


Dealing With Our Past

Genesis 42 // April 2, 2023



... BUT GOD

the life of *Joseph*

REFLECT/CONNECT

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?
- What's something about your past that you would change if you could?



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

GROW IN THE WORD

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.



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Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to bring back food so that his family could survive the famine that affected the entire land of Canaan. He kept Benjamin from traveling to Egypt to keep him safe from any potential harm. The rest of Jacob's sons made the trip along with all those who came to Egypt for food (v. 1-5).

- Why was Jacob so afraid for his son Benjamin? See Genesis 35:16-18; 37:32-36.

- In what way can you relate to the fear Jacob felt for Benjamin?

Joseph's brothers arrived in Egypt to purchase grain and they did not recognize Joseph. Joseph recognized them, remembered his dreams about them, threw them in prison, and convinced them to bring his youngest brother, Benjamin, to Egypt (v. 6-28).

- What clues does the author give to help shed light on why Joseph might have disguised himself and accused his brothers of being spies? See Genesis 42:15-16, 20-22. See also Genesis 43:7.
- What do you think motivated Joseph to see his brother Benjamin? What might he have thought happened to him?

- What do you typically expect will happen when you admit guilt for something you did wrong?
- How does Joseph's reaction to the brothers' admission of guilt point you to Jesus?

The brothers returned to Canaan and explained what happened in Egypt to Jacob. Jacob saw the grain they purchased and the money Joseph returned to them as they emptied their sacks. He refused to allow the brothers to return to Egypt with Benjamin (v. 29-38).

- What did seeing the money in the sacks arouse in Jacob? Consider Genesis 37:28 and the accusations Jacob expressed in verse 36.
- What parts of this story resonate most with you?
- How does this story motivate you to put off all sin? Reflect on how past sin continued to wreck Jacob's family decades later.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FATHER DAUGHTER ROUNDUP

Saturday, April 22 | 5 - 8:30 pm

Dads, register now to join us for Texas-sized fun and an evening for you to invest in your relationship with your daughter. We've got an evening of fun activities planned!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 12 - 16 | 9 am - 12 pm

VBS is right around the corner and registration is now open! Join us for an exciting week as we learn how to shine Jesus' light.