

Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt

Genesis 42

Think (privately) of a time you were in trouble for doing something sinful.) Yours was probably not a pleasant situation --but it's very important that correction takes place. Sin can separate us from God. Sin is dangerous to our souls. Our sin must be pointed out so we can repent and have it removed through forgiveness.

This process of correction doesn't usually *feel* good – but we should realize how good this is for our spiritual health.

It is an act of love when God protects our souls from sin. In today's Bible reading you will hear of God using Joseph to help his brothers see their sins and seek forgiveness!



Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, Thank You for bringing us together to learn about You in this class today. Please lead us to understand through this Bible lesson why You discipline us as You disciplined the brothers of Joseph. Amen.

The Story - Genesis 42

When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" {2} And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die."

{3} So Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. {4} But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "Lest some calamity befall him." {5} And the sons of Israel went to buy grain among those who journeyed, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

{6} Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth. {7} Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he

acted as a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?"

And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."

{8} So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. {9} Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!"

{10} And they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food.

{11} "We are all one man's sons; we are honest men; your servants are not spies."

{12} But he said to them, "No, but you have come to see the nakedness of the land."

{13} And they said, "Your servants are



twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and in fact, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no more."

{14} But Joseph said to them, "It is as I spoke to you, saying, 'You are spies!' {15} "In this manner you shall be tested: By the life of Pharaoh, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

{16} "Send one of you, and let him bring your brother; and you shall be kept in prison, that your words may be tested to see whether there is any truth in you; or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies!" {17} So he put them all together in prison three days.

{18} Then Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God: {19} "If you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined to your prison house; but you, go and carry grain for the famine of your houses. {20} "And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.

{21} Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."

{22} And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us." {23} But they did not know that Joseph understood them, for he spoke to them through an interpreter.

{24} And he turned himself away from them and wept. Then he returned to them again, and talked with them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

{25} Then Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. Thus he did for them. {26} So they loaded their donkeys with the grain and departed from there.

{27} But as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey feed at the

encampment, he saw his money; and there it was, in the mouth of his sack. {28} So he said to his brothers, "My money has been restored, and there it is, in my sack!"

Then their hearts failed them and they were afraid, saying to one another, "What is this that God has done to us?"

{29} Then they went to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan and told him all that had happened to them, saying: {30} "The man who is lord of the land spoke roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country. {31} "But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies. {32} 'We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no more, and the youngest is with our father this day in the land of Canaan.'

{33} "Then the man, the lord of the country, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: Leave one of your brothers here with me, take food for the famine of your households, and be gone. {34} 'And bring your youngest brother to me; so I shall know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men. I will grant your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.'"

{35} Then it happened as they emptied their sacks, that surprisingly each man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid. {36} And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."

{37} Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you."

{38} But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If any calamity should befall him along the way in which you go, then you would bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave."

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

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. List three events from Genesis 42 that helped Joseph's brothers recognize their sins.

2. Quote evidence from Scripture in Genesis 42 that the brothers recognize their guilt and are being led toward repentance. Be sure to include a reference as well as key words from the passage/s.

Inner Aim - The chastening or disciplining we receive from our Lord is a part of the unconditional love, forgiveness and long-suffering of our God toward us.

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss these questions.

1. If Joseph had simply revealed himself to his brothers what may have remained?
2. Discuss different ways in which you have been corrected in an attempt to identify your sin and move you toward godly repentance.
3. Discuss these sayings from God's Little Instruction Book Volumes I, II, & III. "Too many parents are not on spanking terms with their children." Basis – Proverbs 13:24

"Whenever a man is ready to uncover his sins, God is always ready to cover them."
Basis – Proverbs 28:13
4. Discuss how radiation treatment of cancer can actually kills cells and makes people sick...but gets rid of the life threatening cancer. Discuss how this is like our inner aim.
5. Discuss how in muscle building the muscle cells are actually damaged before they come back stronger than they were before lifting weights. Discuss how this might be like our inner aim.

Hymn - TLH #342 v. 1, 5

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high, lived that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

O my Savior, help afford by Thy Spirit and Thy Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply while I live and when I die.

Passages - Concordance Activity - Search for passages that emphasize the Lord chastises those He loves. Search for passages that emphasize chastisement as a good thing. List your passages below in the correct column.

The Lord Chastises Those He Loves

Chastisement is a Good Thing

Prayer ACTivity - Write a group prayer that reiterates main lessons of the day. This acrostic approach can help you remember how to build a prayer. **ACTS**

A (Acknowledge who you are praying to along with a characteristic)

C (Confess)

T (Thank)

S (Supplicate – ask)