

Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt

Genesis 42

Have you ever been punished for doing something wrong?

We all have.

Why do our parents discipline us?

Why does God discipline us?

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

There was a great famine in the land of Canaan. Jacob heard there was grain in Egypt, so he told his sons, "Go down to that place and buy for us there that we may live and not die." So Joseph's ten brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain. Jacob would not send Benjamin, however, "lest some calamity befall him".

Now at that time, Joseph was the governor of Egypt. He was the one who sold the grain to all who came to buy it. So Joseph's brothers came and bowed their faces to the earth before him. Joseph recognized them, but they didn't know him. He spoke roughly to them, "Where do you come from?"

They answered, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."

Joseph remembered the dreams he had had. He said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the effects of the famine!" The brothers protested that they were only there to buy food, but Joseph accused them again of being spies.

They pleaded, "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."

Again Joseph said they were spies. Finally he said, "In this manner you shall be tested: By the life of Pharaoh, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. 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!" Joseph put them all in prison for three days.

On the third day, he told them he would let all but one brother get food and return to Canaan. One would be kept in prison until the youngest brother was brought back as proof that they were telling the truth. They all started talking about the situation in front of



Joseph. They were upset because they remembered what they had done to Joseph years before; now they felt they were being punished for sinning against him. Although Joseph had spoken to them in Egyptian through an interpreter, he understood their language and heard every word. He felt so sorrowful over their distress that he had to turn away from them and weep. When he returned, he bound Simeon and took him away.

Then Joseph commanded that all their sacks be filled with grain. He told his servants to put their money back in the sacks as well as provisions for their journey. The brothers then loaded their donkeys with the grain and left.

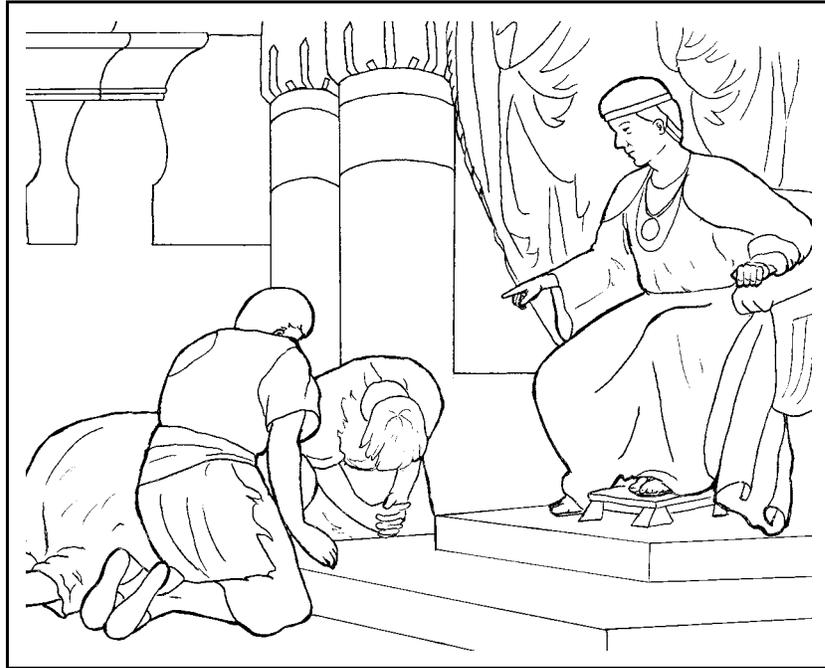
Along the way, one of the brothers opened his sack to feed his donkey. He was surprised and afraid when he saw the money back in his sack. He told his brothers all about it, and they too were terrified. It looked like they had stolen the grain!

They traveled back to Canaan, where they immediately told their father Jacob all that had happened to them. When each brother emptied out his sack, the money came tumbling out with the grain.

Jacob was very upset. "You have bereaved me," he said, "Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."

Reuben made a promise to his father. "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."

But Jacob refused, saying, "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 -Write (T) rue or (F)alse for each statement.

1. ____ Jacob told his sons to go down to Egypt to buy grain.
2. ____ All of his sons went together to Egypt.
3. ____ When Joseph saw his brothers again, he embraced them.
4. ____ Joseph accused them of being spies.
5. ____ Joseph wanted them to bring the youngest brother to Egypt.
6. ____ The brothers were thrown into prison for a week.
7. ____ Joseph was chastening his brothers because he hated them.
8. ____ Joseph commanded that each sack of grain should also contain money.
9. ____ The brothers were happy to see their money again.
10. ____ Jacob was afraid something would happen to Benjamin.

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. Why didn't Joseph's brothers recognize him?
2. The brothers were held in prison for 3 days. If Joseph loved them, why did he do this to them?
3. After the brothers remembered what they had done to their brother, Joseph, they were truly sorry for their sin. Why did Joseph weep when he heard them discussing it?
4. Jacob had good reason for not allowing Benjamin to go to Egypt, but he was also sinning. How?

Passages - Look up the following Bible verses and fill in the blanks.

Psalms 94:12 Blessed is the man whom You _____, O LORD, and _____ out of Your _____.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the LORD _____ He _____, and _____ every son whom He _____.

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I _____ and _____. Therefore be _____ and repent.

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.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, in this Bible truth You have shown me how much I am loved by my Father in heaven. You have shown me that when I am disciplined by my heavenly Father it is done out of love. Help me to accept this discipline and repent of all my sins knowing that in Jesus I have forgiveness. Help me to remember at all times that no matter what I have done wrong, God the Father has freely forgiven me of all my sins for Jesus' sake. Grant me an extra measure of Your Holy Spirit to turn me from my sinful ways to follow You. In Jesus' name I ask this. Amen.