

# A CLOUD OF WITNESSES

## DOCUSERIES

### Episode 2 | Joseph | Hebrews 11:22



**Joseph believes the promise given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**

Joseph was a man of faith. His forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, also believed God. A promise was given by God to Abraham that his people would inherit the promised land. This promise extended down thru the generations but had not yet been realized.

Now Joseph was at the point of death (110 years old) and still had not seen the land promised to Abraham approximately 200 years before. Yet, Joseph was confident in God and told his family not to bury him in Egypt but to keep his bones and take them with them when God brought them out.

His body was embalmed and kept in a coffin, waiting for the time it would be transported to the promised land.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.

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**So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees. And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.**

**Genesis 50:22-26**



**PRAY** (20 min)

As a Home Group, take a moment and share your reaction to Joseph's faith in what God had promised. Spend time in prayer asking God to deepen our faith in Him.



**REWIND** (20 min)

Looking back at last week's lesson, share how you were able to be a safe space for someone struggling. How did others respond when we checked in on them?



## REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them together.

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."**

Romans 1:16-17

1. What does it mean to you to walk by faith? As a group, discuss how our lives are built around the promises of God. How do you encourage yourself when tempted to doubt?

**Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose ways you may not understand at the time.**

- Oswald Chambers

2. We read in Scripture that the children of Israel struggled with duplicitous behavior, sin, and deception. How can they have been included in this chapter, referred to as the "Hall of Faith," if they dealt with sin like that? Does our daily war against sin disqualify us from following God by faith?

**Lay aside concerning your former conduct, the old nature which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.**

Ephesians 4:22

3. Joseph and the patriarchs lived at a high level of faith even though this was a time where followers of God didn't have the full benefits of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit like we do (the Spirit had not yet been given at Pentecost). Share how the infilling of the Holy Spirit should make a difference in our daily walk. What does it mean to walk in the Spirit and not by the flesh?
4. God did eventually bring the children of Israel to the Promise Land. He fulfilled His promise at the right time. We, like the patriarchs, also walk in faith, believing that God will take us to a promised land we have not yet seen (heaven). What do you think heaven will be like? How does the knowledge that we will worship God face to face encourage you as you serve and follow Him?



## REACH (5 min)

Considering our lesson this week, let's seek to walk in the Spirit as we believe Him for His promises. Pray for and encourage other believers in their walk with God. Let's walk by faith as we serve and honor Him.

**Next week we will be anxiously waiting to hear how you stepped out, in faith, to encourage others in their walks with God.**

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