

# { Dinnertime Devotionals }



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**Weekly Theme:** Joseph: Part 14

**Verse #1:** Genesis 45:1-2

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

**All Ages Discussion Starter:** Can you even imagine what it must feel like when 17+ years of emotion comes pouring out? Joseph had been processing all these things that were happening and finally could hold back no longer. How do you think his brothers reacted?

**Verse #2:** Genesis 45:3

**All Age Discussion Starter:** His brothers were terrified! Why would Joseph's brothers be terrified? Their terrible secret from long ago was now staring them in the face in the form of one of the most powerful men in the world. What could Joseph have done to them? What would you have done in Joseph's position?

We might think we can keep secrets but eventually the truth comes out to find us.

**Verse #3:** Genesis 45:4-7

**All Age Discussion Starter:** If you were one of the older brothers and the younger brother you thought was long gone told you to "come close"...would you? What an amazing amount of understanding Joseph shows when he speaks with his brothers. "...It was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you." Whoa! Let that sink in for a bit. Do you think Joseph felt that way when he was a slave or in prison? What does that teach us about the importance of waiting for God's time in our lives?

**Verse #4:** Genesis 45:8-15

**All Age Discussion Starter:** Joseph was prepared to care for his family. There were only in the early portion of the famine that was gripping the region. He was going to send his brothers back to their father to tell him who they had found and to move all the family to the land of Goshen. Can you imagine the emotion as Joseph embraces his blood brother (Benjamin) for the first time? Do you think the older brothers were set at ease when Joseph embraced them and wept over them?

**Verse #5:** Genesis 45:16-20

**All Age Discussion Starter:** How did Pharaoh feel about Joseph being reunited with his family? Do you think there is also a part of Pharaoh who would have 'been OK' with being part of Joseph seeking revenge on his brothers? How would Joseph's attitude towards his brothers have made a significant impact on Pharaoh and all those who knew Joseph? How can we make an impact on those around us?