

Hebrews 11:22 --> Joseph

Leader Guide – Hebrews 11:22

"By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones."

Background on Joseph's Life

- **Joseph's story (Genesis 37–50):** Betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused, imprisoned, yet exalted by God to become second-in-command in Egypt.
- **God's providence:** Joseph consistently trusted God's sovereign purposes (Gen. 50:20 – *"You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good"*).
- **Faith in the future:** At the height of Egyptian power, Joseph believed God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be fulfilled—not in Egypt but in Canaan (Gen. 50:24–25).
- **Bones request:** Joseph's command about his bones signified faith in God's covenant and pointed forward to the Exodus (fulfilled in Exod. 13:19; Josh. 24:32).
- **Christ connection:** Joseph's life foreshadows Christ—suffering, being rejected, but later exalted and becoming the source of life for His people.

Discussion Questions & Leader Notes

1. Why is Joseph's instruction about his bones considered an act of faith?

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- Joseph looked beyond Egypt's wealth and security to God's promises.
- He believed in the Exodus long before it happened (Exod. 3:7–8).
- His burial in Canaan signified hope in the eternal inheritance.
- Application: Faith trusts God's promises even when fulfillment seems far away.

2. How does Joseph's request about his bones connect to God's covenant promises?

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- Genesis 15:13–16—God promised Abraham his descendants would be enslaved in Egypt but later delivered.

- Joseph clung to this covenant, not Egypt's comfort.
- His bones were a tangible reminder to future generations that God keeps His promises.

3. Joseph lived a life of power and success in Egypt. Why didn't he settle for Egypt as his home?

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- He knew Egypt was temporary, but God's promises were eternal.
- By faith, he longed for the true homeland (Heb. 11:16).
- Application: Even in seasons of blessing, our hope must be in Christ and the eternal kingdom, not worldly security.

4. How does Joseph's faith at the end of his life compare with Jacob's faith at the end of his life (Heb. 11:21)?

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- Both looked beyond death to God's promises.
- Jacob blessed his grandsons; Joseph trusted in God's future deliverance.
- Both models remind us to finish well, passing hope in Christ to the next generation.

5. What parallels do you see between Joseph's life and Jesus' life?

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- Both were beloved sons rejected by their brothers (Gen. 37; John 1:11).
- Both suffered unjustly but trusted God.
- Both were exalted to bring salvation to many (Gen. 50:20; Phil. 2:9–11).
- Joseph points forward to Jesus, the true Savior who delivers us not just from famine but from sin and death.

6. Joseph said, "God will surely visit you" (Gen. 50:24). How does this phrase capture gospel hope?

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- It shows confidence in God's presence and intervention.
- The ultimate "visitation" was Christ's incarnation (Luke 1:68, 78).
- Our hope rests not in our circumstances but in God's faithful presence with His people.

7. How can Joseph's example encourage us when God's promises seem delayed?

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- Like Joseph, we may not see the full fulfillment of God's promises in our lifetime (Heb. 11:39).
- We live in hope of Christ's return and our resurrection.
- Application: Faith means dying in hope, trusting God's promises even when unseen.

8. What does Joseph's faith teach us about where we place our identity and security today?

Leader Notes / Potential Answer:

- Joseph had status in Egypt but didn't anchor his identity there.
- Our security must rest in Christ and our heavenly inheritance (1 Pet. 1:3–4).
- Application: Do we live more like citizens of Egypt (this world) or as pilgrims looking toward the better country (Heb. 11:16)?

Key Christ-Centered Takeaways for Leaders

- **Faith looks beyond present circumstances**—Joseph's eyes were fixed on God's promises, not Egypt's glory.
- **Faith trusts in God's future deliverance**—Joseph's bones became a testimony to the coming Exodus and ultimately to Christ's greater deliverance.
- **Faith finishes strong**—Like Jacob and Joseph, we are called to die clinging to God's promises in Christ.
- **Christ is the true Joseph**—rejected, suffered, exalted, and now the One who saves His people fully and forever.