

# { Dinnertime Devotionals }



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**Weekly Theme:** Joseph: Part 12

**Verse #1:** Genesis 43:11-14

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

**All Ages Discussion Starter:** Israel (Jacob) had a change of mind and will send Benjamin back to Egypt with his brothers. What do you think caused him to change his mind? What did he tell the men to take with them? Why were all these 'products' so special? Why take double money?

**Verse #2:** Genesis 43:15-22

**All Age Discussion Starter:** Why were the men in such a hurry to get down to Egypt? (Hint: did they have a brother in jail and was the family running out of food in Canaan?) When Joseph saw Benjamin what did he tell his servant to do? Does this remind you of any other account in the Bible? Why were Joseph's brothers afraid? It is hard for us to really put ourselves in their shoes since we know who Joseph is. Can you imagine the fear that must be filling their minds as they are thinking life is about to end?

**Verse #3:** Genesis 43:23-25

**All Age Discussion Starter:** Joseph's servant comforts the brothers with some very interesting words. "Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks; I received your silver." How do you think Joseph's servant found out about the God of Israel? Why did the men need water to wash their feet? How many donkeys do you imagine were in their caravan to haul food for all the family? What did the brothers work to prepare for Joseph?

**Verse #4:** Genesis 43:26-30

**All Age Discussion Starter:** How do you think Joseph felt when his brothers, the ones who sold him into slavery, presented him with gifts and bowed down to him? Joseph used this opportunity to find out about the family. Who did he ask about first? As he looked around, who did Joseph spot? Seeing Benjamin caused Joseph to do what? Can you imagine the emotion of seeing your blood brother after 17 years of being gone. The emotion was definitely overwhelming as Joseph had to leave to weep.

**Verse #5:** Genesis 43:31-34

**All Age Discussion Starter:** Joseph returned from weeping and gave the command to eat. How were the brothers arranged? Were they eating with Joseph and the Egyptians? Why did they have to eat in a different area? As they looked around, what did they notice about the portion that was given to Benjamin? Did it seem to bother any of the brothers? What was their mood as they looked around at what was happening?