

{ Dinnertime Devotionals }



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Weekly Theme: Joseph: Part 13

Verse #1: Genesis 44:1-5

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

All Ages Discussion Starter: This is an interesting twist in the story. What did Joseph have his servant do to the bags of his brothers? Who's bag did he have his silver cup placed in? This is very interesting. Why do you think Joseph did this and told his servant to ask these questions?

Verse #2: Genesis 44:6-13

All Age Discussion Starter: Did Joseph's servant do exactly as he had been directed? What was the reaction of the brothers? The brothers originally said that if one was found with the cup he would be killed and all the others would be servants. When Joseph's servant tells the brothers how it will be, how does he change the terms? Who was found with the silver cup? How did the brothers react? Who do you think was most crushed by this event? Any clue why Joseph would want Benjamin with him?

Verse #3: Genesis 44:14-23

All Age Discussion Starter: To the casual observer it would be easy to think that Joseph is just being cruel to his brothers and torturing them with these events. Can you see a deeper intent as Joseph is preparing his brothers and protecting Benjamin?

Who steps forward to speak with Joseph? He was putting his life in great risk because in this time someone as powerful as Joseph could have you killed or imprisoned for speaking bad things.

Verse #4: Genesis 44:24-29

All Age Discussion Starter: Judah gives a recounting of what they had experienced with Jacob. Was Jacob readily willing to let Benjamin go to Egypt with his brothers? Why would Jacob be so hesitant to let Benjamin go? The pain of losing another son, the sons of the woman he loved, would be too much to bear. As Judah said, the pain of the loss could very well kill Jacob in his elderly condition.

Verse #5: Genesis 44:30-34

All Age Discussion Starter: How do you think these words from Judah impacted Joseph? What role did Judah play in Joseph being sold into slavery so many years ago? Now Judah is the defender of Benjamin. He has sworn to his father that he will bring back Benjamin unharmed. What did Judah offer to do in place of Benjamin? Do you think the events with Joseph so many years ago led to this change?