



Genesis 47 starts out with the joy of a family reunion but quickly turns to the pain of a famine. The Egyptian people have no choice but to go to Joseph for help throughout the famine to stay alive. As Joseph handles this crisis, he models a life of character and integrity. What stands out in Genesis 47 is that the Egyptian people offer servitude to Pharaoh in return for food. Although Joseph is not an active schemer in the plan they present, he does play a passive role in complying with their suggestions. In the midst of hardship, we see God provide for Egypt through Joseph. Joseph comes up with a creative plan to keep the people alive and helps them spread out into new land!

1. Neal shared a story about how God provided for him to go to college through his local high school. Share about a time in your life when God provided for you through a way you never expected to see Him provide.
2. **Read Genesis 47:13-17.** We read that the Egyptians brought what they had to Joseph in exchange for food to stay alive. Think about the gift of salvation (**Ephesians 2:8-10**). What surprises you most about this free gift?
3. The people came to Joseph with empty hands, and he treated them with respect. He didn't disrespect them or treat them poorly. **Read Psalm 25:21, Proverbs 11:3, and Titus 2:7-8.** What makes living a life of integrity so tough?
4. **Read Genesis 47:18-19.** Pharaoh is an archetype of sin. Sin is anything that is contrary to God's word or plan. **Read James 5:16.** What is a sin that you are struggling with that is hurting your relationship with God and/or others?
5. Joseph comes up with a creative plan that will satisfy the people and please Pharaoh. **Read Genesis 47:20-26.** What are some creative, theologically sound ways you can come up with to help people?
6. Scripture is clear that we are not to oppress the poor. **Read Proverbs 14:31, 28:3, and Zechariah 7:10.** How do you view people who are poor? What might God be inviting you to do to help the poor in your city, county, or state?
7. Jacob had his eyes set on not being buried in Egypt. He knew that Egypt was not his final resting place. **Read Genesis 47:27-31.** For Christians, earth is not our final resting place; however, we get consumed with our lives on earth. What's one thing can you do to change to keep you more focused on heaven in your daily life?
8. Close your time in prayer.