**Lesson 27 Genesis 45 & 46**

**Joseph Makes Himself Known**

1. How does Joseph’s life exemplify Romans 8:28-29?

Romans 8:28-29

28 We know that all things work for good for those who love God,\* who are called according to his purpose.

29 For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers

2. God promised to protect Jacob and his family. How did he keep that promise in this generation?

 (45:5-7)

 5 But now do not be distressed, and do not be angry with yourselves for having sold me here. It was really for the sake of saving lives that God sent me here ahead of you.

 6 The famine has been in the land for two years now, and for five more years cultivation will yield no harvest.

 7 God, therefore, sent me on ahead of you to ensure for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives in an extraordinary deliverance.

3. As Joseph reveals who he is, how does he also make God known for who He is? What do you learn about God? (45:5-11)

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 6 The famine has been in the land for two years now, and for five more years cultivation will yield no harvest.

 7 God, therefore, sent me on ahead of you to ensure for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives in an extraordinary deliverance.

8So it was not really you but God who had me come here; and he has made me a father to Pharaoh,\* lord of all his household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt.

 9 “Hurry back, then, to my father and tell him: ‘Thus says your son Joseph: God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me without delay.

10 You can settle in the region of Goshen,\* where you will be near me—you and your children and children’s children, your flocks and herds, and everything that you own.

11 I will provide for you there in the five years of famine that lie ahead, so that you and your household and all that are yours will not suffer want.’

4. Are the brothers convinced of Joseph’s forgiveness? Why?

5. What have you found helpful or inspiring about Joseph’s personality?

**Chapter 46**

6. A. What concerns Jacob as he leaves his homeland of Canaan and prepares to meet long lost Joseph?

 B. How does God speak to these concerns?

7. How does Joseph pave the way for his family’s reception by the Pharaoh (31-34)

31 Joseph then said to his brothers and his father’s household: “I will go up and inform Pharaoh, telling him: ‘My brothers and my father’s household, whose home is in the land of Canaan, have come to me.

32 The men are shepherds, having been owners of livestock;\* and they have brought with them their flocks and herds, as well as everything else they own.’

33 So when Pharaoh summons you and asks what your occupation is,

34 you must answer, ‘We your servants, like our ancestors, have been owners of livestock from our youth until now,’ in order that you may stay in the region of Goshen, since all shepherds are abhorrent to the Egyptians.”

8. What lesson do you learn from each of these passages concerning guidance? Proverbs 3:5-6 and
James 1:5-7.

Proverbs 3:5-6

 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely;

 6 In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths.

James 1:5-7

 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom,\* he should ask God who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and he will be given it.

 6 But he should ask in faith, not doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed about by the wind.

 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord,

 8 since he is a man of two minds, unstable in all his ways.

9. Based upon Joseph’s story, how would you define “divine providence”?

10. A. When God wants you to alter you lifestyle, how might He get your attention?

 B. What might God be asking you to change about your lifestyle now?