A. Introduction

- How did God use Joseph’s experience of being unjustly confined in an Egyptian prison?
  1. He was able to practice forgiveness toward his offenders to prepare him to later forgive his brothers.
  2. He was able to minister to his fellow prisoners to equip him for ministry to the entire nation.
  3. He was able to prepare for national leadership by learning to serve.
  4. He was able to develop patience, an important quality in later bringing his brothers to repentance.
  5. He learned to wait on the Lord who later enabled him to establish two tribes in Israel.

B. Good news from a far country

- What was Jacob’s reaction when he heard that Joseph was still alive and was the second ruler in Egypt?

- What convinced Jacob that his sons must be telling him the truth? 45:27

- At that point, what did Jacob decide to do? 45:28

C. Good riddance to the Canaanites

- Did Jacob get a word from the Lord to confirm his decision to go and see Joseph? 46:1
  - Evidently not. He set out by faith with all that he had.

- Where did Jacob stop on his way to Egypt and why did he stop there? 46:1

- What do we know about Beersheba from previous lessons? 21:31-33; 26:23-25; 28:10
  - 21:31-33 – Abraham had made a peace treaty there with Abimilech, king of the Philistines, planted a tamarisk tree and called on the name of the Lord.
  - 26:23-25 – The Lord appeared to Isaac there and confirmed His promise. Isaac then built an altar and called upon the name of the Lord.
  - 28:10 – Jacob departed from his family’s home in Beersheba when he went to Haran to find a wife. Isaac was living there when Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. See 26:33 ff.

D. Good word from God

- What unusual thing happened at Beersheba when Jacob stopped to offer sacrifices to God? 46:2

- What did God tell Jacob? 46:3-4
  1. I am God, the God of your father,
  2. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there.
  3. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again.
  4. Joseph's own hand will close your eyes. (You will die in Egypt with Joseph at your side.)

- Whom did Jacob take to Egypt with him? 46:6-7

- How many descendants made the journey to Egypt? 46:26 • 66

- Counting Jacob, Joseph and his two sons, how many direct descendants of Jacob moved from Canaan to Egypt? See 46:47. • 70, a significant number associated with the nation of Israel.

E. Good welcome in Egypt

- Whom did Jacob send on ahead to make arrangements with Joseph? 46:28

- What happened at the grand reunion in Goshen? 46:29
Facing the Future Unafraid

March 30, 2014
A. Introduction
B. Good news from a far country
C. Good riddance to the Canaanites
D. Good word from God
E. Good welcome in Egypt
A. Introduction
Are you able to face the future unafraid?
II Timothy 1:7 - For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.
How did God use Joseph’s experience of being unjustly confined in an Egyptian prison?

1. He was able to practice forgiveness toward his offenders to prepare him to later forgive his brothers.

2. He was able to minister to his fellow prisoners to equip him for ministry to the entire nation.

3. He was able to prepare for national leadership by learning to serve.
How did God use Joseph’s experience of being unjustly confined in an Egyptian prison?

4. He was able to develop patience, an important quality in later bringing his brothers to repentance, and in dealing with throngs of hungry people during the famine.

5. He learned to wait on the Lord who later enabled him to establish two tribes in Israel.
What does one have to believe about God in order to pass the trust test?

- God loves me.
- God knows what is best for me.
- He is in control.
- It is going to be good in the end.
B. Good news from a far country
In terms of decision making, how are we much better equipped than Jacob?

- We are on “this side” of the cross of Christ.
- Jesus and the Holy Spirit are making intercession for us.
- We have a completed Bible, in which God speaks to you and me, telling the entire story of His plan and His faithfulness to His people.
In terms of decision making, how are we much better equipped than Jacob?

• We have the Holy Spirit, the fuller package of whom came at Pentecost to lead, guide, explain the Word, comfort and direct.

• We have the testimony of thousands who exercised their faith and found God faithful.
Genesis 45:27-28 - And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived: And Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive: I will go and see him before I die.
II Corinthians 5:7 - *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*
C. Good riddance to the Canaanites
Genesis 46:1 - So Israel set out with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.
D. Good word from God
Genesis 46:3-4 - And He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes."
1. There were 70 nations listen in Genesis 10.

   Deuteronomy 32:7-8 - When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel.

2. There were 70 elders in Israel in Numbers 11:16.

3. There were 70 years of captivity in Babylon in II Chronicles 36:21.

4. There were 70 “weeks” determined on the children of Israel in which to finish the transgression in Daniel 9:24.
Deuteronomy 32:7-8 - When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel.

5. There were 70 translators of the Septuagint, the translation of the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek, 70 members of the Sanhedrin in Jesus’ day and 70 witnesses sent to Israel by Christ in Luke 10:1.
E. Good welcome in Egypt
Genesis 46:28-29 - Now he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out the way before him to Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen. 29 And Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; as soon as he appeared before him, he fell on his neck and wept on his neck a long time.
What we can learn from this providential blessing in the life of Jacob?

1. There will be trust tests throughout the life of a true believer.

2. Faith must be exercised in order for a Christian to grow and stay healthy.

3. Fear, fright and fretfulness are not God’s plan for the believer.

4. Sometimes we must exercise faith to move in the right direction, trusting God to confirm along the way.
5. Indications of fear in uncertain times of decision making or adversity are a signal to stop and worship.

6. Providential circumstances may be a factor in seeking God’s will but not the determining factor. That would be His Word.

7. We must learn to trust God for the secret things that will be revealed in the bigger picture later on.
What we can learn from this providential blessing in the life of Jacob?

8. God uses adversity to prepare us for the future.

9. If you have to make a decision, know that God is there watching over you even if it seems that He is silent.

10. Don’t expect the world to be very tolerant of true believers.
Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.