

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt



MEMORY VERSE: "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."
Romans 8:28



GENESIS 42:1-9 Brothers Travel to Egypt

1. What did Jacob tell his sons to do, and why? Why didn't Benjamin go? vv. 1-5
2. From lesson 1, Genesis 37:5 says, "Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more." Do you remember what this dream was? What is happening now? vv. 6
3. How do you think Joseph felt when he saw his brothers again? What does Joseph accuse them of? vv. 9



GENESIS 42:10-23 Joseph Confronts His Brothers

4. How do the brothers react when Joseph calls them "spies"? How do they defend themselves?
5. After Joseph put the brothers in prison for three days, what was the final plan? vv. 14-20
6. Why do the brothers believe they are in this situation? vv. 21-22
What does this tell you about sin in your life?



- 7. How does Joseph respond in verse 24?

- 8. What does Joseph do with their money? How do the brothers react when they find out?
vv. 25-28

- 9. Read verses 29-38. How does the father react when the brothers return home? vv. 36-38

- 10. God can and does use the evil actions of men to further His good plan. This never excuses man's evil, but it means God's wisdom and His goodness are greater than man's evil. How does this give you hope?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

Joseph's childhood dreams from God have come true. The only reason there is grain in Egypt to provide for Jacob's family's needs is because God sent Joseph on ahead. God caused everything to work together for good for Joseph. For those who love God and are doing their best to obey His commands, God will use the bad/sad/evil things to ultimately bring about good, both in our lives and in the world.

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Lord, I want You to make me more like Jesus and use my trials for my good and Your glory. Help me believe the promise of Romans 8:28. Please let me be a part of Your plan and not working against You. Reveal to me any sin that I need to confess or people that I need to forgive. Help me to love people the way You do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



This lesson shows that life and relationships are messy, but God is bigger than all that. Do you relate to either Joseph or the brothers? Is so, why? How can you step back and let God do His good work?



Genesis 42:1-38 (NLT)

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

1 When Jacob heard that grain was available in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why are you standing around looking at one another? 2 I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there, and buy enough grain to keep us alive. Otherwise we'll die."

3 So Joseph's ten older brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain. 4 But Jacob wouldn't let Joseph's younger brother, Benjamin, go with them, for fear some harm might come to him. 5 So Jacob's sons arrived in Egypt along with others to buy food, for the famine was in Canaan as well.

6 Since Joseph was governor of all Egypt and in charge of selling grain to all the people, it was to him that his brothers came. When they arrived, they bowed before him with their faces to the ground.

7 Joseph recognized his brothers instantly, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where are you from?" he demanded. "From the land of Canaan," they replied. "We have come to buy food." 8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they didn't recognize him. 9 And he remembered the dreams he'd had about them many years before. He said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become." 10 "No, my lord!" they exclaimed. "Your servants have simply come to buy food. 11 We are all brothers — members of the same family. We are honest men, sir! We are not spies!" 12 "Yes, you are!" Joseph insisted. "You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become."

13 "Sir," they said, "there are actually twelve of us. We, your servants, are all brothers, sons of a man living in the land of Canaan. Our youngest brother is back there with our father right now, and one of our brothers is no longer with us."

14 But Joseph insisted, "As I said, you are spies! 15 This is how I will test your story. I swear by the life of Pharaoh that you will never leave Egypt unless your youngest brother comes here! 16 One of you must go and get your brother. I'll keep the rest of you here in prison. Then we'll find out whether or not your story is true. By the life of Pharaoh, if it turns out that you don't have a younger brother, then I'll know you are spies." 17 So Joseph put them all in prison for three days.

18 On the third day Joseph said to them, "I am a God-fearing man. If you do as I say, you will live. 19 If you really are honest men, choose one of your brothers to remain in prison. The rest of you may go home with grain for your starving families. 20 But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. This will prove that you are telling the truth, and you will not die." To this they agreed.

21 Speaking among themselves, they said, "Clearly we are being punished because of what we did to Joseph long ago. We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn't listen. That's why we're in this trouble."

22 "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy?" Reuben asked. "But you wouldn't listen. And now we have to answer for his blood!" 23 Of course, they didn't know that Joseph understood them, for he had been speaking to them through an interpreter.

24 Now he turned away from them and began to weep. When he regained his composure, he spoke to them again. Then he chose Simeon from among them and had him tied up right before their eyes.

25 Joseph then ordered his servants to fill the men's sacks with grain, but he also gave secret instructions to return each brother's payment at the top of his sack. He also gave them supplies for their journey home. 26 So the brothers loaded their donkeys with the grain and headed for home.

27 But when they stopped for the night and one of them opened his sack to get grain for his donkey, he found his money in the top of his sack. 28 "Look!" he exclaimed to his brothers. "My money has been returned; it's here in my sack!" Then their hearts sank. Trembling, they said to each other, "What has God done to us?" 29 When the brothers came to their father, Jacob, in the land of Canaan, they told him everything that had happened to them. 30 "The man who is governor of the land spoke very harshly to us," they told him. "He accused us of being spies scouting the land. 31 But we said, 'We are honest men, not spies. 32 We are twelve brothers, sons of one father. One brother is no longer with us, and the youngest is at home with our father in the land of Canaan.'

33 "Then the man who is governor of the land told us, 'This is how I will find out if you are honest men. Leave one of your brothers here with me, and take grain for your starving families and go on home. 34 But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. Then I will know you are honest men and not spies. Then I will give you back your brother, and you may trade freely in the land.'" 35 As they emptied out their sacks, there in each man's sack was the bag of money he had paid for the grain! The brothers and their father were terrified when they saw the bags of money.

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Genesis 42:1-38 (NLT)

36 Jacob exclaimed, "You are robbing me of my children! Joseph is gone! Simeon is gone! And now you want to take Benjamin, too. Everything is going against me!"

37 Then Reuben said to his father, "You may kill my two sons if I don't bring Benjamin back to you. I'll be responsible for him, and I promise to bring him back."

38 But Jacob replied, "My son will not go down with you. His brother Joseph is dead, and he is all I have left. If anything should happen to him on your journey, you would send this grieving, white-haired man to his grave."

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