

Community Bible Church

The Book of Genesis

Chapter 45

“I am Joseph!” 45:3

Genesis chapter 45 is the fourth and final chapter of the story of Joseph and his brothers in Egypt. In this poignant narrative, Joseph finally reveals his identity to his brothers during their attempt to purchase food supplies from Egypt. Joseph had delayed making himself known until he believed his brothers were demonstrating humility and repentance. Twenty-two years earlier he had been sold as a slave into Egypt by these same brothers. Joseph’s desire was for reconciliations of this family. In **45:3-4**, he reveals his identity to them in a surprise announcement. ***“I am your brother Joseph whom you sold into Egypt.”*** This chapter is one of reunion, rejoicing, and reconciliation. Joseph clearly acknowledges God’s role in this situation as these chapters serve as a narrative of how God is preparing this family for future ministry in the formation of the nation of Israel.

There are three main sections in **chapter 45**. In **45:1-15** Joseph explains his story and invites his father, Jacob, and brothers to move to Egypt. In **45: 16-24**. Pharaoh graciously extends this invitation. Finally, in **45:25-28** the brothers return to Canaan and report to their father Jacob the surprising details of their trip. This chapter can be outlined as follows:

Compassion (Gracious Forgiveness Demonstrated) 45:1-15
Celebration (Good News Declared) 45:16-28

1. Read the “opening scene” of **chapter 45** in **verses 1-4**. Describe the different emotions that you can identify in this passage.
2. Where do you see Joseph make reference to God in **45:5-9** and what actions is he attributing to God? What does that tell you about Joseph?
3. What were his instructions to his brothers in **45:9-13**? What appears to be Joseph’s motives in suggesting this relocation plan for his family?

4. What was the special relationship between Joseph and Benjamin? How is this expressed in the emotional narrative in **45:14-15**?

5. In what ways was God working in the lives of these brothers and their father in this narrative? In what ways do you see God working in the lives of **your** family at the present time?

6. The words and thoughts of Pharaoh take center stages in **45:16-20**. What gifts were given to the brothers? Why was Pharaoh so gracious? What encouraging words were given by Pharaoh to the brothers as they prepared to leave in **45:20**?

7. Read **45:21-24**. Joseph was also gracious in giving them gifts and provisions for their journey home. What did he give them? Joseph also gave them a final word of brotherly advice just as they were leaving. What did he tell them? Do you think they complied?

8. The final paragraph of this chapter takes place back in the land of Canaan in **45:25-28**. Read this passage and describe the emotions and thoughts of Jacob (Israel) as he heard the report from his sons. How does the chapter conclude in **45:28**?

9. In what ways did Joseph bring glory to God in **chapter 45**?

