

A dirt path leads through a dense forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a warm, golden glow. The path is illuminated by a bright light source, possibly the sun, which is visible through the branches in the upper center. The trees are tall and thin, with their trunks forming a natural archway over the path. The overall atmosphere is serene and peaceful.

JOSEPH

Trailblazer for God

Joseph the Influencer

Genesis 46:1 - 50:21

An Influencer

- Influencers in our digital world (eg YouTube)
- History always had many influencers – some better, some bad!
- Joseph was an influencer used by God

Joseph's positive impact

- Joseph's "followers": Egyptians and Family
- Subsequent generations of Jews remembered him
 - Prophetic word: hope of future salvation (Ex 13:19; Josh 24:32; Heb 11:22)
 - Part of God's acts in history (Ps 105:16-22; Acts 7:9-16)

Joseph's story: *The final episode*

- 46: Family reunion
- 47: Jacob settled in Goshen – Joseph managed the famine
- 48: Joseph's sons adopted and blessed by Jacob
- 49: Jacob blessed his twelve sons and died
- 50:1-14: Jacob buried in Canaan
- 50:15-26: Joseph reassured his brothers – died (aged 110)

Joseph's final legacy: Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, 'What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?' ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, 'Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ "This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly." Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.' When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. 'We are your slaves,' they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, 'Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.' And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Joseph's had an influence
right to the end of Genesis

Key characteristics

Blessed: *Blessed to be a blessing*

- Joseph and sons were blessed by God and Jacob (Gen 48:5)
- Abraham blessed by God: “...*you will be a blessing*” (Gen 12:2-3)
- Jesus: “*Freely you have received; freely give*” (Mt 10:7-8)

Serve: *Gifted in order to serve*

- Joseph used his skills to serve God and people (47:13-26; 47:27)
- The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve (1 Cor 12, Rom 12)
- Jesus set the example – He came to serve (Mt 20:28)

Grace: *Forgiven in order to pass it on*

- Joseph is a great example or “type” of God’s grace (50:19-21)
- Christians are saved by grace (Eph 2:8; Rom 5:10; 1 Pet 3:18)
- We must pass it on by showing grace

Faith: Saved in order to live in hope

- Joseph believed God will save his people (50:24-25)
- The New Testament highlights our hope (1 Cor 13:13)
- Hope is more than optimism; it's future reality (Rom 5:1-2; 1 Pet 1:3)

Challenge

- To leave a godly legacy, we'll need to...
 - Acknowledge God's blessings and become a blessing
 - Serve God and others by offering our gifts
 - Show God's grace by offering forgiveness
 - Live by faith, placing our hope in God's promises
- Be an influencer in your sphere of influence

Questions

- Am I passing on God's many blessings to others?
- Am I using my gifts, skills, talents for God's glory?
- Do I appreciate God's grace by forgiving?
- Does my life reflect my hope in God?

Prayer