

# FINDING PURPOSE UNCERTAINTY

**LESSON 7**

**Finding Forgiveness**

**Genesis 48-50**

## **Joseph led a life filled with uncertainty, yet he followed the Lord and saved his people.**

How do you find your purpose when faced with difficult times?

***But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”***

*GENESIS 50:19-20 (NIV)*

Throughout the book of Genesis, we see blessings from a father to his sons. All the patriarchs gave formal blessings to their children. A blessing was an honor, and not receiving a blessing was similar to a curse. Old Testament blessings were a mixture of encouragement (and sometimes rebuke), inheritance details and prophecy about that child’s future. Scripture shows us that Jacob’s prophetic blessings came true in all of his sons.

When Jacob dies, Joseph’s brothers once again react in fear — they believe that with their father gone, Joseph will harm them. They never fully accepted Joseph’s forgiveness, much less forgave themselves. When we ask for Jesus Christ’s forgiveness, He forgives us. Joseph’s life reflects Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind and compassionate to one another forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (NIV)



- 1 | What did you learn from Pastor Dale's sermon on Genesis 48-50?
  
- 2 | **Read Genesis 48.** Name Joseph's two sons. Which one received the special blessing?
  
- 3 | What spoke to you most about Jacob's blessing on Joseph and his sons?
  
- 4 | Have your parents or grandparents given you a spiritual heritage? If so, share.
  
- 5 | **Read Genesis 49:1-28**, where Jacob blesses his twelve sons before his death. These blessings are in poetic language and some are difficult to understand. These prophecies foretell the future of these tribes in light of the son's past behavior.
  
- 6 | According to Matthew 1:2-6, of which tribe is King David a descendant and consequently, Jesus Christ?
  
- 7 | Is there a blessing you find particularly interesting? Which one and why?
  
- 8 | **Read Genesis 49:29-50:26.** What was Jacob's final request of his sons?

- 9 | List some details regarding Jacob's death.
- 10 | Which verses show Joseph's brothers may have continued to feel guilty about how they treated Joseph?
- 11 | Do you have a hard time forgiving yourself?
- 12 | Why do you think Joseph cried when he received their message?
- 13 | Write out Genesis 50:20. How have you seen that verse demonstrated in your life?
- 14 | Because Joseph understood the sovereignty of God, he was able to forgive his brothers — just as we are able to forgive. Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers could illustrate Christ's forgiveness. What has God through Jesus Christ done for us?
- Psalm 65:3
  - Colossians 2:13
  - Hebrews 9:22
  - 1 John 1:9
- 15 | Is there someone you need to ask for forgiveness? Or someone to whom you have withheld forgiveness? What action can you take on this matter?



16 | Although Joseph was dying in Egypt, he gave instructions to his family about his burial. What are his instructions?

17 | What was his hope for the future of Jacob's family?

18 | What part of the study of Joseph has been most enjoyable to you?

19 | What is one thing about uncertainty you have learned from the study?

20 | How has this study helped you discover your purpose?

Have you taken the time to go through the **Find Your Purpose assessment** yet? This assessment will help you answer the question, **“If you could design a ministry to serve God around your unique gifts and passions, what would it be?”**

Thank you for joining us for this study of the life of Joseph. Our prayer is that you've found your purpose in uncertain times. If you would like to talk with a pastor about your purpose, please call **952-944-6300** or email **info@wooddale.org**. Have questions about faith? We would love to talk with you more about that too!

