

THE STUDY OF HEBREWS—YEAR 2
LESSON 14—QUESTIONS
HEBREWS 11:22
LIVING BY FAITH TO THE VERY END

As you begin your study this week pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom.

HEBREWS 11:22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.

Joseph's life is an important reminder for us, that there are no accidents in the kingdom of God. God is the Author of history and all events are orchestrated in a manner consistent with his redemptive plan. Whether in triumph or tragedy he directs our steps for his sovereign purposes. The sum of all accounts is a mighty one where all things work together for the glory of God and the completion of his plan from the foundation of the world.

1. Before studying our verse for today, it is important to keep in mind the background story. Remember that the listeners/readers at the time Hebrews was written, knew a great deal about their Patriarch Joseph. The life of Joseph is recounted in Genesis 37-50. While time will not allow us to read all of Joseph's story...take a few minutes to summarize the key facts of Joseph's life as you recall them.

2. Joseph is still quite young when sold into slavery, yet we never read of his faith wavering. What do these verses tell us about Joseph's faith and God's faithfulness?

Gen. 39:2a _____

Gen. 39:3 _____

Gen. 39:5 _____

Gen. 39:8-9 _____

Gen. 39:21 _____
Gen. 39:23 _____
Gen. 41:16 _____
Gen. 42:18 _____

3. Joseph experienced some very serious setbacks; jealous siblings, slavery, false accusation and unjust imprisonment. When his brothers feared retaliation from him after the death of their father, Joseph reassures them in Genesis 50:15-21. Please read.

a. What was Joseph's response to the brothers when they asked him for forgiveness?

b. How does Joseph's reply show that he was convinced of God's sovereignty?

c. What temptation(s) do you think he would have had to overcome?

d. What can you personally learn from the example Joseph set for us?

e. Hebrews 12:15 says, "*See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*" Are there areas in your life in which you struggle with bitterness because someone has deeply hurt you or treated you unfairly? Consider again what made it possible for Joseph to forgive his brothers. What might be your next step in this situation? Can you think of any scripture that would be helpful?

4. Read Genesis 45:4-8. By Joseph's words, do you believe that he had a clear understanding of God's purpose in his life? If so, what was it?

5. In our verse today, isn't it interesting that the author of Hebrews skips over the characteristics of Joseph's life and focuses in on his death (11:22)? Why do you believe the author did this?

- a. How does Joseph express his faith in this verse (11:22)?

6. At the time of Joseph's death God's promise for the land had not yet been fulfilled. Look at Hebrews 11:1 and Genesis 50:24-25. Even at the end of his life, after enduring terrible hardships and disappointments, Joseph maintained an amazing trust in God. He knew God would fulfill the promise made to his forefathers. How did Joseph's last words indicate that *"faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see"*?

- a. After a period of approximately 400 years, what occurs to complete the account of Genesis 50:24-25?

Acts 7:17-20 _____

Exodus 13:18-19 _____

Joshua 24:32 _____

7. As you think about the life of Joseph, consider your own life... Can you see how the Lord has prepared you for certain tasks and responsibilities? How has he used good or bad circumstances to accomplish his purpose in your life?
