

## **Biblical Leadership**

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

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### **Course description: Part 1**

This course explores the first of several biblical leaders. The intent of this course is to understand the qualities these men possessed (good and bad), and how those qualities were used by God to lead His people.

### **Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:**

- A. Read scripture relating to the development and leadership of Joseph.
- B. Identified a minimum of four leadership qualities demonstrated by Joseph.
- C. Described at least three characteristics of Joseph's leadership that relate to us today.

### **Outline of the class:**

- A. During the first ten minutes of the class divide the class into groups of three or four. Ask each group to read one of the passages listed below as it associates with the leadership development of Joseph. As you read through your section, specifically list out the qualities and characteristics connected to Joseph in your groups' text.
  - 1. Genesis 37
  - 2. Genesis 39
  - 3. Genesis 40-41 (quick read through this section)
  - 4. Genesis 45 and 50:15-21
- B. After each group has read through their section and made their lists, ask for their responses and list them on the whiteboard. A few possibilities to add to their lists, if they are not suggested, are found below.
  - 1. Qualities of leadership demonstrated by Joseph
    - a. Leadership is a process.
    - b. Leadership development requires time.
    - c. Leadership often requires isolation to develop what God needs today.
    - d. Leaders must maintain godly character...always.
    - e. Trust in God's guidance through the whole process.
    - f. Utilize all opportunities, even when we appear to suffer the worst of conditions.

2. Characteristics of Joseph's leadership that relate to us today.
  - a. Dreamer
  - b. Held to his integrity
  - c. Invested in others, even when they forgot his goodness
  - d. Confident in God and God's direction for his life
  - e. Knew how to develop and follow a plan that benefited others
- C. Review the account of Joseph's life and notice how at the end, just before he dies, he addresses two key thoughts.
  1. He speaks to the past and reminds the people of Israel about the promise made by God to Abraham. He does not speak as "if" they will leave Egypt, but "when" they leave. He is confident in the promise of God, which is why Hebrews 11 records his faithfulness.
  2. He looks to the future when they leave Egypt and he wants them to carry his bones with them. Exodus 13 is where Moses will reference Joseph's request and they will carry his bones up from Egypt.
    - a. Note that the time is several hundred years later, and they carry his bones through the wilderness. A generation that is rebellious must die in the wilderness before the next generation will take his bones into the promised land of Canaan.
    - b. It is not until after the battles have been fought that we learn in Joshua 24 that the request of Joseph is finally fulfilled when Joshua buries his bones in the cave of Machpelah.

Conclusion:

- A. The life of Joseph provides us with valuable details connected to the time required to develop someone's leadership abilities.
- B. These qualities and characteristics also help us learn the significance of leading God's people today. If we will learn from the example of Joseph and develop many of these qualities and characteristics today, we can benefit the Lord's church.
- C. As we will discuss in the weeks ahead, the qualifications described by these men in the Old Testament point us to the ultimate leadership we find in Christ. We need to not only understand what they mean, but we must also understand how they assist one to fulfill the role in the future. Next week, we will continue to examine several qualities and characteristics related to these men in the Old Testament.