

2.05 JOSEPH'S BROTHERS IN EGYPT

GENESIS 42-45

Joseph was made governor over all the land of Egypt. He was in charge of all the food that was being grown during the seven years of good crops. Because he managed the crops well, there was plenty of food stored for the time when there was no food growing. People came from different countries asking for food. Joseph was able to help them because he had trusted God and planned well for this time.

When Joseph's father, Jacob, heard there was food in Egypt, he told his sons to leave their home in Canaan and go buy some food in Egypt. Ten of the brothers went to Egypt. The youngest brother, Benjamin, stayed behind.

When the brothers arrived and asked to buy food, Joseph saw them and knew these were his brothers. But the brothers didn't know this man was Joseph, their brother. Joseph then asked them lots of questions. They confessed to him they had a younger brother and that they had another brother, too, but he was no longer with them. (That brother was Joseph.) Joseph said, "Show me you are honest men. Go back home and bring back your younger brother."

The brothers returned to their home and their father, Jacob. They told him they were asked to bring Benjamin back to Egypt. Jacob was very upset. He was afraid he would lose Benjamin as he had lost Joseph. However, he let him go because the family would certainly die without food.

When all the brothers arrived in Egypt and went to see Joseph, they were surprised and fearful. Joseph had asked that they be brought to his house. They were afraid they had not pleased him. They had no choice but to go. Joseph had prepared a big feast for them. He told them not to worry. "Have peace," he said to them. The brothers bowed before him and gave him gifts sent by their father, Jacob. Joseph began to ask questions again.

"How is your father," Joseph asked. "And is this the younger brother you spoke of?" Then, he went to a room and wept because of seeing his brothers. After that, he devised a plan. He asked his servants to secretly put a silver cup in Benjamin's backpack. He would later accuse the brothers of stealing after they left and were returning home. "Who has stolen my cup?" Joseph demanded. "Whoever has it with them must remain in Egypt as my slave."

The brothers were afraid when the cup was found with Benjamin. The brother named Judah said, "Please do not keep Benjamin as your slave. Please let me take his place. Our father is old and would surely die if Benjamin does not return home to him."

Joseph could not hide who he was from them any longer. He told them he was their brother, Joseph. He said, "Do not feel bad because you sold me to the Egyptian traders long ago. God had a plan for me to be here and be able to save you all during this famine. Go home and get our father and our whole family and bring all your animals as well. I will find a special place for you to live all the rest of your days." Joseph gave them many gifts.

They returned to Canaan and told their father that Joseph was alive and was ruler over Egypt. Jacob's heart was so very happy. "It is enough," Jacob said, "that my son is alive, and now I shall see him again before I die."

2.05 JOSEPH'S BROTHERS IN EGYPT - TEACHER'S GUIDE

GENESIS 42-45

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Joseph was ruler over Egypt. For seven years while food was growing, Joseph saved enough for the years when food was not growing. People came from everywhere asking Joseph for food.
- 2) Joseph's father, Jacob, and brothers lived in Canaan. They needed food also. Jacob sent ten of the brothers to Egypt for food.
- 3) Joseph told the brothers to prove they were honest men and bring their younger brother, Benjamin, to Egypt. Joseph knew these were his brothers. They did not know he was their brother, Joseph.
- 4) When Benjamin was brought back to Egypt, Joseph hid a silver cup in Benjamin's backpack, so he could accuse Benjamin of stealing. Joseph would keep Benjamin as a slave.
- 5) Judah, one of the brothers, said he would take Benjamin's place to be a slave to Joseph.
- 6) Joseph told them he was their brother. He told them to go home and bring their father and all the family members back to Egypt, along with all their animals. He would find a place for them to live.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What was Joseph's job as ruler of Egypt?
- 2) What did Jacob do when his family needed food?
- 3) Who did Joseph ask the brothers to bring back to Egypt?
- 4) What did Joseph do in order to accuse Benjamin of stealing?
- 5) Who said he would take Benjamin's place as a slave?
- 6) What did Joseph tell his brothers to do after he told them who he was?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Joseph's job was to save food during the years it was growing well, so there would be plenty in the years when there was no food.
- 2) Jacob sent ten of Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy food.
- 3) Joseph asked his brothers to bring back their youngest brother, Benjamin.
- 4) Joseph hid a silver cup in Benjamin's backpack.
- 5) Judah, one of the brothers, said he would take Benjamin's place as a slave to Joseph.
- 6) After Joseph told the brothers who he was, he told them to go home, get their father, all of their families, all of their animals and bring them back to Egypt. He would find a place for them to live and give them food to eat.

When we trust God like Joseph, He will use us to help rescue others around us like Joseph helped his family!