

**RESCUE AND RESURRECTION**

Genesis 49:1—50:26

*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...the saving of many lives.”* Genesis 50:19–20

1. Read Genesis 49:1–28. In this passage, Jacob blesses his sons and prophesies about the tribes of Israel that will come from them. What strikes you about the way he blesses his sons? What do you learn about God from Jacob’s blessings?
2. Read Genesis 49:29—50:21. Earlier Jacob made Joseph swear to bury him back in Canaan (Genesis 47:29–31). Now he repeats his request. Why do you think it is so important to him to be buried in Canaan? (Genesis 28:13–15; 46:2–4)
3. What did Joseph do when his father died? (verses 1–5) Who went with Joseph to bury Jacob?
4. Now that their father has died, what do Joseph’s brothers do? What do they want? (Genesis 50:15–18) Why do you think Joseph wept when he heard their message? (verse 17)
5. Why do you think Joseph’s brothers had a hard time believing that Joseph forgave them?
6. Describe a time when you struggled to believe you were forgiven. How does God’s forgiveness for you bring you hope and sanity? (1 John 1:9)
7. Joseph’s brothers come and bow down to him as a final fulfillment of his earlier dreams. What do you learn about Joseph from his response to his brothers? (verses 19–21)

8. Read Genesis 50:22–26. How does Joseph encourage his brothers at the end of his life? For what request is Joseph praised in Hebrews 11:22?
  
9. There have been many occasions in Genesis when human sin seemed to threaten God’s plan to preserve a seed and create a people, but God has always used those circumstances to further his plan. Is there one instance that has really stood out for you?
  
10. Often considered to be a key verse in the entire book of Genesis, how does Genesis 50:20 show the heart of God’s plan of redemption? (Acts 2:22–24, 36–39)
  
11. What are some of the things you have learned about God from your study in Genesis? What have you learned about people? What have you learned about yourself?