

{ Dinnertime Devotionals }



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Weekly Theme: Joseph: Part 10

Verse #1: Genesis 41:56-57

(I use the ESV Bible for these devotionals. Questions are based on that text.)

All Ages Discussion Starter: There is a reason to study through a text like this at such a slow rate...it gives you time to comprehend how God is working in the life of Joseph. What seemed like a devastating situation has actually had what positive outcomes?

Verse #2: Genesis 42:1-5

All Age Discussion Starter: Time to pull out your Bible map... Locate Egypt on the map. Now locate Canaan on the map. Approximately how far was the journey that Jacob was sending his sons on? Take a moment to imagine the time it would take for them to travel and the dangers they would face along the way.

So desperate was the situation, and dangerous the journey, that Jacob sent 10 sons. What would get neglected at home with 10 away?

Verse #3: Genesis 42: 6-11

All Age Discussion Starter: The dreams that God gave to Joseph were coming true. His brothers arrive in Egypt after a long journey. Joseph must have looked very different. He had aged many years and he would be without the full beard that Israelite men traditionally had.

How did Joseph treat his brothers? Why do you think Joseph treated them this way? If you had been in Joseph's position how would you have reacted to seeing your brothers?

Verse #4: Genesis 42:12-17

All Age Discussion Starter: This is an interesting challenge that Joseph has given his brothers. He accuses them of being spies, coming to take advantage of the Egyptians in troublesome times. To prove that they are not spies, what does Joseph tell them they must do? Why do you think he put them all in jail for three days? Can you imagine the peril and danger this one brother would be in as he traveled a great distance to get the youngest?

Verse #5: Genesis 42:18-25

All Age Discussion Starter: Joseph obviously has a plan in his mind. After leaving his brothers in prison for three days he changes his order. How many of the brothers were to return home and how many would stay? Who did Joseph choose to stay in captivity? Why did the brothers think this was happening to them? It is also interesting to note that the brothers thought this information was secret from Joseph.