

# Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt

Genesis 42



*Introduction: We have been talking about Joseph. Who is Joseph? What do you remember about him? How many brothers did he have? Did they like him? What did they do to Joseph? What happened to Joseph? Who took care of Joseph through all of these bad things? What did Joseph end up doing in Egypt? (How did God use Joseph?)*

*Read/tell story with voice animation. Interject questions to check for understanding. This story lends itself easily to play form. Help the children to act out the scene. Let them perform it once or twice on their own.*



## The Story

Jacob heard there was food in Egypt, so he sent his ten oldest sons there to buy food. When the ten brothers got to Egypt, they came to the governor of the land and bowed down before him. This ruler was their brother Joseph, but they didn't know who he was. He knew them and spoke to them in an angry way.

"Who are you, and where do you come from?" asked Joseph.

"We come from the land of Canaan," said the brothers.

"You are spies!" said Joseph.

The brothers said, "No, my lord, we have come to buy food. We are brothers. We are honest men. We are not spies."

But Joseph said, "No. You are spies! You have come to see if you can take over our land."

"We are twelve brothers that live in Canaan with our father. Our youngest brother is at home and one brother is gone."

Joseph again said, "You are spies! You shall not leave until your youngest brother comes here." So he put them into prison for three days. There they sat and thought about all the things happening to them.

On the third day, Joseph said to them, "If you are honest men, let one brother stay in prison, and you return to your land with the food. But bring your youngest brother back to me to prove you aren't lying."

Then they said to each other, "We are guilty. Long ago we heard our brother Joseph plead with us to save him, and we didn't listen. Now we are paying for it."

Reuben said, "Didn't I tell you to leave him alone? You didn't listen. Now we are being punished."

Joseph listened to them talk. He saw they were sorry for what they had done to him. Then Joseph had his servants tie up Simeon, while his brothers watched, and lead Simeon away to prison.

Joseph told his servants to fill the brothers' sacks with food and put their money back inside the sacks. On their way home, one of the brothers opened a sack of grain to feed the donkeys, and he found his money. Then they were all afraid.

"What is happening? What is God doing to us?" they asked.

When they got home, they told their father Jacob everything that had happened. As they emptied their sacks of food, they found money in each sack.

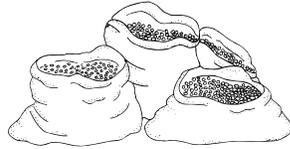
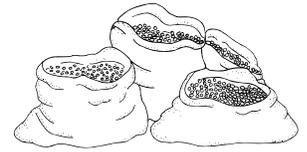
Jacob said, "You have taken Joseph from me, and now Simeon is gone, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me. Everything bad is happening to me."

Then Reuben said, "Trust me. I will bring Benjamin back to you or you can kill my two sons."

And Jacob said, "No. Joseph is dead. If anything would happen to Benjamin, I would die of sadness."



## Activity Two - Draw a line to match the two like pictures.



## Passage

Hebrews 12:6 - For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.

## Hymn - TLH 416, v. 1

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways  
To keep His statutes still!  
Oh, that my God would grant me grace  
To know and do His will!

## Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, When I run away from You by sinning, come and bring me back to You. When You discipline me, help me to remember that You are doing this to show me my sin. It is because You love me and want me to be with You. Be with me always for Jesus' sake. Amen.