**Jacob’s Death**

**A Bible Story From**

**Genesis 47:28; 48:1-22; 49:28-33;   
50:1-11, 15, 19-21**

**Bible Story Number: 1010420**

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**Jacob’s Death**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

Abraham was the father of Isaac and grandfather of Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons. They became known as the twelve tribes of Israel.

God made a profound promise to Abraham (called a covenant). It was passed along to and through his son Isaac, and his grandson Jacob.

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

Joseph was Jacob’s favorite son. His brothers sold him as a slave and led their father to believe a wild animal killed him. He became a slave in Egypt and ended up in prison. Joseph became the second most powerful man in Egypt because of God’s blessings.

**Story from the Bible**

**Genesis 47:28; 48:1-22; 49:28-33; 50:1-11, 15, 19-21**

This is what the Bible says.

Joseph’s family lived in Goshen (a part of Egypt). Jacob lived seventeen years in Egypt. (Gen. 47:28)

As Jacob’s health was fading, Joseph went to his father. He had his two sons with him. Jacob blessed Joseph’s sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Jacob began to bless the younger as if he were the oldest. When Joseph tried to correct his father, Jacob told him that he knew what he was doing and that Ephraim would be greater than his older brother Manasseh. (Gen. 48:1-22)

Jacob, shortly before he died, spoke to his twelve sons and blessed each of them. He asked Joseph not to bury him in Egypt, but to take his body back to Canaan. (Gen. 49:28-33)

When Jacob died, Joseph had his body embalmed in Egypt. The Egyptians mourned for him for seventy days. When the morning period was over, Joseph sent word to Pharaoh and asked that he be allowed to honor his father’s request to be buried in Canaan. Pharaoh granted his request.

Joseph went to bury his father. There was another seven day period of mourning at the gravesite. The local people (Canaanites) saw the mourning and took note that this was a significant event for the Egyptians.

Joseph’s brothers were afraid that Joseph would want revenge on them now that their father was dead. But Joseph assured them and told them not to be afraid. He told them that what they intended as evil against him, God planned for good. God planned to use it to provide survival for their family. Joseph assured them that he would take care of them and their children. (Gen. 50:1-11, 15, 19-21)

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* How long did Jacob live in Egypt?
* What was unusual about the blessing Jacob gave to Joseph’s sons?
* Where did Jacob want to be buried?
* Why do you think so many Egyptians went back to Canaan for the burial of Jacob?
* What were Joseph’s bothers afraid of after their father died?
* What did Joseph do to calm his brothers’ fear?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.