

The Bible Study Series of Church Land Programme

Study 4: LEADERSHIP & LAND



Approximate duration:
2 hours and 45 minutes



Key text:
Genesis 41: 46-57 and Genesis 47: 13-26



What you will need:
Pens, paper, a Bible, large flipchart paper (or a chalk board and chalk), a flipchart pen, masking tape (or prestick, or drawing pins), a number of copies of the Woodcut Picture (by the artist Azariah Mbatha) which is at the end of this study (there should be one copy for each small group).

Important Information for the Facilitator



This Bible study is one of a series which has been compiled by Church Land Programme (CLP). It is for people who want to understand how the Bible views the land, and those connected to the land. It comprises relevant Bible study materials, liturgies and prayers which aim at assisting local church leaders and congregations to reflect on the themes of people's land rights and creation as a partnership with God.

It is very important that you start by reading the 'Introductory Notes' at the beginning of the CLP Bible Study Series, so that you understand the background to this study.



What to prepare beforehand:

- Read through the whole study.
- Read through the whole story of Joseph and his family found in Genesis chapters 37 to 50, and be sure you have an understanding of what it is about. Take special note of the Key texts mentioned above.
- Study the Woodcut Picture, and be sure you understand each panel.
- Gather the things you will need for the study (see the list above).
- Read through all the questions below, and reflect on what you think your responses may be to them.
- Write questions 1-3 on a piece of flipchart paper. Write big and clearly.
- Write questions 4-7 on a piece of flipchart paper. Write big and clearly.
- Write the closing prayer on a piece of flipchart paper. Write big and clearly.



Step 1.

You may wish to start the Bible study by welcoming everyone, and opening with prayer.

Step 2.

(Timecheck: 5 minutes)

Get the participants to divide themselves into **nine** small groups. Each group should have a piece of paper, and a pen or pencil. Each group should also have a copy of the Woodcut Picture. Allocate (point out) **one** panel of the Woodcut Picture to each group. Explain that everyone together is going to re-tell the well-known story of Joseph, and then look at how he was a leader.



Step 3.

(Timecheck: 15 minutes)

These small groups should then look at their **one** panel of the Woodcut Picture and discuss what is happening in the story of Joseph. They should write down on their paper what is happening in the picture.

Step 4.

(Timecheck: 30 minutes)

In the correct order, each small group should then each report to everyone on their particular panel. Together everyone is able to tell the story of Joseph, his family and his land.

Important Information for the Facilitator



When the group is re-telling the story about Joseph, remember that it does not end with the reuniting of Joseph's family, as shown by Mbatha's woodcut. Remember that as Prime Minister of Egypt, Joseph implements plans to deal with the years of plenty and the years of famine.



Step 5.

(Timecheck: 15 minutes)

Read the Key texts aloud. If participants have their own Bibles with them, they may choose to follow the reading in their own Bibles.

Step 6.

Get the participants to return to their small groups. Stick up the paper with the Questions 1-3. Each group should be able to see it easily.



**Step 7.**

(Timecheck: 25 minutes)

These small groups should then look at the Woodcut Picture to help remember the story of Joseph, and they should **discuss** the questions, and write down some answers:

1. *How did Joseph get the grain which he stored?*
2. *During the famine, what did Joseph do with the stored grain?*
3. *What must the people do in order to get grain from Joseph?*

Step 8.

(Timecheck: 20 minutes)

The small groups should then each report to everyone on their discussion and answers. To save time, the groups should take turns in reporting on different questions.

**Step 9.**

(Timecheck: 25 minutes)

After the reports the participants should return to their small groups. Stick up the paper with the Questions 4-7 below. Each group should be able to see it easily. The small groups should then **discuss** together and answer the questions. They should write down their list or plan of action.

4. *Do you think Joseph was a good leader? Why?*
5. *What alternative forms of redistribution could Joseph have used?*
6. *What should be the role of the government in land allocation/reallocation?*
7. *What will you do to ensure that this country's government administers the land wisely and justly? Write a list or a plan of action of what you will do.*

Step 10.

(Timecheck: 30 minutes)

Again, at the end of the discussion time, each small group should report back to the big group.

**Step 11.**

Bring the Bible study to a close. You may wish to do this by leading all the participants to pray the following prayer together (written on a flipchart paper):

Our Lord, we lift to you our country's leadership. We pray for the women and men who have a role in governing our country. We ask that you would strengthen them to do this with wisdom and justice. We ask that you would expose corruption and exploitation, and bring peace. We also pray for the restoration of the land which is our territory, that we may live with dignity and in peace. Amen.



