis 34:4, Shechem pressed his father to get Dinah as a wife for him.
    - (1). Why would he do this?
    - (2). Why did he need his father's help?
  - e. In 34:5, the author described Jacob's reaction when he received word of this tragedy.
    - (1). The author reported that Jacob's sons were in the fields with the livestock when he learned of the violation of Dinah. What does this have to do with Jacob's response?
    - (2). Silence was quite unlike Jacob. Why did he respond with silence?
    - (3). What does this silence say about Jacob's later response?
    - (4). What does the text suggest concerning what Jacob did later?
  - f. In 34:6, Hamor went to talk with Jacob about their children.
    - (1). Why was this information important?
    - (2). What difference does it make?
  - g. Genesis 34:7 describes the reaction of Jacob's sons to the news about Dinah.
    - (1). What do we learn from the fact that Jacob's sons returned immediately when they heard the news?
    - (2). In view of what the text says, what was the basis of the reaction by Jacob's sons?
    - (3). Put yourself in the position of Jacob's sons.
      - (a). What would you feel?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (b). Why would you feel that way?
- h. In Genesis 34:8, Hamor started the negotiations by requesting that Dinah be given to Shechem as a wife.
- (1). Would this, in your estimation, be the best approach to negotiations for a bride?
  - (2). Think of yourself in Jacob's situation. How would you feel about the beginning of Hamor's negotiations?
- i. There is a sudden shift in the negotiations in Genesis 34:9, 10.
- (1). What is the change in negotiations?
  - (2). What does that information tell you about the negotiations?
  - (3). What did Hamor offer Jacob?
  - (4). What did Hamor neglect to tell Jacob, in these verses?
- j. In Genesis 34:11, 12, there is another surprising shift in the negotiations.
- (1). What is the surprising shift?
  - (2). Why was it surprising?
  - (3). What does this mean?
  - (4). There is a "blank check" sound to the offer Shechem made to Jacob. How do you evaluate this situation.?
- k. From 34:6 to 12, the author focused on the request of Hamor. Beginning in 34:13, he described the response to Hamor from the family.
- (1). How would you identify the author's description of their motivation?
  - (2). How would you explain the fact that Jacob's sons answered when the negotiations were between Jacob and Hamor?
  - (3). What is the difference between a "dowry" and a "gift"?
  - (4). Put yourself in the place of Jacob and his sons. In view of the tragedy perpetrated by Shechem, how would **you** respond?
  - (5). Hamor was asking for a binding agreement. Under what conditions was Jacob able to keep this proposed vow?
- l. In Genesis 34:14, Jacob's sons said, "We can't do such a thing."
- (1). What was it they couldn't do?
  - (2). Why couldn't they do such a thing?
  - (3). Jacob's sons said it would disgrace them to give their sister to an uncircumcised man. What did they mean by this?
  - (4). What would be the implications for Hamor and the Hivites if they accepted the condition set by Jacob's sons?
  - (5). Read 34:16, carefully. What inconsistency, if any, can you find here?
  - (6). Read 34:17 again. If you were Hamor or Shechem, what would you feel and think when you heard this statement?
4. In Genesis 34:18-31, Jacob's sons deceived the Hivites and did a terrible thing.
- (a). In Genesis 34:18, the author reported the response of Hamor and Shechem to the condition set by Jacob's sons.
- (1). What reason can you find in the story, so far, that would suggest this response?
  - (2). Put yourself in the position of Jacob's sons. How would you feel when you received the response from Hamor?
- b. In Genesis 34:19, what does Shechem's "honor" have to do with this action?
- c. In 34:20, 21, Hamor and Shechem went to the city gate to discuss this condition of circumcision with other men of their tribe.
- (1). If you were one of the leaders of this tribe, how would you feel when you heard the report in 34:20, 21?
  - (2). What does "These men are friendly toward us" and "the land has plenty of room for them," have to do with the mission of Shechem and Hamor?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- d. In Genesis 34:22, Hamor added a new ingredient to the discussion. If you were one of the tribal leaders, how would you feel about the conditions? What information do you find in the text to support your thinking?
  - e. In Genesis 34:23, Hamor continued his request before the leaders of the tribe.
    - (1). What did Hamor say in this verse?
    - (2). What motives surface in his presentation to the men of the tribe?
    - (3). What does this tell you about the character of Hamor?
  - f. The response of the men of the tribe was recorded in 34:24.
    - (1). What was that response?
    - (2). What does this response tell us about the character of the people?
    - (3). In view of our previous study, how would Jacob and his sons feel about this decision?
  - g. In Genesis 34:25, the author records the tragic action of Simeon and Levi.
    - (1). Why would Jacob's two sons kill the men of the clan when Shechem was the one guilty of the crime?
    - (2). Why would Simeon and Levi kill the men and not the women and children?
    - (3). This action was not, to our knowledge, a part of the original plan. What reasons can you find for this apparent change?
    - (4). What does this verse tell you about Simeon and Levi?
  - h. In Genesis 34:25, the author reported they killed every male. In 34:26, however, the author reported specifically about the death of Hamor and Shechem.
    - (1). What reasons can you suggest for this second report?
    - (2). If you were Simeon or Levi, how would you feel following these events?
  - i. In Genesis 34:27, the author described other things Simeon and Levi did to Hamor's people.
    - (1). What did they do?
    - (2). What does this tell you about these two sons?
  - J. In Genesis 34:28, 29, the author described the other things that were done by Simeon and Levi.
    - (1). What did they do?
    - (2). What was the justification for these actions?
    - (3). Make a chart on which you compare/contrast the message of Genesis 34:23 with 34:28, 29.
    - (4). What does this chart tell you?
    - (5). Can you think of a New Testament verse which describes what you learned in this comparison?
  - k. In Genesis 34:30, Jacob responded to Simeon and Levi concerning their actions.
    - (1). Describe Jacob's emotional condition as he talked with Simeon and Levi.
    - (2). On the basis of Jacob's statement, in verse 30, why was Jacob offended by their actions?
    - (3). In this verse, Jacob mentioned the Canaanites and Perizzites, but not the Hivites. How can we explain this fact?
  - l. In Genesis 34:31, Simeon and Levi responded to Jacob's fiery statement.
    - (1). How would you describe the emotional tone of their response?
    - (2). What did they say?
5. As we indicated earlier, this chapter is an interruption in the story of Jacob.
- a. What special message does the author provide in this parenthetical chapter?
  - b. What, if anything, does this chapter say about God?
  - c. What does this chapter say about the way you want to live your life? Just how different will it be?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 11

THE DEATH OF ISAAC

GENESIS 35:1 - 29

1. The best manuscripts of Genesis chapter 35 have five paragraphs. Read each paragraph carefully. On the table below, write a title of seven words or less summarizing the content of each paragraph.

35:1-8	
35:9-15	
35:16-22a	
35:22b-27	
35:28, 29	

2. In Genesis 35:1-8, the author describes God's instruction for Jacob to return to Bethel.
- a. In Genesis 35:1, God gave Jacob some instructions.
    - (1). List these instructions.
    - (2). Study the list of instructions.
    - (3). What did you discover?
    - (4). Why would it be better for Jacob to live at Bethel rather than Ephrath or Hebron?
    - (5). What did God add to this message by reminding Jacob of his flight from Esau?
  - b. In Genesis 35:2, 3, Jacob responded to God's command to go to Bethel and build an altar.
    - (1). What instructions did Jacob give his family in preparation to go to Bethel?
    - (2). Why was it important to build an altar at Bethel when Jacob had already worshipped there without it?
    - (3). List the ways Jacob described God in these two verses.
      - (a). What did he say?
      - (b). What did he mean?
  - c. Jacob's wives gave him both their idols and their ear rings, in Genesis 35:4.
    - (1). How can you explain this?
    - (2). How can we account for the fact that the women had these things?
    - (3). What good would it do to bury these things?
  - d. In Genesis 35:5, Jacob and his family fled Shechem to go to Bethel.
    - (1). Read this verse carefully.
    - (2). What did you learn about Jacob's situation from this verse?
    - (3). What did you learn about God in this verse?
  - e. In Genesis 35:6, 7, Jacob arrived in Bethel and built an altar.
    - (1). Notice that the author identified Jacob's destination as "Luz in the land of Canaan." Why was this additional identification necessary?
    - (2). Jacob worshipped at Bethel previously without an altar. Why would God insist on one now?
    - (3). Jacob named the altar "El Bethel." Why would that be important?
    - (4). In verse seven, Jacob gave a reason for the altar and the name.
      - (a). What reason did Jacob give?
      - (b). Why was it important?
  - f. What is the significance of the name given to the tree near Bethel?
    - (1). What does the death of Deborah have to do with Jacob's flight from Shechem?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (2). Why was Deborah so important in the story of Jacob?
3. In Genesis 35:9-15, Jacob's name was changed.
- In 35:9 it says God appeared to Jacob "again." Where was the previous appearance?
  - In Genesis 35:9, God blessed Jacob. What is the significance of this report?
  - In Genesis 35:10, God changed Jacob's name.
    - What does "Jacob" mean?
    - What does "Israel" mean?
    - What difference does the change make?
  - Look at what God said in Genesis 35:11.
    - What did God say about Himself?
    - What is the importance of this message?
    - What did God say about Jacob?
    - What did this mean?
  - In Genesis 35:12, God made a promise to Jacob.
    - What did God promise?
    - What did this mean to Jacob?
    - What did this say about God?
  - In Genesis 35:13-15, God finished speaking to Jacob and Jacob responded to God's message.
    - What was Jacob's response?
    - What did Jacob's response mean?
    - Why would he name the place "Bethel" when he had given it that name previously?
4. In Genesis 35:16-22a, the author describes both Benjamin's birth and Rachel's death.
- In Genesis 35:18, Rachel named her baby "Ben Oni" with her dying breath.
    - Why would she do this?
    - Why would Jacob change the baby's name from "Ben Oni" to Ben Jamin"?
  - In Genesis 35:19, 20, the author described the death and burial of Rachel.
    - Reflect on these two verses again.
    - What did you learn about their way of living?
    - What do these verses tell you about Jacob's relationship with Rachel?
  - In previous verses and paragraphs, Isaac's second son was called "Jacob." In 35:21, the author suddenly refers to him as "Israel." In Genesis 35:22b, however, the author reverts to the previous name, "Jacob." How can we account for these facts?
  - In Genesis 35:22a, Reuben did a terrible thing.
    - What did he do?
    - Why would he do such a terrible thing?
    - There is a very confusing situation which surfaces in this verse.
      - What is this confusing situation?
      - How can you explain this situation?
5. In Genesis 35:22b-27, the author identifies the sons of Israel.
- In Genesis 35:22b-26, the author lists the sons of Jacob with their mothers. Study the list.
    - What have you learned from studying the list?
    - What observations can you make about the mothers and their places in the list?
  - In Genesis 35:27, the author tells that Jacob came home to his father.
    - Reflect on this verse again.
    - What was the importance of Jacob coming home to his father, Isaac?



*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (3). The author indicates that Jacob came to the place where Abraham and Isaac had stayed. Why was this important?
6. In Genesis 35:28, 29, The author records the death of Isaac.
- a. In Genesis 35:28, the author reports the age of Isaac. What is the importance of this?
  - b. In Genesis 35:29, the author uses three different images to describe the death of Isaac.
    - (1). What are these images?
    - (2). Why did the author need three different images?
    - (3). What did the last two images add that is not included in the first image?
    - (4). The author concludes these images by saying Isaac was "Old and full of days." What did this add to the message the author was conveying?
    - (5). The author ends the chapter saying that Isaac's sons buried him.
      - (a). Think about this fact for a minute.
      - (b). Put yourself in the place of Jacob for a moment. What would it be like to be in his situation during this experience?
      - (c). Put yourself in the place of Esau for a moment. What would it be like to be in his situation during this experience?
7. Now go back over the chapter.
- a. What have you learned or had emphasized for you about God in this chapter?
  - b. What difference will this make in your thinking?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 12

THE LINEAGE OF ESAU

GENESIS 36:1 - 43

1. In our best Hebrew manuscripts of Genesis chapter 36 there are six paragraphs. Read each paragraph carefully. On the table which follows, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

36:1-8	
36:9-14	
36:15-19	
36:20-30	
36:31-39	
36:40-43	

2. In Genesis 36:1-8, the author identified the lineage of Esau who were born in Canaan.
- As you begin your study of chapter 36, take a moment and read I Chronicles chapter 1. What, if anything, can you learn from these passages?
  - Genesis 36:1, nine words, is a single sentence.
    - What does it tell us?
    - Why would the author give this information?
  - In Genesis 36:2, 3, the author identified Esau's three wives.
    - Using a Bible Dictionary, discover the difference between Hittites, Hivites and Horites.
    - What do these verses tell us about Esau?
    - Why were the names and locations of the three wife's families important to our study?
  - In Genesis 36:4, 5, the author identified the children of Esau who were born "in the land of Canaan."
    - What difference would this make?
    - There is a definite emphasis on the phrases "In the land of Canaan" and "In the hill country of Seir" in this paragraph. Why would the author make these distinctions?
  - In Genesis 36:6-8, the author described Esau's move.
    - What reason did he give for the move?
    - How meaningful is that reason?
3. In Genesis 36:9-14, the author identified Esau's lineage born in Seir.
- Compare Genesis 36:1-8 and 36:9-14. What contrast can you observe?
  - Genesis 36:10-12 seems awkward to read. What possible reasons could you suggest for this fact?
    - In Genesis 36:12, the author informs us that Eliphaz had a concubine named Timna. What does this information tell us?
    - To what extent was this practice acceptable?
  - In Genesis 36:13, the author identified the children in the lineage of Esau's son Reuel by Basemath. What information does this verse provide?
  - In Genesis 36:14, the author identified the children Esau had by his third wife Oholibamah. How does this verse add to our store of information?
4. In Genesis 36:15-19, the author identified the fact that Esau's lineage became chiefs over territory.
- What does this tell us?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- b. Compare the lists in Genesis 36:11 and 36:16. What does this tell us?
  - c. Compare and contrast Genesis 36:14 with 36:18. What did you observe?
5. In Genesis 36:20-30, the author gives the lineage of Seir.
- a. Compare each list of sons with those listed in I Chronicles chapter 1. What does this tell you?
  - b. Why is it important that Esau married Oholibamah, a relative of Seir?
  - c. In Genesis 36:22, the author identified Timna as the sister of Lotan. Why would this be significant?
  - d. In Genesis 36:24, the author informed us that Anah found hot springs in the desert. Why was this so significant?
  - e. In the verses of this paragraph, the author gives us little information except the names and relationships of Seir's lineage. Why would he do this?
6. In Genesis 36:31-39, the author lists the kings of Edom.
- a. What does Genesis 36:31 tell us about the timing of these reigns?
  - b. Look at the way the author identifies the way each king came to power. What does this tell us?
  - c. Look at the location of the royal city of each king in a Bible Atlas. What information does this provide?
  - d. In some instances, the author tells us the city of origin for a king. What difference does this make?
7. In Genesis 36:40-43, the author identifies the chieftains of Esau.
- a. In Genesis 36:41, 42, the author said that these people are descendants of Esau.
    - (1). With the help of a Bible Dictionary, check to see if each of these people are descendants of Esau.
    - (2). How can you explain your findings?
    - (3). Study the verse again. What other problem can you detect there?
  - b. In Genesis 36:43, the author described the political divisions of the land.
    - (1). To what did he refer when he used the phrase "According to their settlements?" What does this tell us?
    - (2). The author also spoke of "the land they occupied." What information can we gather from this reference?
8. Having completed the study of chapter 36, make as many comparisons and/contrasts as you can between chapters 35 and 36.
- a. What does this search add to our understanding of the book?
  - b. What does the study tell us about the two men?
9. In view of what you have learned in this study:
- a. How has your relationship to God been changed?
  - b. What specific differences will these changes make in you?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 13

JOSEPH SOLD INTO SLAVERY

GENESIS 37:1 - 36

1. The best manuscripts identify six paragraphs in the thirty-seventh chapter of Genesis. On the table below, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

37:1-4	
37:5-11	
37:12-17	
37:18-24	
37:25-28	
37:29-36	

2. Review chapter titles and paragraph summaries for chapters 35 and 36. Now look at 37:1. What does this review tell you about the author's intentions in this portion of the book?
3. In Genesis 37:1-4, the author described Joseph's report of his brothers' unfortunate conduct in the care of Jacob's flock.
- a. In 37:1, the author pointed out that Jacob lived in the land. What is the significance of this observation?
  - b. In Genesis 37:2, the author spoke of "the generations of Jacob." What was he telling us in this verse?
  - c. Read 37:3 carefully. Look especially at the words "now" and "because." What is the significance of each of these words?
  - d. In Genesis 37:4, there is a cause and effect relationship.
    - (1). Identify the cause.
    - (2). Identify the effect.
    - (3). What is the significance of this?
4. In Genesis 37:5-11, Joseph told his brothers of his dream.
- a. In Genesis 37:5, the author again used the cause and effect relationship. Study it carefully.
    - (1). What is the cause.
    - (2). What is the effect.
    - (3). With only the information we have before us, why would this cause produce this effect?
  - b. In Genesis 37:6, 7, Joseph described his dream to his brothers.
    - (1). Why would Joseph describe his dream to his brothers?
    - (2). There is a surprise in this dream. Identify that surprise.
    - (3). These dreams are symbolic. Identify the symbolism.
  - c. In Genesis 37:8, the brothers responded to Joseph's announced dream.
    - (1). What was their response?
    - (2). There are two parts to the brothers' response.
    - (3). What is the difference between them?
    - (4). There is a cause and effect relationship in this verse.
      - (a). What is/are the cause or causes?
      - (b). What is the effect?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (c). What has the author achieved by relating this episode?
  - d. In Genesis 37:9, Joseph told his brothers his second dream.
    - (1). As we said earlier, dreams are symbolic. Identify the symbolism in this dream.
    - (2). There are two surprises in the dream. What are they?
  - e. In Genesis 37:10, Joseph told his father about his dream.
    - (1). Why would he tell his father this dream and not the first one?
    - (2). Study the father's reaction. Jacob asked two questions:
      - (a). What are they?
      - (b). How do they differ?
      - (c). Jacob mentions Rachel in his question. How does she figure in this situation?
  - f. In Genesis 37:11, the author draws a contrast between the response of Jacob and the brothers.
    - (1). What is the difference between Jacob's response and that of his sons?
    - (2). What did this mean?
5. In Genesis 37:12-17, Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers.
- a. Read Genesis 37:2 and then read 37 :12. What did you discover?
  - b. In Genesis 37:13, Jacob asked Joseph a question.
    - (1). What was the meaning of this question?
    - (2). What was the significance of Joseph's answer?
  - c. In 37:14, 15, the author described Joseph's attempt to find his brothers. What is the significance of this?
  - d. In 37:16, 17, Joseph was told his brothers had gone to Dothan rather than to Shechem. In what way is this significant?
6. In Genesis 37:18-24, the brothers threw Joseph into a pit.
- a. In Genesis 37:18, there is a glimpse into the character of Joseph's brothers. As you read it, what do you see?
  - b. In Genesis 37:19, the brothers described Joseph.
    - (1). What was their description?
    - (2). What does this mean?
    - (3). What does this tell you about their relationship?
    - (4). What does it tell you about the brothers?
  - c. In Genesis 37:20, the brothers suggest a solution to the dilemma they faced concerning Joseph.
    - (1). If the brothers killed Joseph, why would they want to throw him into a pit?
    - (2). Read the verse again. What does the extensiveness of their planning tell you?
    - (3). What connection, if any, do you see between the brothers' plans to kill Joseph and the closing statement, "Then we'll see what comes of his dreams"?
  - d. In Genesis 37:21, 22, Reuben interceded with his brothers on Joseph's behalf.
    - (1). Why would Reuben do this?
    - (2). How do you explain Reuben's request?
    - (3). In what way would Joseph's lot be improved if the brothers listened to Reuben?
    - (4). What difference does make whether the brothers laid hands on Joseph?
  - e. In Genesis 37:23, 24, the author described how the brothers got rid of Joseph.
    - (1). List the things the brothers did to Joseph.
      - (a). Study this list.
      - (b). What can we learn from this study?
    - (2). At the close of verse 24, there is an explanation concerning the cistern. In what way does this assist our understanding of the event.
7. In Genesis 37:25-28, the author described the sale of Joseph to the Ishmaelites.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- a. In Genesis 37:25, the author described the materials carried by the Ishmaelite caravan.
  - (1). In what way does this help our understanding?
  - (2). What difference does it make that the brothers were eating at the time?
- b. In Genesis 37:26, 27, the author described Judah's attempt to get his brothers to sell Joseph.
  - (1). Read these verses again, carefully.
  - (2). Explain the reasoning Judah presented to his brothers concerning why they should sell Joseph.
  - (3). Why was it important for the author to indicate that this was an Ishmaelite caravan?
  - (4). According to Judah's speech to his brothers, what was/were his primary concern(s)?
  - (5). What did Judah mean, "After all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood?"
  - (6). What can we learn from the closing statement in verse 27, "His brothers agree?"
- c. In Genesis 37:28, the author described the sale of Joseph.
  - (1). In verse 25, the author spoke of "an Ishmaelite caravan." In verse 28, he spoke of "Midianite merchants." What is the difference?
  - (2). The author indicated that the brothers sold Joseph for "twenty shekels of silver." What is the significance of this?
  - (3). Put yourself in Joseph's position:
    - (a). How would you feel when they took away your robe?
    - (b). How would you feel when they put you into the "pit?"
    - (c). How would you feel when they took you out of the "pit?"
    - (d). How would you feel when they sold you as a slave?
  - (4). Now put yourself in the place of Joseph's brothers:
    - (a). How would you feel when you took away Joseph's robe?
    - (b). How would you feel when you threw Joseph into the "pit?"
    - (c). How would you feel when you took Joseph out of the "pit?"
    - (d). How would you feel when you sold Joseph to the Midianites as a slave? (Be honest now!)
- 8. In Genesis 37:29-36, the brothers deceived Jacob about the disappearance of Joseph.
  - a. What is the significance of Reuben tearing his robe in verse 29?
  - b. Think carefully about Reuben's statement to his brothers in verse 30. Is this just an emotional outburst? If not, then what was he saying to his brothers?
  - c. In Genesis 37:31, 32, the brothers fabricated a report to Jacob concerning Joseph. Study the account very carefully.
    - (1). Think of yourself as a judge. On the basis of Genesis 37:31, 32, of what crimes could you convict the brothers?
    - (2). Why do you suppose the brothers chose to dip Joseph's robe in blood rather than his undergarment or head-covering?
    - (3). Put yourself in the position of the ten brothers as they reported to Jacob. What would be the difference between telling an outright lie and the evasive deception to which they also resorted?
  - d. In Genesis 37:33, Jacob recognized Joseph's robe.
    - (1). What did Jacob say about it?
    - (2). Is there any indication concerning whether Jacob believed this statement or not?
    - (3). If you were in Jacob's position, what would you think?
  - e. In Genesis 37:34, 35, Jacob responded to the apparent news about Joseph.
    - (1). In verse 34, Jacob used three symbols to express the depth of his grief at the apparent death of Joseph.
      - (a). Why did he need three symbols?
      - (b). What would any two of these express that the third one would not?
    - (2). Imagine yourself as one of the brothers trying to comfort Jacob over the death of a son who is not dead. How would you feel?
    - (3). What did Jacob mean when he said, "In mourning will I go down to the grave to my son?"

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (4). Was Jacob's statement true?
  - f. In Genesis 37:36, the author described the Midianites disposition of Joseph.
    - (1). The author speaks of Potiphar, the one who purchased Joseph, as "the captain of the guard." In a Bible Dictionary, Encyclopedia or commentary, check to see what kind of position this was.
    - (2). Put yourself in Joseph's position.
      - (a). How would you feel about serving as a slave in such a man's home?
      - (b). A short time ago you were the inheritor of your father's estate. Everyone in the family would be required to do your bidding. Now you are a slave doing the bidding of your owner or his trusted servant. How would you feel?
  - g. Reflect on what this chapter tells us about Joseph's brothers. If you were asked to comment on the quality of their lives, what could you say?
9. After careful study of this chapter, what have you found that will make a difference in the way you view your Christian faith and live your life?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 14

TAMAR EXPOSES JUDAH

GENESIS 38:1 - 30

1. There are three paragraphs in our best documents of Genesis 38. Read each paragraph carefully. On the table below, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

38:1-11	
38:12-23	
38:24-30	

2. In Genesis 38:1-11, the author covers several years in the life of Judah's family.
- a. In Genesis 38:1, Judah left his brothers and went to visit his friend Hirah. This innocent sounding report contains a problem. Please identify the problem.
  - b. In Genesis 38:2, Judah got married. What does this tell you about Judah?
  - c. Read Genesis 38:3-5 very carefully. There is an interesting contrast in these verses.
    - (1). What is the contrast?
    - (2). What does the contrast tell us?
  - d. In Genesis 38:6, Judah displayed something of his character. What did you discover?
  - e. There is a theological problem in Genesis 38:7.
    - (1). What is the problem?
    - (2). How do you deal with this problem?
  - f. In Genesis 38:8, Judah gave his son an unusual instruction. What reason can you see for such an instruction?
  - g. Genesis 38:9 is sometimes used as a verse which condemns masturbation.
    - (1). What is the issue in this verse?
    - (2). Why did Onan do what he did?
  - h. There is a serious theological issue in Genesis 38:10.
    - (1). What is the theological issue?
    - (2). What other Biblical illustrations should be considered in conjunction with this verse?
  - i. Study Judah's instruction to Tamar in Genesis 38:11.
    - (1). What was the instruction?
    - (2). What was Judah's motive for giving that instruction?
    - (3). Why would this be important to Judah?
3. In Genesis 38:12-23, Tamar tricked Judah.
- a. In Genesis 38:12, Judah suffered a loss,
    - (1). In this verse there is a contrast with Genesis 37:34, 35.
    - (2). What two things are contrasted?
    - (3). What does this tell you about Judah?
  - b. In Genesis 38:13-15, Tamar decided to take matters into her own hands.
    - (1). Put yourself in Tamar's position.
      - (a). How would you feel when Judah failed to keep his promise?
      - (b). What would you do in this circumstance?
    - (2). Did Judah react in the way Tamar hoped and expected him to react?



*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- c. In Genesis 38:16, Judah unknowingly approached Tamar, whom he thought was a prostitute, seeking sexual favors.
- (1). What questions does this verse raise in your mind?
  - (2). What did Tamar do to solve the problem of not being given to Shelah as his wife?
  - (3). How would her actions solve the problem?
  - (4). What does the fact that Tamar went to Enaim to carry out her deception tell you about her motive?
  - (5). Read carefully Tamar's response to Judah's request.
    - (a). How did she respond?
    - (b). What does this tell you about Tamar?
  - (6). Think carefully about what Judah did.
    - (a). In view of the teachings of this chapter, what are the implications and side-effects of his actions?
    - (b). What does this tell you about Judah?
  - (7). What does the fact that Judah thought Tamar was a prostitute tell you about him?
- d. In Genesis 38:17, 18, Tamar and Judah negotiated concerning Judah's request.
- (1). What was Judah's offer?
  - (2). Does this seem sufficient to you?
  - (3). Did Tamar think it was sufficient?
  - (4). Read carefully Tamar's response to Judah's offer.
    - (a). Was she satisfied?
    - (b). What else did she request?
    - (c). Why would she make such a request?
    - (d). How did Judah respond to her additional request?
    - (e). What does this fact ( question 4d above) tell you?
- e. In Genesis 38:19, Tamar ends her deception.
- (1). In what ways did Tamar deceive Judah?
  - (2). Why was this necessary?
- f. In Genesis 38:20, 21, Judah attempted to pay his debt to the prostitute as promised.
- (1). Why did Judah send the young goat by his Adullamite friend rather than delivering it himself?
  - (2). What does the fact that Judah did send the young goat tell you about Judah?
  - (3). Put yourself in Judah's position. Why would you have sent the goat when you could have decided not to do so?
  - (4). Why did Tamar negotiate so carefully and then fail to tell Judah that she was not from Enaim?
- g. In Genesis 38:22, The Adullamite reported his failed mission to Judah.
- (1). How do you think the Adullamite felt giving this report?
  - (2). How do you think Judah felt when he heard this report?
- h. In Genesis 38:23, Judah responded to the report of the Adullamite. Read it carefully.
- (1). What did he say?
  - (2). Explain what Judah meant in each phrase of his response.
4. In Genesis 38:24-30, Tamar shocked Judah.
- a. In Genesis 38:24, Judah received a report about his daughter-in-law. Read the verse carefully.
    - (1). Specifically, what did the report tell Judah?
    - (2). Was the report completely true?
    - (3). Study again Judah's response to this news:
      - (a). What was his response?
      - (b). Why would he respond in this manner?
    - (4). Put yourself in Tamar's position. How would you feel to hear this verdict?
  - b. In Genesis 38:25, the author reported Tamar's response to the punishment announced by Judah.
    - (1). Study her response in great depth.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (2). Describe, in full detail, what Tamar did and did not do.
  - (3). Explain why she did each thing cited in the previous answer.
  - c. In Genesis 38:26, Judah responded to Tamar's presentation following his announcement of her punishment.
    - (1). What did Judah say?
    - (2). What did Judah mean by his statement?
    - (3). This verse records a new experience for Judah. What was it?
    - (4). This verse tells us something about what Judah did and something he did not do. Please identify both of these.
    - (5). What other options did Judah have besides the things he did and did not do listed above?
    - (6). What does this entire verse tell you about Judah?
  - d. In Genesis 38:27, 28, the author shifts the spotlight of attention to the birth of the twins.
    - (1). What does the fact that one baby put his arm out, but the other baby was born first tell you?
    - (2). Why was the midwife so careful to tie a scarlet cord on the wrist that first emerged?
    - (3). What did the midwife mean, "this one came out first"?
  - e. In Genesis 38:29, the mid-wife made a seemingly sarcastic statement about the child who was born first.
    - (1). What did she say?
    - (2). What did she mean by that statement?
    - (3). Look at a Bible Dictionary or Bible Encyclopedia to see what this child's name means.
      - (a). Who gave this child his name?
      - (b). Why would anyone give a child such a name?
  - f. In Genesis 38:30, the author described the birth of the second twin.
    - (1). Look up the name of this baby in a Bible Dictionary or Bible Encyclopedia.
      - (a). What does the name mean?
      - (b). Why would they give him such a name?
    - (2). Why would the author emphasize, again, the scarlet cord?
5. Review chapter 38 again. Remember that it is a parenthesis intruding into the story of Joseph.
- a. What reason(s) can you find for telling this story?
  - b. What reason(s) can you find for telling this story at this point in the story of Joseph?
6. In view of the story of this chapter, think very carefully about what God is telling you in this chapter.
- a. What has God told you about Himself in these verses?
  - b. What has God told you about yourself in this chapter?
  - c. What will you do about these discoveries?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 15

JOSEPH AND POTIPHAR'S WIFE

GENESIS 39:1 - 23

1. There are three paragraphs in our best documents of Genesis chapter 39. Read each paragraph carefully. On the table below, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

39:1-6	
39:7-18	
39:19-23	

2. In Genesis chapter 39 there is repeated emphasis upon the fact that Potiphar was an Egyptian and Joseph was a Jew. What does this emphasis tell us?
3. Genesis 39:1-6 describes the entry of Joseph into Potiphar's house.
- a. Read Genesis 39:1 very carefully.
    - (1). Identify each piece of information the verse conveys.
    - (2). What do these pieces of information tell us?
    - (3). How is this information useful in understanding the text?
  - b. In Genesis 39:2, there are three more pieces of information about Joseph.
    - (1). What are they?
    - (2). What do they tell us about Joseph?
  - c. In Genesis 39:3, 4, there is a cause, effect relationship.
    - (1). What is the cause?
    - (2). What is the effect?
    - (3). What do you gain from this information?
  - d. In Genesis 39:5, the author described an unusual phenomenon.
    - (1). What is it?
    - (2). How do you account for this?
    - (3). What does this tell you about God?
  - e. In Genesis 39:6, there are two sentences.
    - (1). What, if any, is the relation between the two sentences?
    - (2). The first sentence is a repetition of information from Genesis 39:5. Why would the author do that?
4. In Genesis 39:7-18, the author tells of a tragic encounter.
- a. In Genesis 39:7-9, the author tells of the request by Potiphar's wife and Joseph's response.
    - (1). What was her request?
    - (2). What was Joseph's reply?
    - (3). What reasons did he give?
    - (4). What does this tell you about him?
  - b. In Genesis 39:10, the author tells of the aftermath of the encounter in Genesis 39:9.
    - (1). What was the attitude of Potiphar's wife?
    - (2). What was Joseph's attitude?
    - (3). How did he demonstrate that attitude?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- c. In Genesis 39:11, 12, the author reports another attempt by Potiphar's wife, to achieve her goal.
    - (1). List everything she did.
    - (2). In what ways was this request different from the previous one?
    - (3). List the things Joseph did?
    - (4). What else could he have done? Would it have helped?
  - d. In Genesis 39:13-15, Potiphar's wife told the other slaves her story of what Joseph had done.
    - (1). What was her report?
    - (2). What part, if any, was true?
    - (3). What part, if any, was false?
  - e. The short message of Genesis 39:16 gives an important insight. What is it?
  - f. In Genesis 39:17, 18, Potiphar's wife reported to him her version of what had happened.
    - (1). Compare her report to the servants, verse 14, with her report to Potiphar, verse 17, 18. What did you find?
    - (2). What is the meaning of these differences?
    - (3). What do these things tell you?
5. Genesis 39:19-23 tells of Joseph's prison experiences.
- a. The author records, in Genesis 39:19, Potiphar's response to his wife's report.
    - (1). How did Potiphar respond?
    - (2). Put yourself in Potiphar's place. How would you feel receiving this report?
  - b. In Genesis 39:20, Potiphar acted upon his wife's report.
    - (1). What did he do?
    - (2). Why would he do that?
    - (3). What possible inferences can one make from this verse?
  - c. In Genesis 39:21, the author described what prison life was like for Joseph.
    - (1). Compare verse 21 with verses 19 and 20. What did you find?
    - (2). If you were a prisoner, could you possibly evaluate your life with the words of Genesis 39:21?
    - (3). What does this tell you?
    - (4). There are two descriptive phrases in this verse.
      - (a). What are they?
      - (b). What do they mean?
      - (c). In what ways are they alike? Different?
  - d. In Genesis 39:22, the author continued to describe Joseph's life in prison.
    - (1). Compare Genesis 39:21 with Genesis 39:22. What did you find?
    - (2). Think carefully about the content of verse 22.
      - (a). What two pieces of information does verse 22 contain?
      - (b). What does this tell you about the warden?
      - (c). What does this tell you about Joseph?
  - e. In Genesis 39:23, the author continued to describe Joseph's prison experience.
    - (1). Compare Genesis 39:23 with 39:19-22. What did you find?
    - (2). Why would the author report it in this way?
    - (3). What does this tell you?
    - (4). What writing tool does the author use in Genesis 39:23? What does this tell us?
    - (5). The author gives a reason for the warden's actions in this verse.
      - (a). What is the reason?
      - (b). What does it tell you?
    - (6). Put yourself in the place of another prisoner who observed what the author reported in this verse.
      - (a). How would you feel?
      - (b). What would you think?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

6. Review chapter 39 looking for spiritual principles.
  - a. What does it say about righteousness?
  - b. What does it say about evil?
  - c. What does it say about the obedient life?
  - d. Look at these pieces of information in contrast with your view of temptation and suffering. What did you find?
  
7. What differences will this study make in your thinking about the obedient life?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 16

JOSEPH INTERPRETED THE DREAMS OF THE CUPBEARER AND BAKER

GENESIS 40:1 - 23

1. In our best documents of Genesis chapter forty, there are three paragraphs. On the following table, write a summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

40:1-8	
40:9-15	
40:16-23	

2. In Genesis 40:1-8, the author reported that Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker had dreams.
- a. In Genesis 40:1, the author described a tense situation in Pharaoh's court.
    - (1). Why would a cupbearer be so important to the Pharaoh?
    - (2). Study the verse carefully. Are there any hints concerning the nature of the offenses of these two officials?
  - b. In Genesis 40:2, there is a hint concerning the seriousness of the offenses of these two officials. What is the hint? What does it tell you?
  - c. Think carefully about the wording of Genesis 40:3.
    - (1). What surprising information do you find there?
    - (2). What does this information tell you?
  - d. In Genesis 40:4, there is an even greater surprise.
    - (1). What is the surprise?
    - (2). What does this tell you about Potiphar and Joseph?
    - (3). What specific insights does this verse give you concerning the character of Joseph?
  - e. In Genesis 40:5, the author introduced the dreams of the cupbearer and baker.
    - (1). This verse seems very awkwardly written. What could account for this?
    - (2). List the pieces of information you find in this verse. What did you learn from this exercise?
  - f. In Genesis 40:6, Joseph observed something about the two officials.
    - (1). What did Joseph observe?
    - (2). What does this tell you about Joseph and his attitude?
  - g. In Genesis 40:7, Joseph questioned the cupbearer and baker concerning their appearance.
    - (1). What did he ask them?
    - (2). Why was it important for him to ask them?
    - (3). Compare the wording of verses six and seven. What did you discover?
  - h. There is a contrast between Joseph and the two officials in Genesis 40:8.
    - (1). What is the contrast?
    - (2). What does it tell you?
3. In Genesis 40:9-15, Joseph heard and interpreted the cupbearer's dream.
- a. Read verse nine carefully. What does a vine have to do with a cupbearer's life?
  - b. Read Genesis 40:10, 11, again carefully.
    - (1). What is there in these verses that would give Joseph the interpretation that he gave the cupbearer?
    - (2). In Genesis 40:12-14, Joseph interpreted the cupbearer's dream.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (a). In verse 12, Joseph talked about branches as days. What would cause Joseph to understand that three branches means three days?
  - (b). In Genesis 40:13, Joseph continued his interpretation.
    - [1]. Put yourself in Joseph's position as he interpreted this dream. What would you feel?
    - [2]. Put yourself in the cupbearer's position. How would you feel when you heard this interpretation?
  - (c). In Genesis 40:14, Joseph made two requests of the Chief cupbearer.
    - [1]. What were the requests?
    - [2]. What do these things tell you about Joseph's situation?
  - (d). In Genesis 40:15, the author gives us a glimpse into Joseph's life that we have not seen before this.
    - [1]. If you were Joseph and said these words, what would you be trying to tell the Chief cupbearer?
    - [2]. Reflect upon the two statements in this verse.
      - [a]. What is the significance of the first statement?
      - [b]. Why would he feel the need to say this?
      - [c]. What is the significance of the second statement?
      - [d]. What would be missing in the story if he had not made this statement?
5. In Genesis 40:16-23, Joseph addressed his attention to the dream of the chief baker.
- a. In Genesis 40:16, 17, the chief baker reported his dream.
    - (1). Read Genesis 40:16, 17 very carefully. On the basis of the text, what do you think the chief baker would have done if the previous interpretation had not been positive?
    - (2). This was an unusual dream. On the basis of the text, what can you discover about the interpretation?
  - b. In Genesis 40:18, 19, Joseph interpreted the chief baker's dream.
    - (1). Write down each statement Joseph made in his interpretation. What can you learn from this list?
    - (2). Put yourself in Joseph's position as he gave this interpretation. What would you feel?
    - (3). Now, put yourself in the chief baker's position.
      - (a). What questions would race through your mind?
      - (b). How would you feel?
        - [1]. How would you feel about Pharaoh?
        - [2]. How would you feel about Joseph?
        - [3]. How would you feel about the chief cupbearer?
  - c. In Genesis 40:20-22, the author described Pharaoh's removal of the two officials from the prison.
    - (1). Look carefully at Genesis 40:20
      - (a). What does Pharaoh's birthday party have to do with the release of these two officials from prison?
      - (b). Why would he choose to release the two officials "in the presence of his officials."?
    - (2). Read Genesis 40:21 very carefully.
      - (a). Compare this verse with 40:13. What does this study tell you?
      - (b). If you were Joseph, how would you feel to see the chief cupbearer being restored? Why would you feel that way?
    - (3). Read 40:22 again.
      - (a). Compare Genesis 40:22 with 40:19. What did you learn from that study?
      - (b). Look carefully at the last half of Genesis 40:22.
        - [1]. What does it tell you?
        - [2]. Why does the author include this information here?
      - (c). In Genesis 40:23, there is a surprising turn of events.
        - [1]. If you were Joseph and realized the truth of this verse, how would you feel?
        - [2]. Make two columns on a sheet of paper. In one column write the things Joseph did for the chief butler/cup bearer. In the second column describe how the chief butler treated Joseph
        - [3]. What does this study tell you?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

6. Now reflect on your study of the story of Joseph and the two high officials from Pharaoh's court.
  - a. What did you learn from this chapter?
  - b. What does the chapter tell you about God?
  - c. What did you discover about yourself in this study?
  - d. What changes will you make in your life because of this study?



QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 17

JOSEPH INTERPRETS PHARAOH'S DREAMS

GENESIS 41:1 - 57

1. There are six paragraphs in Genesis chapter 41. On the table below, write a brief summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

41:1-8	
41:9-13	
41:14-24	
41:25-36	
41:37-45	
41:46-57	

2. In Genesis 41:1-8, the author described Pharaoh's dreams:
- a. In verse one, the author identified that "two full years had passed."
    - (1). What does this tell us?
    - (2). The author further indicated that the scene of this verse was "by the Nile." What difference would this make?
  - b. In Genesis 41:2-4, the author described Pharaoh's first dream.
    - (1). This dream deals with seven cows. What is the significance of this?
    - (2). Summarize the message of these three verses.
  - c. In Genesis 41:5-7, Pharaoh had a second dream.
    - (1). What was his dream?
    - (2). What was the significance of the content of this dream?
    - (3). What is the significance of two similar dreams?
  - d. In Genesis 41:8, the author wrote that Pharaoh, "was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt."
    - (1). Describe, in detail, what we know about Pharaoh's frame of mind as he woke up that morning.
    - (2). What is a "magician?"
    - (3). What is a "wise man?"
    - (4). What was the significance of the fact that Pharaoh's advisors could not help him?
3. In Genesis 41:9-13, the cup bearer Joseph helped was returned to Pharaoh's court.
- a. In Genesis 41:9, the chief cup bearer spoke of "my shortcomings." Of what did he speak?
    - (1). What is a "shortcoming?"
    - (2). Identify what the author meant when he spoke of "chief cup bearer."
  - b. In Genesis 41:10, there is a description of an unfortunate experience some time in the past.
    - (1). What would be the responsibility of the chief baker?
    - (2). What might he be guilty of that could cause him to be imprisoned and killed?
    - (3). What does the author's report of Pharaoh's emotional state tell you about this situation?
  - c. In Genesis 41:11, 12, the Chief cupbearer reported to Pharaoh the events that took place while he was in prison.
    - (1). What does this tell you about the chief cupbearer?

**GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS**

- (2). How did the chief cup bearer identify Joseph?
- (3). What is the tone of the chief cupbearer's report? What does this suggest?
- d. In Genesis 41:13, 14, the chief cupbearer reported the results of Joseph's interpretation of his dream.
  - (1). What was his report?
  - (2). How was his interpretation verified?
- 4. In Genesis 41:14 - 24, Pharaoh shared his dream with Joseph.
  - a. In Genesis 41:14, the author reported how Joseph was prepared to stand before Pharaoh.
    - (1). What can we learn from this verse?
    - (2). The text indicates that Joseph was brought from the dungeon. What does this tell us about Joseph's accommodations and situation?
  - b. In Genesis 41:15, Pharaoh spoke to Joseph about the dreams.
    - (1). What did Pharaoh say?
    - (2). Compare this report with the previous report of Pharaoh's dream. What did you learn?
  - c. In Genesis 41:16, Joseph responded to Pharaoh's report of his dream.
    - (1). What was Joseph's response?
    - (2). Why was it important for Joseph to say what he did? What difference would it make?
  - d. In Genesis 41:17, Pharaoh poured out his heart to Joseph.
    - (1). Why is it important that this took place along the Nile?"
    - (2). What significance is there, if any, to the fact that he was standing by the river?
  - e. In Genesis 41:18, Pharaoh continued to describe the dream.
    - (1). What significance is there, if any, to the fact that there were cows in this dream?
    - (2). Why not sheep or goats?
    - (3). What was added when the author indicated that these cows were "fat?"
  - f. In Genesis 41:19, the author drew a contrast.
    - (1). What is the contrast?
    - (2). Pharaoh attempted to describe just how "ugly" these cows were.
      - (a). How did he express it?
      - (b). Does this seem to be an exaggeration or the statement of simple fact?
  - g. In Genesis 41:20, the author shocked us by reporting events as they happened:
    - (1). What did he tell us?
    - (2). What significance do you find in this statement?
  - h. In Genesis 41:21, Pharaoh described the conclusion of the dream.
    - (1). What did he see?
    - (2). If you were Pharaoh, how would you respond to such a dream?
    - (3). Is there any significance to the fact that he woke up at this point?
  - i. In Genesis 41:22-24, Pharaoh described a second dream.
    - (1). What was the dream about?
    - (2). In verse 23, Pharaoh described another impossible event. What was it?
    - (3). What is the significance of the repetition of the fact that no one could interpret the dreams?
    - (4). On the table which follows, draw a comparison of the two dreams.

COWS	GRAIN

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (5). In view of the above information, what can we learn from this comparison?
5. In Genesis 41:25-36, Joseph gave an interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams.
- a. In Genesis 41:25, Joseph said, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same." What does that mean?
  - b. Compare 41:25 with 41:26. What does it tell you?
  - c. In Genesis 41:27, Joseph identified the meaning of the seven lean heads of grain. How did he explain it?
  - d. In Genesis 41:28, Joseph repeated his initial evaluation.
    - (1). What did he say?
    - (2). What did he mean?
  - e. In Genesis 41:29, 30, Joseph described the dreams in greater detail.
    - (1). What did he say?
    - (2). How devastating does Joseph anticipate this will become?
  - f. In Genesis 41:31, Joseph repeated just how strongly this situation will affect the nation.
    - (1). What did he say?
    - (2). What was gained by this repetition?
  - g. In Genesis 41:32, Joseph explained why Pharaoh received these dreams.
    - (1). How did Joseph explain it?
    - (2). What message did Joseph present to Pharaoh?
  - h. In Genesis 41:33, Joseph did something unheard of.
    - (1). What did he do?
    - (2). Why did he do it?
    - (3). Why were his suggestions necessary?
  - i. In Genesis 41:34, Joseph continued with his advice.
    - (1). What did this verse add to Joseph's advice?
    - (2). Think of yourself as one of the farmers in Egypt. How would you feel when you heard about this?
  - j. In Genesis 41:35, Joseph explained the rationale for the recommendation he had spelled out. What is this rationale?
  - k. In Genesis 41:36, Joseph concluded his unsolicited recommendation. There appears to be a flaw in Joseph's recommendation.
    - (1). What is the apparent flaw?
    - (2). How would you explain this?
6. In Genesis 41:37-45, Pharaoh chose Joseph to be second in command of Egypt.
- a. In Genesis 41:37, the author reported on the evaluation of Joseph's recommendation by Pharaoh and his leaders.
    - (1). What was that response?
    - (2). Think carefully about why this was miraculous?
  - b. In Genesis 41:38, 39, Pharaoh made some statements about God which seemed shocking.
    - (1). Since Pharaoh did not believe in God, why would he speak to his advisors about Him, in verse 38?
    - (2). Observe what Pharaoh said to Joseph in verse 39.
      - (a). What did Pharaoh have to believe in order to say that?
      - (b). In view of Pharaoh's statements in this verse, how would you describe Pharaoh's impression of Joseph?
  - c. In Genesis 41:40, 41, Pharaoh gave Joseph his job description. How would you explain it?
  - d. In Genesis 41:42, Pharaoh gave Joseph three presents.
    - (1). What were the presents?
    - (2). What did the presents mean?
  - e. In Genesis 41:43, Pharaoh bestowed a high honor on Joseph. How does it differ from Genesis 41:42?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- f. In Genesis 41:44, Pharaoh summarized Joseph's new power. In your own words, how would you describe it?
  - g. In Genesis 41:45, Pharaoh gave Joseph a new name. What reasons can you give for this action?
7. In Genesis 41:46-57, Joseph began the monumental task of ruling the land of Egypt.
- a. What does Genesis 41:46 tell you about the kind of ruler Joseph was?
  - b. What does Genesis 41:47 tell you about Joseph's prophetic skills?
  - c. In Genesis 41:48, the author described Joseph's plan for storing the excess grain. What rationale can you see for what he planned to do?
  - d. In Genesis 41:49, the author exaggerated a bit. What was his exaggeration? Why would he resort to this?
  - e. In Genesis 41:50-52, the author suddenly interrupts the story to tell us about Joseph's family. Why?
  - f. In Genesis 41:53, there is a dire announcement. Why was it important to say this?
  - g. In Genesis 41:54, there are four distinct pieces of information:
    - (1). What are the pieces of information?
    - (2). What do they add to our understanding?
  - h. In Genesis 41:55, the author gave a glimpse of Pharaoh's impression of Joseph. What was that impression?
  - i. In Genesis 41:56, the author described Joseph's care of the Egyptian people. How would you describe it?
  - j. In Genesis 41:57, the author described Joseph's care of people from neighboring countries.
    - (1). How would you describe it?
    - (2). Compare Genesis 41:56 with 41:57. What did you learn.
8. Reflect on Genesis chapter 41.
- a. What does it tell you about God?
  - b. What effect can this have on the way you deal with God in everyday life?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 18

BROTHERS' FIRST TRIP TO EGYPT FOR GRAIN

GENESIS 42:1 - 38

1. In Genesis chapter 42, there are four paragraphs. On the table which follows, write a summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

42:1-17	
42:18-25	
42:26-34	
42:35-38	

2. In Genesis 42:1-17, Joseph met his brothers and accused them of being spies.
- a. In Genesis 42:1, Jacob spoke to his ten brothers.
    - (1). What did he say?
    - (2). How would you describe the feelings of Jacob as he spoke?
    - (3). If you were one of the brothers, how would you feel listening to Jacob say this?
    - (4). Would it make any difference which brother you were?
  - b. In Genesis 42:2, Jacob made a surprising statement.
    - (1). What did he say?
    - (2). Why was this surprising?
    - (3). Where would Jacob get this information?
    - (4). What did Jacob accomplish by saying, "so that we may live and not die"?
  - c. In Genesis 42:3, the author made a seemingly insignificant report.
    - (1). What did he report?
    - (2). Why was it necessary for ten brothers to go?
  - d. Review Genesis 42:4 carefully.
    - (1). The author mentioned that Benjamin was Joseph's brother. Why was that important here?
    - (2). What was the significance of Jacob's fears?
  - e. In Genesis 42:5, the author reported the arrival of the ten brothers in Egypt.
    - (1). What did he tell us?
    - (2). What are the implications of this verse?
  - f. In Genesis 42:6, the spotlight shifts to Joseph.
    - (1). How does the author describe Joseph's position?
    - (2). Why was this important?
    - (3). How did the brothers respond to Joseph?
    - (4). Why was that significant?
  - g. In Genesis 42:7, 8, Joseph recognized his brothers.
    - (1). Why would Joseph be able to recognize the brothers, but they were unable to recognize him?
    - (2). Why would he pretend to be a stranger to his brothers?
    - (3). Why would Joseph speak harshly with his brothers?
    - (4). Think carefully about the brothers' reply. What can we learn?
    - (5). Why would Joseph ask where they came from when he already knew?
  - h. In Genesis 42:9, Joseph accused his brothers.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (1). What was his accusation?
- (2). What basis does Joseph have for this accusation?
- (3). What relationship can you see, in this verse, between Joseph's dream and his accusation?
- i. In Genesis 42:10, 11, the brothers responded to Joseph's accusation.
  - (1). There are four parts to this response. What are they?
  - (2). Read them again. What do these responses tell you?
  - (3). Is this an adequate response?
- j. In Genesis 42:12, Joseph contradicted his brothers.
  - (1). What did he say?
  - (2). What basis did he have for saying this?
  - (3). How realistic were Joseph's accusations?
- k. The brothers responded to Joseph's charges in 42:13.
  - (1). How did the brothers address Joseph?
  - (2). Why would they do this?
  - (3). They gave five pieces of information in their own defense.
    - (a). What information did they give?
    - (b). What was the significance of each pieces of information?
- l. In Genesis 42:14, Joseph responded to the brothers' response.
  - (1). On the following table, compare the brothers' response (42:13) with Joseph's reactions (42:14).

Genesis 42:13	Genesis 42:14
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

- (2). What can you discover from this comparison?
  - (3). What basis can you find for Joseph's response?
  - m. In Genesis 42:15, Joseph made an announcement.
    - (1). Why does Joseph add, "As surely as Pharaoh lives"?
    - (2). What difference does this make?
    - (3). They were being tested. Why was this important?
    - (4). Think of yourself as one of the brothers. What would you think as you heard Joseph's announcement?
  - n. In Genesis 42:16, Joseph continued his announcement.
    - (1). The brothers face some major obstacles in attempting to fulfill Joseph's requirements.
      - (a). What obstacles are there?
      - (b). What can they do to overcome these obstacles?
    - (2). What basis does Joseph have to test their truthfulness?
    - (3). Joseph, again, used the statement, "As surely as Pharaoh lives." What is the significance of this?
    - (4). What is the significance of Joseph's attempt to prove that they were spies?
    - (5). Explain the logic of Joseph's accusation?
  - o. In Genesis 42:17, Joseph surprised his brothers.
    - (1). What was the surprise?
    - (2). What would Joseph hope to accomplish by this move?
3. In Genesis 42:18-25, Joseph reversed himself and said some surprising things.
- a. In Genesis 42:18, Joseph spoke to his brothers as they returned from three days in prison.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (1). What did Joseph say?
  - (2). What were the implications of these statements?
  - (3). There were at least two surprises in this verse. What are they?
  - b. In Genesis 42:19, Joseph completely reversed himself.
    - (1). What was the reversal?
    - (2). There is a major problem with Joseph's instructions. What is it?
    - (3). Why did Joseph continue to deal with their integrity when they have been telling the truth?
  - c. In Genesis 42:20, Joseph reiterated his demands.
    - (1). Why was it so important for them to bring Benjamin to Joseph ?
    - (2). Knowing all that he does, why does Joseph talk about them dying?
    - (3). Notice how the brothers responded. What does this tell you?
  - d. In Genesis 42:21, the brothers talked among themselves.
    - (1). How did they evaluate their situation?
    - (2). What basis can you see for their conclusion?
    - (3). If you were the brother who spoke these words, what emotions would be going through your mind as you spoke?
  - e. In Genesis 42:22, Reuben spoke to his brothers.
    - (1). What did he say?
    - (2). How would this affect the brothers?
    3. What did Reuben mean when he said, "Now we must give an account for his blood."?
    - (4). Review chapter 37. Compare Reuben's actions in chapter 37 with his statement in 42:22. What did you learn?
  - f. In Genesis 42:23, 24, the author gave us a special insight.
    - (1). In Genesis 42:23, the author gave us some information the brothers did not have. What difference would that make?
    - (2). In Genesis 42:24, Joseph responded to what he had heard his brothers say. What could have caused this response?
    - (3). Joseph surprised his brothers, again, at the end of verse 24.
      - (a). What did he do?
      - (b). Why would Joseph choose this brother?
      - (c). What was gained by doing this?
  - g. Joseph again did something surprising in Genesis 42:25.
    - (1). What three things did Joseph do?
    - (2). How can you account for this?
    - (3). What does this tell you about Joseph?
4. In Genesis 42:26-34, the brothers reported to Jacob.
- a. The end of Genesis 42:25 and the beginning of 42:26 are a single sentence.
    - (1). What does it tell us?
    - (2). What is the significance of this information?
  - b. There is another shock in Genesis 42:27.
    - (1). What is it?
    - (2). What is the significance of it?
    - (3). The author mentioned that they found silver. What is the significance of this, if any?
  - c. In Genesis 42:28, the brothers responded to this discovery.
    - (1). What was their response?
    - (2). Why would they respond like this in view of their discovery?
    - (3). In view of their lives, what does God have to do with this situation?
  - d. In Genesis 42:29, 30, the brothers told Jacob about their experience in Egypt.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (1). How did the brothers identify Joseph?
  - (2). What does this suggest?
  - (3). What did they tell Jacob?
  - (4). What did they not tell Jacob?
  - (5). How would Jacob respond to this?
  - e. In Genesis 42:31, the brothers responded.
    - (1). What did they say?
    - (2). Compare what they told Jacob about Joseph, in Genesis 42:30, with their reply to Joseph, in Genesis 42:31.
      - (a). What did you learn?
      - (b). What did it mean?
  - f. In Genesis 42:32, the brothers continued their report.
    - (1). In this verse, the brothers added some information which they had not previously shared with Joseph.
      - (a). What did they share?
      - (b). Why would they share this?
    - (2). If you were Joseph and heard this, how would you feel?
    - (3). If you were Jacob and heard this, how would you feel?
  - g. In Genesis 42:33, 34, the brothers continued their report.
    - (1). In these verses, Joseph made three demands.
      - (a). What were these demands?
      - (b). What was the purpose of these demands?
      - (c). Would meeting these demands meet Joseph's announced purpose?
      - (d). Study the demands again. What do they tell you about Joseph?
    - (2). In verse 34, Joseph announced three promises that he would keep.
      - (a). What were these promises?
      - (b). Are they reasonable promises in view of his purposes?
      - (c). Study verse 34 again, in terms of who will gain the most - Joseph or the brothers.  
Who gained the most? Explain your answer.
5. In Genesis 42:35-38, Jacob responded to the demand that Benjamin return with his brothers to Egypt.
- a. In Genesis 42:35, there is another surprise.
    - (1). What was the surprise?
    - (2). What did it mean?
    - (3). How did Jacob and his sons react? Why?
  - b. In Genesis 42:36, Jacob gave his answer to Joseph's demand.
    - (1). What did Jacob say to his sons?
    - (2). If you were Jacob and said these words, what would you mean by them?
    - (3). How would you describe Jacob's emotional condition?
    - (4). Is Jacob blaming the Viceroy of Egypt or the brothers?
    - (5). What does this suggest?
  - c. In Genesis 42:37, one of the brothers responded to his father.
    - (1). Who spoke?
    - (2). What did he say?
    - (3). In what way was his offer helpful or unhelpful?
  - d. In Genesis 42:38, Jacob responded to his son's offer.
    - (1). How did Jacob respond?
    - (2). Explain how reasonable or unreasonable Jacob's response was.
    - (3). Put yourself into the place of the ten brothers when Jacob said this.
      - (a). Was Jacob's statement true?



*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (b). What would Jacob's words mean to you?
- (c). How do you account for Jacob's fears for Benjamin?

- 6. Read Genesis chapter 42 again.
  - a. What have you learned about human nature?
  - b. What have you learned about God.
  - c. In what way will this have a changing effect upon your life?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 19

DINNER FOR TWELVE BROTHERS

GENESIS 43:1 - 34

1. In Genesis chapter 43, there are three paragraphs. On the table below, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

43:1-15	
43:16-25	
43:26-34	

2. In Genesis 43:1-15, the author focused our attention on Israel's decision to send Benjamin to Egypt as the ruler, Joseph, had demanded.
- a. In view of Genesis 42:38, what is the significance of the author's brief statement in 43:1?
  - b. In Genesis 42:34, Joseph clearly stated that if Benjamin did not come to Egypt, they would not see his face again. Jacob, however, repeatedly refused to allow Benjamin to go. In view of this, why did Jacob, in 43:2, instruct his sons to go and buy food?
  - c. In 43:3-5, Judah again explained the impossibility of Jacob's instruction.
    - (1). Why was Judah saying this when Reuben was the oldest son?
    - (2). Reflect on the statement of Judah in these verses. What emotional tone do you detect in these words?
    - (3). What is the significance of the fact that Judah quoted Joseph twice in these verses saying, " You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you."?
    - (4). Put yourself in Jacob's position.
      - (a.) Why would you insist on the sons going to Egypt without Benjamin when they have repeatedly told you it was impossible?
      - (b.) How would you feel about this whole episode?
  - d. In Genesis 43:6, there is a very subtle change from the previous chapter.
    - (1). See if you can identify it?
    - (2). Why does the author suddenly start calling the father "Israel" when he has been calling him "Jacob"?
    - (3). Think about Israel's question in this verse. Why would he ask such a question?
  - e. In Genesis 43:7, the brothers answer Israel's question.
    - (1). Read the answer carefully.
    - (2). What is the emotional tone of their reply?
    - (3). In your own words, what did the brothers tell their father here?
    - (4). Think about Joseph's words to his brothers. Of whom did he speak when he said, "Do you have another brother?"
  - f. In Genesis 43:8-10, Judah spoke to his father concerning this impasse:
    - (1). What is the emotional tone of Judah's request in verse 8?
    - (2). What was Judah's appeal in verse 8?
    - (3). In verse nine, Judah changed his tactic. What was his new approach?
    - (4). There is a serious insinuation in verse 9. What is it?
    - (5). What are the implications of Judah's commitment in verse 9?
    - (6). Why was this offer so dangerous?
    - (7). In verse 10, Judah made an unusual remark.
      - (a). Could this statement be true?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (b). What is the emotional tone of this statement?
- g. In Genesis 43:11-14, there is a distinct change.
  - (1). What is the change?
  - (2). Study verses 11 carefully. In view of the draught, why would Israel tell them to take all this food as a gift? Identify each item Israel instructed the sons to take.
  - (3). Think carefully about verse 12.
    - (a). Why would Israel tell them to take silver instead of gold?
    - (b). What are the implications of Israel's instructions concerning the money the brothers found in the mouth of their sacks?
  - (4). Study both 43:13 and 42:38.
    - (a). How do you account for this change of Israel's mind?
    - (b). Put yourself in Israel's position. How would you be feeling?
  - (5). In 43:14, Israel pronounces his prayer of blessing on the sons as they go.
    - (a). Study this blessing carefully. What do you find there?
    - (b). What did Israel mean when he said, "If I am bereaved, I am bereaved."?
  - (6). In Genesis 43:15, the author tells of the trip to Egypt. What stands out in your mind about this statement?
- 3. In Genesis 43:16-25, the author described the scene where Joseph and his brothers ate together.
  - a. In 43:16-18, the author described the instructions to prepare a dinner for Joseph and his brothers.
    - (1). What is the significance of the instructions in verse 16?
    - (2). Put yourself in the place of the eleven brothers. How would you feel when you saw this taking place? What would it mean to you?
    - (3). In Genesis 43:18, the author described the reactions of the brothers when they were brought into Joseph's house.
      - (a). What were their feelings?
      - (b). What was the basis of their feelings?
      - (c). How realistic were their fears?
  - b. In 43:20-22, the brothers talked with the steward about the events that were in progress.
    - (1). Say these words out loud as though you were the one saying them to the steward. What do you feel?
    - (2). What was the reason for rehearsing these details with the steward?
    - (3). Look at the way the brothers addressed the steward. What does this tell you?
  - c. In verse 23, the steward responded to the brother's questions.
    - (1). What was he trying to do by his response?
    - (2). What did he do to achieve this goal?
    - (3). Read the verse carefully again.
      - (a). What, if anything, do you see that is unusual?
      - (c). What does the restoring of Simeon to the brothers have to do with the statement by the steward?
  - d. In verse 24, the steward did several things.
    - (1). What was the significance of these actions?
    - (2). If you were one of the eleven brothers, how would you feel when you observed this?
  - e. In verse 25, there is a hint of the brother's response.
    - (1). What was that response?
    - (2). Upon what did they base this response to what they saw?
- 4. In Genesis 43:26-34, the author described the dining experience between Joseph and his brothers.
  - a. In verse 26, the author described the events of the meeting between Joseph and the brothers. How would you describe these events?
  - b. Read the verse again. There are two events described here:

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (1). What are the events?
  - (2). What is the significance of each?
  - c. Put yourself into the picture described in verse 27.
    - (1). If you were Joseph, what would you be feeling?
    - (2). If you were the brothers, what would you be feeling?
    - (3). As you read the verse again, what feeling do you get?
  - d. There are two parts to verse 28.
    - (1). What are the two parts?
    - (2). What is the significance of the way the brothers spoke of their father?
    - (3). What is the significance of the bowing low before Joseph?
  - e. In verse 29, the author said, "He saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son." This is obviously an added emphasis. What is the significance of it?
    - (1). Joseph appears to be very casual in his statements in this verse. Why would he do this?
    - (2). Joseph spoke directly to Benjamin in verse 29.
      - (a). What did he say?
      - (b). What is the significance of this statement?
      - (c). What is there in this verse that is confusing?
      - (d). How do you explain it?
  - f. In verse 30, there is a dramatic change.
    - (1). What was the change?
    - (2). Why would this be important?
    - (3). How was that change handled?
    - (4). What would you have done?
  - g. Read verse 31 carefully.
    - (1). Imagine yourself doing these things.
    - (2). What would you feel as you did these things?
    - (3). What does this tell you about Joseph?
  - h. On the basis of verse 32, make a drawing of the table arrangements at this meal.
    - (1). Imagine yourself seated at the table with the Egyptians. What would you see?
    - (2). Imagine yourself seated at the table with Joseph. What would you see?
    - (3). Imagine yourself seated at the table with the brothers. What would you see?
    - (4). The author explained why the Egyptians sat at a separate table. What impact does this information have on the meaning of the text?
  - i. Genesis 43:33 should have given the brothers some information.
    - (1). What information should it have given them?
    - (2). What is the significance of this information?
    - (3). What does the author indicate concerning the effect of this event?
    - (4). Why would it affect the brothers in this way?
  - j. Verse 34 describes the meal itself.
    - (1). What did Joseph do in relationship to Benjamin?
    - (2). What was the meaning of this action?
    - (3). What would be the reaction of the other brothers?
    - (4). The closing sentence of the chapter seems different from the remainder of it.
      - (a). In what way was it different?
      - (b). What was the cause of this difference?
      - (c). What does this mean to the brothers?
5. Reflect upon this chapter again.
- a. What picture do you see here?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- b. What picture do you see of God's people?
- c. What does this say to the way we live our lives?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 20

JOSEPH PLANTED A CUP IN BENJAMIN'S BAG

GENESIS 44:1 - 34

1. In Genesis chapter 44, there are three paragraphs. On the following table, write a summary of seven words or less for each paragraph:

44:1-13	
44:14-17	
44:18-34	

2. In Genesis 44: 1-13, the author described Joseph's plan to hide his own personal cup in Benjamin's grain sack.
- a. In 44:1, 2, Joseph gave the steward instructions concerning the hiding of the cup:
    - (1). List the instructions Joseph gave the steward. Study the list. What observations can you make?
    - (2). Think carefully about the morality of Joseph's instructions. Was his plan a deception? If so, is that acceptable?
    - (3). Why would Joseph have the money put into the mouth of each sack rather than just giving the grain to the eleven brothers?
    - (4). What is the significance of placing Joseph's cup in Benjamin's sack? Why not the sack of the oldest brother, Reuben?
  - b. In Genesis 44:3, the author reported that the men were sent on their way at daybreak. Why would it be important to include this piece of information?
  - c. In Genesis 44:4, 5, Joseph sent his steward to apprehend the eleven brothers and retrieve his cup.
    - (1). If Joseph wanted his cup back, then why did he have it placed in the sack in the first place?
    - (2). Read carefully the things Joseph instructed his steward to say to the eleven brothers. What have you discovered?
    - (3). Are there false accusations in these verses? If so, what does that say to you?
    - (4). In verse five, the steward said, "Isn't this the cup my master drinks from and also uses for divination."
      - (a). What is divination?
      - (b). Does this necessarily say that Joseph used divination?
      - (c). What is your response to this statement?
  - d. Read Genesis 44:6 carefully. What information, if any, do you learn from this brief sentence?
  - e. Reflect on Genesis 44:7.
    - (1). From this brief response, what can you discover about the brothers and their response?
    - (2). Put yourself into the brother's position. How would you respond?
  - f. In Genesis 44:8, the brothers continued to defend themselves:
    - (1). What is their defense in this verse?
    - (2). Some would claim that this verse is evidence that Joseph was taking revenge against his brothers. What would you say to this charge? What other options would you consider?
  - g. In Genesis 44:9, the brothers spoke with renewed confidence.
    - (1). Was their position a necessary one? Was it wise?
    - (2). Who was speaking in this verse?
    - (3). What was the purpose of the position they offered?
    - (4). Who stood to gain the most from this agreement? Why?
  - h. In Genesis 44:10, the steward responded:

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (1). Compare the agreement the brothers offered, 44:9, with the one the steward repeated, 44:10. What did you find?
  - (2). Was the steward's restatement of the agreement better or worse for the brothers?
  - i. In Genesis 44:11, the author begins to describe the search, the moment of truth.
    - (1). Describe the scene from the brother's perspective.
    - (2). Now, describe the scene from the steward's perspective.
  - j. Think of the dramatic scene which unfolds in Genesis 44:12.
    - (1). Describe the feelings of Benjamin as the search unfolds.
    - (2). Describe the feelings of the steward at this time.
  - k. In view of Genesis 44:13:
    - (1). Draw a comparison between the feelings of Benjamin and his brothers.
    - (2). What emotions do you identify with the statement, "Then they all loaded their donkeys and returned to the city."?
3. In Genesis 44:14-17, the author described the meeting between Joseph and his brothers.
- a. In Genesis 44:14, the author tells us that "Joseph was still in the house."
    - (1). What was the significance of this information?
    - (2). The author mentioned that "Judah and his brothers came in." In what way was this important?
    - (3). What is the significance of the fact that "They threw themselves to the ground before him."?
  - b. In Genesis 44:15, Joseph confronted his brothers.
    - (1). What did Joseph mean when he said, "What is this you have done?"
    - (2). Read this verse carefully. How would you describe Joseph's ethics, his rightness or error in this situation? What issue, if any, do you find here?
    - (3). Think carefully about what this paragraph says concerning Joseph and divination.
      - (a). How would you describe this situation?
      - (b). In what way, if any, were his actions and words appropriate for a man of God?
  - c. In Genesis 44:16, the brothers answered Joseph's confrontation.
    - (1). What can you find in the verse that tells you something about their attitude?
    - (2). What guilt did Judah speak of when he said, "God has uncovered your servant's guilt."?
    - (3). What does this verse tell you about the character of Judah and his brothers?
    - (4). Look carefully at the three questions in this verse. What was Judah saying in these questions?
  - d. In Genesis 44:17, Joseph responded to Judah's surrender.
    - (1). Compare the steward's agreement, Genesis 44:10, with Joseph's statement, Genesis 44:17. What do you learn from this?
    - (2). Put yourself in Joseph's position as he spoke in Genesis 44:17. What would you be feeling?
    - (3). How would you describe Joseph's feeling as he said, "Far be it from me to do such a thing"?
    - (4). How realistic was it for Joseph to say, "The rest of you, go back to your father in peace"?
4. In Genesis 44:18-34, Judah pleads desperately with Joseph.
- a. Judah had been talking with Joseph.
    - (1). What suggestion can you make concerning Judah's statement, "Please, my lord, let your servant speak a word to my lord"?
    - (2). Why would Judah say to Joseph, "Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself"?
    - (3). Judah was a spokesman among his brothers on a previous occasion. Compare Judah's statement, in Genesis 37:26, 27, with this statement, in Genesis 44:18. What did you learn?
  - b. In Genesis 44:19, 20, Judah continued his appeal to Joseph.
    - (1). Read these verses carefully. What, in your impression, was Judah's attitude as he spoke?
    - (2). What does Joseph's question have to do with Benjamin's alleged guilt?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (3). What could Judah hope to achieve by reminding Joseph of this conversation?
- (4). Judah said, speaking to Joseph, "His brother is dead." How would Judah know that information?
- (5). In these verses, Judah gave five specific pieces of information:
  - (a). Identify the five pieces of information.
  - (b). Explain what Joseph could hope to attain by the use of this information.
- c. In Genesis 44:21, Judah continued his rehearsal of this conversation with Joseph.
  - (1). Read and reread this verse. What is the atmosphere; the attitude of Judah as he retells the story?
  - (2). What does this verse add; what does it accomplish for Judah's appeal?
- d. In Genesis 44:22, Judah repeats his response to what Joseph had commanded.
  - (1). What did Judah mean by this response?
  - (2). What did Judah want to accomplish by what he said here?
- e. In Genesis 44:23, Judah continued to rehearse the conversation.
  - (1). What emotional tone do you sense in his words?
  - (2). What could he hope to accomplish by these words?
- f. In Genesis 44:24, the rehearsal was continued.
  - (1). Of whom does he speak?
  - (2). What did he say in this brief sentence?
  - (3). What difference will this statement make?
- g. In Genesis 44:25, Judah again continued to rehearse the events.
  - (1). What does this sentence say?
  - (2). What difference does it make?
  - (3). What does this have to do with Benjamin's apparent guilt and retention?
  - (4). What did this have to do with Joseph?
- h. In Genesis 44:26, Judah went on with his rehearsal of events.
  - (1). There is something startling in this verse. What is it?
  - (2). What new information does Judah add in this sentence?
  - (3). Why would Judah say this?
  - (4). What response would Judah seek from Joseph?
- i. In Genesis 44:27, 28, Judah continued the rehearsal.
  - (1). Why did Judah say, "your servant my father"?
  - (2). Judah quoted Israel as saying, "You know that my wife bore me two sons..."? Why would Israel say this when he had twelve sons and all of them were present as Judah quoted this statement?
  - (3). If you were one of the brothers, how would you feel as you listened to your father say this?
  - (4). Where did Israel get the idea that Joseph was torn to pieces?
  - (5). If you were one of the brothers and heard Israel say, "He has surely been torn to pieces," how would you feel at that time?
  - (6). Again, what did Judah hope to accomplish by going over this part of the conversation?
- j. In Genesis 44:29, Israel was quoted concerning the depth of his sorrow.
  - (1). In your own words, what was he saying?
  - (2). As you read his statement, does it seem like an overstatement or understatement? Why?
- k. In Genesis 44:30, 31, the explanation continued:
  - (1). Who was speaking?
  - (2). Identify the main points of his message.
  - (3). What could he hope to attain through this report?
- l. In Genesis 44:32, the presentation continued:
  - (1). Who was speaking?
  - (2). What did he say?
  - (3). What did this have to do with the issue he was trying to present?



*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (4). What did he hope to achieve by the inclusion of the words of this verse?
  - m. In Genesis 44:33, he had concluded his presentation and makes his request.
    - (1). Who was speaking?
    - (2). What was his request?
    - (3). How reasonable was this request? Why?
    - (4). What can we learn from this request?
    - (5). Compare the request, in Genesis 44:33, with the statement in Genesis 37:27. What can we learn from this comparison?
  - n. In Genesis 44:34, The family spokesman offered one final appeal and explanation.
    - (1). What was the appeal?
    - (2). How reasonable was it?
    - (3). What was his final explanation?
    - (4). What benefit would this explanation add?
5. In Genesis, chapter 44, there is far more detail than is found in most of the rest of the book of Genesis.
- a. How do you account for this fact?
  - b. What would prompt the author to do this?
6. Throughout the book, the author repeatedly used the stories of different people to tell us something about God.
- a. What does the story of Judah, in chapter 44, tell you about God?
  - b. What does the story of Joseph, in Genesis 44, tell you about God?
7. As you reflect on this chapter, what difference will it make in the way you live your life and relate to God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 21

JOSEPH REVEALED HIMSELF: INVITED FAMILY TO GOSHEN

GENESIS 45:1 - 28

1. In Genesis chapter 45, there are three paragraphs. On the table which follows, write a brief summary, of seven words or less, for each paragraph.

45:1-15	
45:16-20	
45:21-28	

2. In Genesis 45:1-15, Joseph identified himself to his brothers.
- a. Verse one is a dramatic, emotional outburst.
    - (1). Imagine yourself as Joseph. What would you feel in this situation?
    - (2). Imagine yourself as one of the ten brothers. How would you respond to this emotional experience?  
Why would you respond in this way?
  - b. In Genesis 45:2, you get a glimpse of just how emotional the scene was. What does the verse tell you?
  - c. In Genesis 45:3, Joseph identified himself.
    - (1). Compare Genesis 44:31 with 45:3. What questions come to mind?
    - (2). Put yourself into the scene as one of the ten brothers. What do you discover?
  - d. In Genesis 45:4, Joseph identified himself for the second time.
    - (1). Why was it necessary?
    - (2). Why would he want them to come close to him?
    - (3). What is added by Joseph saying of himself, "...the one you sold into Egypt"?
  - e. In Genesis 45:5, Joseph made a perplexing statement.
    - (1). What questions are raised in your mind by this verse?
    - (2). How would you answer these questions?
  - f. In Genesis 45:6, Joseph made a prophetic statement about the balance of the famine. How does this fit in with what Joseph was saying in 45:5 and 45:7?
  - g. In Genesis 45:7, Joseph repeated the theme of his talk with his brothers.
    - (1). What was the theme?
    - (2). What does it accomplish?
  - h. In Genesis 45:8, Joseph described his relationship with the Pharaoh.
    - (1). How does Joseph describe that relationship?
    - (2). Make a comparison of Joseph's statements in 45:5; 45:7; and 45:8. What did you learn?
    - (3). What questions do these statements raise?
    - (4). What answers can you give?
  - i. In Genesis 45:9, Joseph instructed his brothers to carry a message to his father.
    - (1). What messages did Joseph send to Jacob?
    - (2). Why were these particular messages important?
    - (3). Why did he place an emphasis on immediacy?
  - j. In Genesis 45:10, Joseph identified one reason why they were to live in Goshen. What other reasons come to mind?
  - k. In Genesis 45:11, Joseph concludes his promise.
    - (1). What promise did he make?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (2). What reason did he give for this?
  - (3). What did you learn from these discoveries?
  - l. In Genesis 45:12, Joseph changed the subject.
    - (1). What is the issue in this verse?
    - (2). What two suggestions does he make to alleviate the problem involved?
  - m. In Genesis 45:13, Joseph instructed his brothers to give his father specific messages.
    - (1). What messages did Joseph send to his father?
    - (2). Why were these messages important?
    - (3). Joseph talked about "everything you have seen." What would that include?
  - n. In Genesis 45:14, the author described the meeting of Joseph with his full-brother Benjamin. What significance can you associate with Joseph's actions?
  - o. In Genesis 45:15, the author reported that after Joseph kissed each brother, they talked with him.
    - (1). What is the significance of Joseph kissing each brother?
    - (2). What does this have to do with the fact that they talked with him afterwards?
  - p. As you reflect back on Joseph's actions with his brothers, what can you discover concerning Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers?
3. In Genesis 45:16-20, Pharaoh invited Joseph's family to live in Goshen.
- a. Read Genesis 45:16 carefully.
    - (1). What does it tell you?
    - (2). The verse begins, "When the news reached Pharaoh's palace." What does this tell you?
  - b. In Genesis 45:17, Pharaoh gave Joseph instructions concerning the locating of his family in Goshen.
    - (1). Read the verse and reflect upon it.
    - (2). What does this reflection tell us about Pharaoh?
    - (3). What does this reflection tell us about Joseph?
  - c. In Genesis 45:18, Pharaoh made another generous offer.
    - (1). What was the offer?
    - (2). What makes it so generous?
    - (3). What does this tell us?
  - d. In Genesis 45:19, 20, Pharaoh instructed Joseph to make a still more generous offer to his family.
    - (1). What was the offer?
    - (2). Why would Pharaoh instruct them not to worry about their belongings?
    - (3). What does this new offer tell us?
4. In Genesis 45:21 - 28, Israel agreed to go to visit Joseph.
- a. In Genesis 45:21, there are two foci.
    - (1). What are these foci?
    - (2). What is the significance of each one?
  - b. In Genesis 45:22, Joseph gave presents to his brothers.
    - (1). What did Joseph give them?
    - (2). Why did the brothers need these?
    - (3). Compare the gift to Benjamin with those to the other brothers. What does this tell you?
  - c. In Genesis 45:23, Joseph gave the brothers gifts to give Jacob.
    - (1). What were the gifts?
    - (2). The author carefully mentioned male and female donkeys. Why was this significant?
  - d. In Genesis 45:24, Joseph sent his brothers on their way.
    - (1). What does this mean?
    - (2). Why did he instruct them not to quarrel on the trip?
  - e. In Genesis 45:25, the author described the long, hot trip from Egypt to Canaan.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (1). What does this brief sentence tell us.
  - (2). Jacob's name had been changed to "Israel." In this verse, he is called "Jacob" again. What reason, if any, can you find for this?
  - f. In Genesis 45:26, the 11 sons told Jacob about Joseph.
    - (1). What did the sons tell Jacob about Joseph?
    - (2). Put yourself in the sons' position. Record your thoughts and feelings.
    - (3). Put yourself in Jacob's position. What would you think and feel when this was disclosed?
  - g. In Genesis 45:27, the author describes Jacob's reaction.
    - (1). What was that reaction?
    - (2). What helped him to come to that conclusion?
  - h. In Genesis 45:28, Jacob responded to the report of his sons.
    - (1). What was his response?
    - (2). What did Jacob mean when he said, "before I die."
    - (3). In your own words, identify Jacob's thoughts and feelings about what happened.
5. As you review this chapter, think carefully about what happened.
- a. What is the message of the chapter?
  - b. In what way will your walk with God be different because of these discoveries?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 22

JOSEPH WELCOMED HIS FAMILY INTO GOSHEN

GENESIS 46:1 - 34

1. In Genesis chapter 46, there are three paragraphs. On the following table, write a title of seven words or less for each paragraph.

46:1-7	
46:8-27	
46:28-34	

2. In Genesis 46:1-7, the author described the message God gave to Jacob at Beersheba.
- a. Jacob was in Hebron prior to chapter 46.
    - (1). Why did he have to go to Beersheba to offer sacrifices?
    - (2). Would it have been the same if he had made these sacrifices in Hebron? Why?
  - b. In Genesis 46:2, Joseph's father was called both "Israel" and Jacob."
    - (1). What, if anything, can we gather from this?
    - (2). In verse two, God spoke to Israel and said, "Jacob, Jacob." What does this mean?
    - (3). Jacob's response was, "Here I am." What does it mean?
  - c. In Genesis 46:3, God identified Himself to Jacob.
    - (1). How did God identify Himself? What does it mean?
    - (2). What, if any, is the relationship between the name God gave for Himself and the instruction He gave to Jacob?
    - (3). Place Genesis 46:1 and 46:3 side by side and compare them. What do you learn?
  - d. In Genesis 46:4, God gave Jacob some promises.
    - (1). What were the promises?
    - (2). What is the significance of each one?
  - e. In Genesis 46:5, Jacob transported his people and belongings in carts provided by Pharaoh. These were nomadic people who could transport their belongings in their own carts. Why did they need Pharaoh's carts?
  - f. In Genesis 46:6, 7, the author said nearly the same thing in two ways. What, if any, is the difference between the messages of these two verses?
3. In Genesis 46:8-27, the author identified the lineage of Jacob that went to Egypt.
- a. Why would it be important to give such a list at this point in the story?
  - b. On the following table, record the names of the sons of Jacob in the order in which they were listed in chapter 46.

**GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS**

BIRTH ORDER	ORDER IN GENESIS 46
Reuben	
Simeon	
Levi	
Judah	
Dan	
Naphtali	
Gad	
Asher	
Issachar	
Zebulun	
Joseph	
Benjamin	

- (1). Study the lists carefully. List your observations in written form.
  - (2). How can you account for the situation you discover in this information?
  - (3). There has to be a reason for the way the author has recorded these names. Can you see any suggestion in this chart? If so, what?
- c. Another table may shed some light on the reason the sons are listed as they are. You will find the mothers listed in Genesis chapters 29 and 30.

ORDER IN GENESIS 46	MOTHER
Reuben	
Simeon	
Levi	
Judah	
Issachar	
Zebulun	
Gad	
Asher	
Joseph	
Benjamin	
Dan	
Naphtali	

- (1). Look carefully at this table to see if you can identify a design in it. If so, what is it?
  - (2). What can we learn from this study?
- d. There is another way to look at the way the people are listed in Genesis 46:8-27. On the following table, list the number of people going into Egypt who were descendants of each mother.

**GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS**

MOTHER	NUMBER OF DESCENDANTS
Leah	
Zilpah	
Rachel	
Bilhah	

- (1). Now study your findings carefully.
  - (2). What observations can you make?
  - (3). What, if anything, does this tell you about the reason the people were listed as they were?
  - e. In Genesis 46:12, there is a puzzling piece of information.
    - (1). What is this information?
    - (2). Why would the author include these people?
  - f. In Genesis 46:26, 27, the author gives two different numbers of people who went into Egypt.
    - (1). What were these numbers?
    - (2). How can we account for the two sets of numbers?
  - g. Compare Genesis 46:3 with Exodus 12:37.
    - (1). What observations can you make?
    - (2). What does this tell us about God?
4. In Genesis 46:28-34, the author described Joseph's meeting with his father.
- a. In Genesis 46:28, 29, Jacob sent Judah "to get directions to Goshen." Think carefully about this fact.
    - (1). Why would he send Judah?
    - (2). Why was it necessary to send anyone?
    - (3). 'These verses also describe the meeting of Joseph and his father.
      - (a). What has the author told us in the facts he listed in these verses?
      - (b). Put yourself in Joseph's position. What would you have felt?
      - (c). Put yourself in Jacob's position. What would you have felt?
      - (d). Put yourself in the position of one of the ten brothers. How would you have felt?
  - b. In Genesis 46:30, Israel finally spoke to Joseph.
    - (1). What did he say?
    - (2). What did he mean?
  - c. In Genesis 46:31, 32, Joseph told his brothers and the family what he was going to do.
    - (1). Why was this important?
    - (2). What difference would it make?
  - d. In Genesis 46:33, 34, Joseph prepared his brothers to meet Pharaoh. Pharaoh already thought it was a good idea to put Joseph's family in Goshen. In view of this fact, why was Joseph so careful in his preparation of the family to meet Pharaoh?
5. This chapter contains a certain amount of detail information, but it also tells us something about God and about God's people.
- a. What does it tell you about God?
  - b. What does it tell you about God's people?
  - c. In what way can you apply this information to your life and relationship with God?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 23

JOSEPH KEPT EGYPT ALIVE; GRAIN FOR ANIMALS AND LAND

GENESIS 47:1 - 31

1. In Genesis chapter 47, there are four paragraphs. On the following table, write a summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

47:1-12	
47:13-19	
47:20-26	
47:27-31	

2. In Genesis 47:1-12, Joseph presented his family to the Pharaoh.
- In Genesis 47:1, Joseph gave Pharaoh at least four pieces of information:
    - What information did Joseph provide?
    - What could Pharaoh learn from this presentation?
  - Genesis 47:2 is brief and interesting.
    - Read Genesis 47:1, 2 carefully. Does the content of verse two logically follow the content of verse one?
    - What can we learn from this verse?
    - What questions does this verse raise for you?
  - In Genesis 46:31, 32, Joseph told his brothers what he would say to Pharaoh. In Genesis 47:1, Joseph spoke to Pharaoh. On the following table, compare the plan with the actual experience.

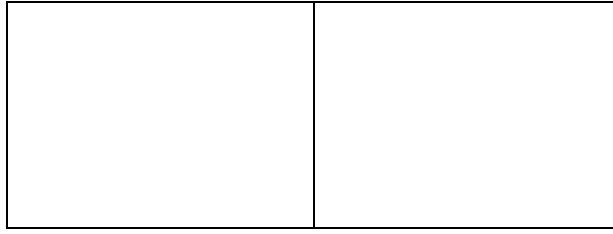
THE PLAN	THE ACTUAL EXPERIENCE

- What difference, if any, did you find between the two?
  - If there is a difference, what is the significance of it?
- d. In Genesis 46:34, Joseph told his brothers how to speak to Pharaoh. In 47:3, the author reported what the brothers said to Pharaoh. On the following table, compare Joseph's instructions with the statement of the brothers.

JOSEPH'S INSTRUCTIONS	THEIR STATEMENT



*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*



- (1). What difference, if any, do you find between the two?
  - (2). If there is a difference, what is the significance of it?
  - e. In Genesis 47:4, there are two statements and a request.
    - (1). What are the two statements?
    - (2). What do these statements tell Pharaoh?
    - (3). What impression should these statements create for Pharaoh?
    - (4). Observe the request the brothers made.
      - (a). What did they request?
      - (b). Why would they make this request?
  - f. In Genesis 47:5, 6, Pharaoh responded to Joseph's presentation of his family.
    - (1). How did Pharaoh respond?
    - (2). What does this say about Joseph?
    - (3). What does this say about Pharaoh?
    - (4). At the end of verse six, Pharaoh made a request.
      - (a). What was the request?
      - (b). Put yourself in Joseph's position. Given the family history, how would you feel when given this request?
      - (c). What would you do?
  - g. In Genesis 47:7, Joseph continued his presentation.
    - (1). Whom did he present?
    - (2). Why did he wait until this point to make this presentation?
    - (3). What is the significance of the blessing recorded here?
  - h. Read Genesis 47:7 and then 47:8.
    - (1). What is the question?
    - (2). What does the question in verse eight have to do with the report in verse seven?
  - i. In Genesis 47:9, Jacob answered Pharaoh's question.
    - (1). What was his answer?
    - (2). Read verse nine several times. If you were saying these words, how would you feel?
  - j. In Genesis 47: 10, Jacob gave his blessing to Pharaoh.
    - (1). What is the significance of giving a second blessing?
    - (2). Now, read Hebrews 7:7. What does this have to do with the events of 47:7, 10?
    - (3). What does this tell us about what Jacob was doing?
  - k. In Genesis 47:11, the author described Joseph's dealing with the instructions of Pharaoh.
    - (1). How did Joseph demonstrate his faithfulness to his family?
    - (2). How did Joseph show his faithful service to Pharaoh?
  - l. In Genesis 47:12, Joseph did still more for his family.
    - (1). What did he do?
    - (2). Was his action really necessary?
    - (3). What does this tell you about Joseph?
3. In Genesis 47:13-19, Joseph developed a plan to keep the Egyptian people alive without losing their dignity.
- a. Read again Genesis 47:12, 13.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (1). What did you discover?
  - (2). What did you learn from this discovery?
  - b. In Genesis 47:14, the author describes another way Joseph developed to care for Egyptian people.
    - (1). What did Joseph do?
    - (2). Why was this significant?
  - c. In Genesis 47:15, the author gives us a glimpse of just how difficult life was at that time.
    - (1). What does the author describe?
    - (2). Just how bad was it?
  - d. In Genesis 47:16, Joseph responded to the dilemma of the Egyptian people.
    - (1). What solution did Joseph offer?
    - (2). Compare 47:14 and 47:16. What did you discover in this comparison?
  - e. In Genesis 47:17, the author described Joseph's dealings with the Egyptians.
    - (1). Study the list of animals involved in this exchange. What does this tell us?
    - (2). Review this verse again. If you were one of these Egyptians, what impression would you develop concerning Joseph?
  - f. In Genesis 47:18, 19, the Egyptian people came to Joseph for help.
    - (1). Read these verses carefully. What does this tell us about the relationship between them?
    - (2). If these verses were presented on the evening news, what would you understand about the condition of things?
    - (3). Observe that the people made the offer. What does this tell us?
    - (4). Again look at 47:16, 18, 19.
      - (a). What do you observe?
      - (b). What does this tell you?
      - (c). What trend can you detect here?
4. In Genesis 47:20-26, Joseph is pictured working with the people to help them survive.
- a. In Genesis 47:20, Joseph demonstrated his sense of values.
    - (1). What did he do?
    - (2). Who benefited from his actions?
  - b. Compare 47:20 and 47:21.
    - (1). What did you find?
    - (2). Think carefully about 47:21.
      - (a). What did Joseph really do?
      - (b). How would you evaluate Joseph's actions?
      - (c). Was he being harsh or generous?
  - c. In Genesis 47:22, the author described an exception to the rule Joseph imposed upon the Egyptians.
    - (1). What was the exception?
    - (2). Whose idea was this?
    - (3). How should we think of this in terms of Joseph's participation in Egyptian idolatry?
  - d. Read 47:23 very carefully.
    - (1). What did Joseph really do?
    - (2). How would you evaluate his actions? (was he kind, arrogant, generous, miserly, etc.)
    - (3). What was Joseph saying to the people?
  - e. In Genesis 47:24, Joseph identified the terms under which the people were to live and work.
    - (1). What were the terms of his agreement?
    - (2). How would you evaluate the agreement in terms of its generosity?
    - (3). How would evaluate this agreement from a tax standpoint?
  - f. In Genesis 47:25, the people responded to Joseph's agreement.
    - (1). What was their response?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (2). What does this tell you about their attitude?
  - g. In the first part of 47:26, the author identified the law that was still in effect?
    - (1). What was that law?
    - (2). Why would it be important that it was still in effect?
  - h. In the second part of Genesis 47:26, the author repeated information he had provided previously.
    - (1). What was the information?
    - (2). Why did he repeat it?
5. In Genesis 47:27-31, the author shifted his focus to the preparation for Israel's death.
- a. In Genesis 47:27, the author gave us some information about the conditions of Jacob and his family.
    - (1). How would you describe those conditions?
    - (2). In view of these current conditions in Egypt and Canaan, what does this tell us?
  - b. In Genesis 47:28, the author made a summary statement about the life of Jacob.
    - (1). What did he say?
    - (2). Why did he say that?
  - c. In Genesis 47:29, 30, Jacob called for Joseph.
    - (1). Why did Jacob call for Joseph?
    - (2). Identify the four requests Jacob made of Joseph?
    - (3). Explain what Jacob meant by these requests?
    - (4). What principle seems to motivate Jacob in this experience?
    - (5). How did Joseph respond?
  - d. In Genesis 47:31, Jacob seems to do a strange thing.
    - (1). What did Jacob do?
    - (2). Why would this surprise Joseph?
    - (3). Why would Jacob do this?
    - (4). What was Joseph's response?
    - (5). What satisfaction, if any, do you see in Jacob's actions?
6. Reread chapter 47 and reflect upon what it tells you about God.
- a. What glimpse of God do you see in this chapter?
  - b. In what way does this increase our knowledge of God?
  - c. How can you use this information to grow in your spiritual life?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 24

ISRAEL BLESSED JOSEPH'S SONS

GENESIS 48:1 - 22

1. In Genesis chapter 48, there are two paragraphs. On the following table, write a summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

48:1-7	
48:8-22	

2. In Genesis 48:1-7, Joseph learned that Jacob was dying.
- a. In Genesis 48:1, Joseph brought his sons to see their grandfather.
    - (1). What was the significance of this?
    - (2). What difference does this make?
  - b. In Genesis 48:2, the text tells us that Jacob rallied. What would be responsible for that?
  - c. In Genesis 48:3, Jacob rehearses his experiences at Luz/Bethel.
    - (1). Why does he review these experiences?
    - (2). What difference did it make at this late point in Jacob's life?
  - d. In Genesis 48:5, Jacob made an unusual announcement.
    - (1). What was that announcement?
    - (2). Why would Jacob say a thing like that?
    - (3). In Genesis 48:1, Joseph's sons are called "Manasseh and Ephraim." In Genesis 48:5, Jacob referred to the young men as "Ephraim and Manasseh." What, if anything, does this mean?
  - e. In Genesis 48:5, 6, Jacob made a distinction between Joseph's children born before the family came to Goshen and those born after the family's arrival. What difference would this make?
  - f. Read Genesis 48:6, 7, again.
    - (1). How can we account for the difference in content?
    - (2). Why would Jacob included this information here?
3. In Genesis 48:8-22, Jacob pronounced his blessing upon Ephraim and Manasseh.
- a. Read Genesis 48:8.
    - (1). What did Jacob mean?
    - (2). What does this verse add to our store of information?
  - b. Read Joseph's reply, in Genesis 48:9, to Jacob's question in Genesis 48:8.
    - (1). What did Joseph stress?
    - (2). What is the significance of the blessing Jacob mentioned in this verse?
  - c. In Genesis 48:10, the author explained that Jacob's eyesight was failing.
    - (1) Why would the author report this information?
    - (2). What is the significance of the kiss and embrace?
  - d. Read Genesis 48:11 carefully.
    - (1). If you were Jacob and said these words, what would you be trying to emphasize?
    - (2). To what does Jacob ascribe the credit for this privilege?
    - (3). What is the significance of this ?
  - e. Joseph did something unusual in Genesis 48:12.
    - (1). What did he do?
    - (2). What did it mean?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (3). Why did he do it?
- f. In Genesis 48:13, Joseph acted with special care.
  - (1). What did he do?
  - (2). Why did he do this so carefully?
- g. The author was giving a careful description in Genesis 48:14.
  - (1). Why was he being so precise?
  - (2). What did this mean?
  - (3). What difference would it make?
- h. There is a surprise in Genesis 48:15.
  - (1). What is the surprise?
  - (2). Why is it there?
  - (3). Study Jacob's description of God in this verse.
    - (a). What did he say about God?
    - (b). What does this tell us about Jacob?
- i. In Genesis 48:16, Jacob continued his description of God.
  - (1). What did he say?
  - (2). What does this add to our store of knowledge about God?
  - (3). In this verse, Jacob began his blessing of Joseph's sons.
    - (a). Write out the blessings Jacob bestowed upon the two boys.
    - (b). Explain what Jacob meant by each statement.
- j. In Genesis 48:17, There is a slight confrontation between Joseph and Jacob.
  - (1). What was the issue of their differences?
  - (2). What difference would this make to Ephraim and Manasseh?
  - (3). How did Joseph respond? How would you describe his attitude?
  - (4). Read the verse again. How would Jacob be expected to respond to such an action?
- k. In Genesis 48:18, Joseph confronted his father Jacob.
  - (1). What was the issue?
  - (2). Was Joseph right in his contention?
  - (3). Upon what did Joseph base his position?
  - (4). Was there any reason why Joseph should have known better?
- l. In Genesis 48:19, Jacob responded to Joseph's confrontation.
  - (1). Describe Jacob's attitude toward this disagreement?
  - (2). What reason did Jacob give for his actions?
  - (3). Was it appropriate for Jacob to take this position?
  - (4). What else could Jacob have done?
- m. In Genesis 48:20, Jacob blessed Joseph's two sons.
  - (1). What blessing did Jacob give them?
  - (2). What was the meaning of it?
  - (3). There is an explanation at the conclusion of the verse.
    - (a). What explanation did Jacob offer?
    - (b). What difference would it make?
- n. In Genesis 48:21, Jacob gave an explanation and two blessings.
  - (1). What was the explanation?
  - (2). What blessings did Jacob give Joseph on this occasion?
  - (3). What does this tell us about Jacob's relationship with God?
- o. Read Genesis 48:22 again.
  - (1). Why would Jacob give Joseph this bonus?
  - (2). What did it mean?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

4. Review what this chapter tells you about God and His actions.
  - a. What did you learn?
  - b. What was the author trying to tell us?
  - c. What difference would that make?
  - d. What changes will it initiate in the way you live?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 25

GENESIS 49:1 - 33

ISRAEL BLESSED HIS SONS AND DIED

1. There are 14 paragraphs in Genesis, chapter 49. On the following table, write a summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

49:1, 2	
49:3, 4	
49:5-7	
49:8-12	
49:13	
49:14, 15	
49:16-18	
49:19	
49:20	
49:21	
49:22-26	
49:27	
49:28	
49:29-33	

2. In chapter 47, we looked at the listing of Jacob's family as they went into Egypt. We took the time to compare the birth order with the order in which they were listed. It will be helpful to do something of the same nature in our study of Jacob's blessing of his sons. The author records the order of the birth of Jacob's sons in Genesis 29:32 - 30:24, and 35:18.
- a. In this chapter, Jacob dealt with his sons differently. On the following table, compare the birth order of Jacob's sons with the order in which they were blessed. Record also the mother's name for each son.





*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- d. In verse 11, the intention of Jacob's blessing changes again. What promise did Jacob make here about Judah?
  - e. In verse 12, Jacob continued the beautiful picture of Judah's future.
    - (1). What did Jacob say about Judah's future?
    - (2). Compare the message of verse 12 with that of verse 11. What did you discover?
7. In Genesis 49:13, Jacob pronounced his blessing upon Zebulun.
- a. In this blessing, Jacob spoke about the future occupation of Zebulun. What did Jacob say?
  - b. What did Zebulun understand as a result of Jacob's blessing?
8. In Genesis 49:14, 15, Jacob blessed Issachar.
- a. Describe, in your own words, what Jacob said about the kind of person Issachar would be.
  - b. Describe, in your own words, what Jacob prophesied about the kind of future Issachar could anticipate.
9. The author reported Jacob's prophetic blessing upon Dan in Genesis 49:16-18.
- a. How did Jacob describe the future of Dan?
  - b. In verse 18, Jacob cried to the Lord in a petition concerning Dan. Why would this be necessary?
10. In Genesis 49:19, Jacob pronounced his prophetic blessing upon Gad.
- a. How does the location of the territory assigned to Gad help to understand Jacob's prophecy? Look at a map which identifies the territory that each of the tribes would occupy. How does the location of the territory assigned to Gad help to understand Jacob's prophecy?
  - b. How can we understand Jacob's description of the way Gad will defend himself and his people?
11. In Genesis 49:20, Jacob blessed Asher:
- a. What did Jacob mean by his blessing?
  - b. How can we account for the vast difference between Jacob's blessing for Asher and that which he gave to Gad and Dan?
12. In Genesis 49:21, Jacob blessed Naphtali.
- a. Where is the territory that was assigned to Naphtali?
  - b. What, if any, bearing does this have on the blessing Jacob gave Naphtali?
  - c. Study this brief prophecy very carefully. What was Jacob saying in this graphic statement?
13. In his longest prophetic pronouncement, Jacob blessed Joseph in Genesis 49:22-26.
- a. Again, if you look at a map, you will notice that Joseph's sons both received a tract of land. Study the map to see if you can find an explanation for this fact.
  - b. Joseph used another poetic picture to describe Joseph's future. How would you explain the picture Jacob used in 49:22?
  - c. There is a sharp contrast between verses 22 and 23.
    - (1). What is the contrast?
    - (2). What did Jacob mean?
  - d. Reflect on Genesis 49:24
    - (1). What picture has Jacob described concerning Joseph's future?
    - (2). Why does Jacob use these names for God?
    - (3). What does Jacob say with these names that would not be included by speaking of "God"?
14. In Genesis 49:27, Jacob gave his prophetic blessing to Benjamin.
- a. Think about the poetic picture Jacob paints concerning Benjamin's future. What did Jacob describe?
  - b. What descendants of Benjamin can you think of who would fit this description?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- 15. In Genesis 49:28, the author made a comment about Jacob's blessing of his sons.
  - a. How would you describe this statement?
  - b. Why did the author need to make this statement?
  
- 16. The author described the death of Jacob in Genesis 49:29-33.
  - a. In verse 29, Jacob explained the instructions he was in the process of giving. What explanation did he give?
  - b. On the following table, record each piece of information Jacob gave, in Genesis 49:29-33, concerning his burial.


- (1). Study this table. How many pieces of the information deal with the relatives who were also buried there?
- (2). What can we learn from these facts?
- (3). What does the remaining information deal with?

- 16. Reflect upon the message of this chapter.
  - a. What message was the author trying to convey?
  - b. What implications does this have for your life?
  - c. What changes do you foresee in your life because of what you have learned in this study?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 26

JOSEPH DIED - COVENANT - TAKE ME BACK TO CANAAN

GENESIS 50:1 - 26

1. In Genesis, chapter 50, there are four paragraphs. On the following table, write a summary of seven words or less for each paragraph.

50:1-6	
50:7-14	
50:15-21	
50:22-26	

2. In Genesis 50:1-6, Joseph requested permission to bury his father.
- a. Genesis 50:1 reports Joseph's reaction to the death of his father. What does it tell us?
  - b. Verses two and three report the embalming of Jacob.
    - (1). Jewish people did not embalm their dead. Why would Joseph have Jacob embalmed?
    - (2). Verse three indicates that the Egyptians mourned Jacob for 70 days. What does this tell us?
  - c. Verse four tells us that Joseph went to "Pharaoh's court," seeking permission to leave Egypt to bury his father in Canaan.
    - (1). Why would Joseph seek permission through "Pharaoh's court" rather than through Pharaoh himself?
    - (2). Read verse four again, carefully. What can you discover about Joseph's motivation in this verse?
  - d. Compare verse four with verse five.
    - (1). What common idea do you find?
    - (2). As you compare the two verses, what common attitude can you detect?
    - (3) What is the significance of Joseph's promise at the end of the verse?
  - e. What can we gather from verse six in view of Joseph's request and promise in verse five?
3. In Genesis 50:7-14, the author reported the burial of Jacob.
- a. In verse seven, the author described the funeral procession.
    - (1). How would you describe this in modern terms?
    - (2). In view of this picture of the procession, what does it tell us about Joseph?
    - (3). With the picture of Genesis 50:7 in mind, read Genesis 43:32 again. What do you learn from this comparison?
  - b. In Genesis 50:8, the author continued describing the list of people who attended the funeral. Why would this be important?
  - c. In Genesis 50:9, the author adds another dimension to the funeral procession.
    - (1). What is it?
    - (2). Why would this be important?
  - d. In Genesis 50:10, the author gave some surprising information.
    - (1). Look at a map and trace the way one would have to go to visit the places mentioned in verse ten.
    - (2). Why would Joseph want to do this?
    - (3). This verse indicates that Joseph observed seven days of mourning. Why would they do this when they had already observed 70 days of mourning in Egypt?
  - e. In Genesis 50:11, the author described the reaction of the Canaanites to this spectacle at Mamre. How would you describe their reaction?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- f. In Genesis 50:12, the author told of the burial of Jacob. In this brief sentence, what does the author tell us?
  - g. In Genesis 50:13, it appears the author repeated what he said previously in the chapter. Why would he do this?
  - h. In Genesis 50:14, the author described Joseph's return to Egypt. Why would this be important?
4. In Genesis 50:14-21, the scene changes abruptly.
- a. In verse 15, the brothers panicked with fear that Joseph might now punish them. What basis did they have for this fear?
  - b. In Genesis 50:16, there is a surprise.
    - (1). What is the surprise?
    - (2). How can we account for this unusual disclosure?
    - (3). Why would the brothers send word to Joseph instead of going to him in person?
  - c. In Genesis 50:17, the brothers reported a request from Jacob to Joseph.
    - (1). What was Jacob's request?
    - (2). To what did Jacob refer when he spoke of the brother's "sins"?
    - (3). How did Jacob refer to the brothers in this request?
    - (4). Why did he do that?
  - d. In Genesis 50:18, the brothers finally came to Joseph.
    - (1). What did they do?
    - (2). What did they say?
    - (3). What does all of this mean?
  - e. In Genesis 50:19, Joseph responded to the emissary and the brothers with two separate statements:
    - (1). What was Joseph's first statement?
    - (2). What did Joseph attempt to accomplish by this statement?
    - (3). In the second statement, Joseph asked a question:
      - (a). What question did he ask?
      - (b). What answer would Joseph anticipate to his question?
  - f. In Genesis 50:20, there is a strong contrast in the text.
    - (1). What two things are contrasted?
    - (2). What did Joseph say about these things?
  - g. In Genesis 50:21, Joseph responded to the message from Jacob.
    - (1). How might he be expected to respond?
    - (2). How did he respond?
    - (3). What message did he send to his brothers?
    - (4). What does this tell you about Joseph?
5. In Genesis 50:22-26, the author described the death of Joseph.
- a. In Genesis 50:22, the author gave a brief summary of the end of Joseph's life.
    - (1). There are three pieces of information in this verse. What are they?
    - (2). What does the author mean by this information?
  - b. In Genesis 50:23, the author gave us a glimpse of Joseph as a grandfather.
    - (1). What did the author tell us when he said that "Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's children"?
    - (2). Notice that there is a difference between the way the author described Joseph's dealing with Ephraim's grandchildren and those of Manasseh. How can we account for this difference?
  - c. In Genesis 50:24, Joseph gave his parting instructions to his brothers.
    - (1). What did he tell them?
    - (2). What does this tell us about Joseph?
    - (3). What does this tell us about God?
  - d. In Genesis 50:25, Joseph made a request of his brothers.

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*

- (1). What was his request?
- (2). Why would it be necessary for Joseph to require his brothers to take an oath?
- (3). What is the relationship between Joseph's request and his statement which accompanies it?
- e. In Genesis 50:26, the author brought the book to a close.
  - (1). What information does the author present?
  - (2). The author reported that they embalmed Joseph. Why would they do this?
  - (3). In view of all we have studied in the book of Genesis, is Genesis 50:26 an appropriate conclusion?
6. Reflect on your study of chapter 50.
  - a. What did you learn about God?
  - b. What difference will this make in your life?

*GENESIS 26-50 STUDY QUESTIONS*