

Goshen

A discussion guide for small groups.

The Text

Genesis 45:1-11

Genesis 46:28-47:12

Ezekiel 20:5-10

The Teaching

Watch the video, "Goshen"

Small Group Session 1 (Before the video)

1. Read out loud Genesis 45:1-11.

Why do you suppose Joseph sent out all of his Egyptian servants? His was not a quiet sadness, but a profound weeping. If you were one of his brothers standing there what would you have been thinking? When they learn of his true identity what is their reaction? Why? But Joseph's response is "draw near." What does this say about our own actions when we have felt wronged?

2. Read out loud Genesis 46:28-47:12

Goshen was the "port of entry" for Jacob and his family. Does it appear that Joseph has a plan for them even before they come to Pharaoh? From 46:29 we see that Goshen is some distance from where Joseph lived. Some find that interesting. What do you think? What is Joseph's plan for them with Pharaoh and what is his purpose? What do you suppose Pharaoh means when he says he will give them the best (i.e., good) land? For what are we told how they will use the land? How will this and their settling in Goshen impact their life in Egypt? What is Pharaoh's last request of Jacob? Does that seem significant?

3. Read out loud Ezekiel 20:5-10

What was Israel's relationship with the gods of Egypt? What do you suppose they knew about God? How willing would they be to leave the abundance of Egypt? How did God begin to change their desires?

Small Group Session 2 (After the video)

4. Draw near.

We have seen Joseph ask first his brothers (Gen. 45:4) and then his father and family (45:9) to “draw near.” God’s call to the people of Israel in the Exodus was to “draw near” to Him (specifically at Sinai). And to each of us God, through His Son, has given us the means and confidence to “draw near.” (Hebrews 4:14-16; 11:6) What are the things in our world that hinder us from drawing near to the Lord? How do we draw near in times of blessing? In times of difficulty? In times when we seem to feel distant from Him?

5. Wild Places.

Our study this summer has been about the Wild Places of Scripture and the Wild Places in our lives. Things we remember often time shape us and strengthen us for the future. What have you learned about God and yourself living in Wild Places? How do you now see the Wild Place where God has you? Has our journey together this summer given you new insights about the past or hope for the future?