Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt Again

Genesis 43-45

The Story

The brothers had gone to Egypt. Why? What happened? What now?

When the grain that they had brought back from Egypt was gone, Jacob told his sons to go back to Egypt and buy more. Judah reminded Jacob that they couldn't return to Egypt without Benjamin along. Jacob blamed them for telling the Egyptian ruler about Benjamin. He said, "Why did you tell him?"

They answered Jacob, "The man asked us directly. Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother? So we told him the truth. How would we know he'd want us to bring Benjamin?"

Then Judah said, "Send the boy with me. I'll take care of him. If I don't bring him safely back, you can blame me the rest of my life."

So Jacob gave in and let them go and take Benjamin along. He also sent great presents along to obtain favor in the ruler's sight. They all took the money and more to repay. And Jacob sent them away with the Lord's blessings.

When they had arrived before Joseph, Joseph had his servants take them to his home to dine at noon with him.

The brothers didn't understand. They were afraid and thought Joseph would make them all slaves because of the money they had found in their sacks on the way home last time they came to Egypt. They pleaded with Joseph's servant and told him what had happened with the money.

But the servant said, "Peace be with you and do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your fathers has given you treasure in your sacks. I had your money." Then he brought Simeon from prison to join them.

They cleaned up, got the gifts, and met Joseph at noon. They bowed down before him and Joseph asked them about their father and he met Benjamin. Then Joseph left and he cried in private. His brothers were seated to eat; oldest to youngest. They were amazed. When they were served Benjamin received five times as much as the other brothers. So they drank and were merry with him.

After the meal, Joseph commanded his servant to fill the brothers' sacks with food and put each man's money into the sacks as well. Also Joseph told his servant to place his silver cup in the sack of the youngest.

The next morning the brothers left. Joseph sent his chief servant after them and told him what to say.

When the servant caught up to them he said, "Why did you steal my lord's cup after he was so good to you?"

"Why are you accusing us? We brought back the money we found. We are honest. If you find the cup let that man die and the rest of us will be your slaves.

The servant answered, "Whoever has the cup can be my slave and the rest can go free."

When Joseph's servant searched the sacks of grain, he found the cup in Benjamin's sack. Then Joseph's brothers tore their clothes and each man returned to the city with Joseph's

servant.

When they came before Joseph, they all fell before him and Judah pleaded for Benjamin. Judah begged for his father's sake to take Benjamin's place in prison.

Then Joseph couldn't hold back anymore and he commanded all but his brothers to leave the room, but everyone heard his loud cries. "I am Joseph," he said, "Is father still alive? Please come here. I am Joseph. You sold me into slavery, but God was with me and set me as ruler to save lives. There are still 5 years of famine left. Go, tell my father I am a ruler here and he should come be with me to live." He hugged, kissed, and cried with his brothers.

When Pharaoh heard of Joseph's family, he was pleased and told Joseph to send for his father's household . Pharaoh would give them the best of the land of Egypt. He said, "You would eat the fat of the land."

Joseph sent the brothers home to Canaan with carts to ride in, provisions for the journey, changes of garments. Benjamin was given 30 pieces of silver and 10 donkeys loaded with the goods from Egypt.

Joseph said, "Do not be troubled on your way home! Go and bring my father to me!"

They arrived home and told Jacob that Joseph was alive! They told their father everything that they had said and done.

Jacob believed them and said, "Joseph my son is still alive! I will go and see him before I die."

Activity One - The Bible tells us that Joseph cried. Why do you think he cried? Why do you cry? Make a face with tears and sadness on the left and a smiling face on the right.

cry: *sad, hurt, sorry, happy*

smile: *happy, joy because we are forgiven*

The Lord disciplined Joseph's brothers to change their hearts and correct their sinful behavior.

Activity Two - Look at the three pictures below. Do you remember the dreams of Joseph? Draw a line from the dreams to the picture of the brothers bowing down to Joseph.

God keeps His promises. He loves us and forgives us.

Passages

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Hymn - TLH #435 v. 2

In Thee I place my trust,
On Thee I calmly rest;
I know Thee good, I know Thee just,
And count Thy choice the best.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, You have shown me how much I am loved by my Father in heaven. Help me to remember that no matter what I have done wrong, God the Father has freely forgiven me of all my sins for Jesus' sake. Amen.