

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

# The Book of Genesis

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth - Genesis 1:1

**WEEK 12**

## *“Lost Hope”*

**Study:** Genesis 41:1-36

**Reading:** --

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:1

### What Does the Bible Say?

Joseph must have gotten his hopes up after the butler was promoted back to Pharaoh’s court. Yet, as day after day passed, his hopes must have slowly diminished. He was stuck there in jail, having no clue how long he would have to be in jail, not knowing if there was any hope of getting out. Though Joseph didn’t know, God did. Two years after the butler had been restored to his position, God caused Pharaoh to have a dream that he knew must have meant something. In this dream he saw seven plump and nice looking cows eating the grass. Then, he saw seven thin, scraggly looking cows come up out of the Nile River and eat the seven plump cows, yet the skinny cows still looked skinny (vs 1-4).

Pharaoh awoke from the first dream, but fell back asleep and had another dream. In the second dream he saw seven ears of plump, healthy corn growing on one stalk. Then he saw seven thin ears grow up out of the stalk, like corn that had been parched by the hot dry wind. Pharaoh woke up right after the thin ears of corn swallowed the plump ears of corn (vs 5-7).

These dreams troubled Pharaoh, and, in the morning, he called for the wise men of the land in hopes that they could give him a clear answer of what his dream had meant. None of them could give a clear interpretation of the dream, but the butler remembered his dream and how Joseph had interpreted it. He told Pharaoh about Joseph and how his interpretation had come true. Pharaoh was desperate for answers so he sent for Joseph. Joseph was in no condition to stand before Pharaoh after being in prison for several years. He was allowed to shave and bathe, was given clean clothes and brought before the Pharaoh. When Pharaoh asked Joseph if he could interpret the dream, Joseph humbly answered that he could not, but God could. Pharaoh proceeded to tell the dream to Joseph, hoping that God would reveal the answer to him (vs 8-24).

God revealed the meaning to Joseph and he explained it to Pharaoh. Both dreams meant the same thing. The seven lean cows and seven thin

ears of corn represented seven years of famine. The seven plump cows and seven nice ears of corn represented seven years of plenty. They would have seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. God had been good to Pharaoh and had shown him what would happen, giving him time to prepare for the upcoming difficulties. God gave him the two different dreams to signify that God was going to do this, and His plan could not be changed (vs 25-32).

Joseph then described to Pharaoh how to prepare for the famine that would come in seven years. He suggested that Pharaoh appoint a leader over the land to set aside one fifth of the grain that came in during the first seven years of plenty. The food would be saved up and would provide for the land of Egypt, allowing them to survive through the great famine that would come over the region (vs 33-36).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you realize that the very thing that got Joseph into trouble and led to his last 13 years of problems was the very thing that ended up getting him out of jail, and, as you will read tomorrow, moved him to a leadership position in the land. I wonder how many times Joseph thought about the day he told his brothers about his dream, and I wonder how many times he wished he had never had the dream. I wonder how many times he complained to God about why God had given him the ability to interpret the butler's dream if it didn't seem that the butler would help. I don't know for sure that Joseph complained or if he was frustrated at times, but since he was human like you and me, I can pretty much guarantee it. As I think of this, I wonder how many times the very thing that I have complained about has turned out to be used by God for my good and His glory? So often, it is easy to gripe and complain about some of the very things that God is causing because He is planning to use those things later in your life. When you face trials and difficulties, it is hard, but remember that God could very well be using those very things of heartache to be a source of great joy later on.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for the trials and difficulties of life.*
- \* *Ask God to help you trust Him even through the fiercest trials.*
- \* *Praise God because He is always in control.*

What was the difference in the cows that Pharaoh saw in his dream (vs 1-3)?

What did the thin cows do (vs 4)?

What was the difference between the ears of grain that Pharaoh saw in his dream (vs 5-6)?

How was this similar to the first dream (vs 7)?

Why do you think these dreams greatly troubled Pharaoh (vs 8)?

What could his wise men not do (vs 8)?

How did Pharaoh find out about Joseph (vs 9-13)?

What did Joseph have to do before he went to Pharaoh (vs 14)?

What did Joseph tell Pharaoh he could not do (vs 16)?

What does this show about the character of Joseph?

Why did Pharaoh say he was so concerned about the dreams (vs 24)?

Why was it important that Joseph directed the focus to God (vs 25)?

What did God say the seven plump cows and seven full heads of grain meant (vs 26)?

What did the lean cows and empty ears of grain represent (vs 27)?

What did God reveal was going to happen (vs 28-31)?

Why did Pharaoh have two different dreams (vs 32)?

What did Joseph encourage Pharaoh to do (vs 33)?

What was Joseph's plan (vs 34-36)?

# ***“Future Blessings Are Realized”***

**Study:** Genesis 41:37-57

**Reading:** Philippians 4:1-20

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:1

## **What Does the Bible Say?**

After listening to the interpretation and instructions from Joseph, Pharaoh realized that Joseph was telling the truth. He also realized that God was with Joseph and that he was the right man for the job that he described. Pharaoh gave Joseph the authority over all of his kingdom, and he alone would be greater than Joseph in the land. This may seem strange and too fairy tale like, but you have to remember that they did think a little differently in those days. They revered gods and the supernatural much more than we do today. When a person was thought to be from a god and had supernatural powers, they would often be promoted very quickly. It should also be noted that though Joseph was pulled out of prison, this prison he was in was not for the common criminals of the land, but those who at one time had positions of authority. Just as the butler was exalted right out of prison, the same happened to Joseph. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge and gave him his signet ring (vs 37-42).

This ring gave Joseph the power to make official decisions, and it reminds me of a ring we talked about a few chapters ago. Remember how the story of Joseph seems to contrast the story of Judah? What did Judah give to the prostitute (Tamar)? His signet ring, just as Joseph in an opposite way was given a ring. Scripture repeatedly tells us that when we humble ourselves, God will exalt us and when we exalt ourselves, we will be humbled. Judah was greatly humbled and brought low because of his pride and selfishness while Joseph was exalted for his humility.

Joseph was not only placed in charge, but was given new clothes and wealth. He was paraded around in the streets, and, as he passed by, the people of Egypt would bow their knee to him. Pharaoh also changed the name of Joseph, though we are not sure of the meaning of the name. He gave Joseph a wife who was the daughter of one of the high priests of Egypt. This exaltation happened when Joseph was thirty years old, about thirteen years after he first had the dream about his family bowing down to him (vs 43-46).

The character of Joseph continued to show itself to everyone as he did exactly as he was instructed. For the next seven years he traveled through all the land collecting food into storehouses around the cities where crops were raised. The amount collected in those seven years was massive and was so much that it could not be measured (vs 47-49).

During the time of plenty, Joseph had two sons. He named the one Manasseh because the position he was in now had made him forget all of the trials he had gone through. He named the other one Ephraim because God had caused him to be fruitful in the new land where he once had been afflicted (vs 50-52).

After the seven years of plenty, the famine came just as Joseph had said. This famine not only affected Egypt, but the whole region. The people of Egypt were running out of food so Pharaoh directed them to Joseph who would open up the storage bins to allow the people to survive. Much of the known world at that time also traveled to Egypt, which allowed Egypt to prosper greatly since the whole world was buying food from them (vs 53-57).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Are you struggling right now? Are you in the middle of a difficulty or trial? Does it seem like things will never get better or your struggle will never end? Though you probably won't be exalted to the position of vice-president, there will be an end to the trials you are in, or God will give you the grace to no longer see it as a trial. It is easy to despair through difficulties and have a dismal outlook on the future because the present doesn't seem to be going so well. Yet, you can rest assured that if you humble yourself in obedience to God, the future is full of hope. Once you make it through your trial and difficulty and see God's sovereign hand in what has taken place, you, like Joseph, will be able to say that the difficulties will seem like a distant memory as you will be experiencing the blessings of God.

## **Thought for the day**

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How did Pharaoh respond to what Joseph had suggested (vs 37)?

What did Pharaoh recognize about Joseph (vs 38)?

What did Pharaoh state about Joseph (vs 39)?

What position was given to Joseph (vs 40)?

Why do you think Joseph was able to go from a prisoner to second in command in a matter of days?

What did Pharaoh do for Joseph (vs 41-43)?

How powerful was Joseph (vs 44)?

Why do you think Pharaoh changed Joseph's name (vs 45)?

How long had Joseph had to suffer in Egypt (vs 46)?

What did Joseph do in the first seven years (vs 46-49)?

How much food did he collect (vs 49)?

What did Joseph name his first son (vs 51)? Why?

What did Joseph name his second son (vs 52)? Why?

What happened after seven years (vs 53-55)?

What did Pharaoh instruct the people to do (vs 55)?

What did Joseph do with the grain (vs 56)?

How did this benefit Pharaoh and the people?

Who else came to buy grain from Egypt (vs 57)?

What does verse 58 reveal about the severity of the famine?

## *“Acting On Emotion”*

**Study:** Genesis 42:1-25

**Reading:** Proverbs 1:1-33

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:1

**W**hen I used to referee basketball games there were times I had angry parents come after me, wanting to give me a piece of their minds. I have been sworn at, called names and almost physically attacked. (You may think I am a bad ref, but these things have also happened to some of the best refs I know.) Often, these people will send apologies to me a day later through the school AD or coaches. This is after they had embarrassed themselves, their children and their families. They acted on their emotions, not thinking about the consequences.

Today, we will read about the regrets of Joseph's brothers for acting improperly many years before.

### What Does the Bible Say?

The famine in the land was terrible and was to the point where the families did not know what they were going to do to survive. When Jacob and his family heard that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he didn't want to waste any time in having his sons travel down to buy grain from the Egyptians. Ten of Joseph's brothers began their journey down to Egypt, but Benjamin stayed home because Jacob was afraid something might happen to him on the trip. The sons of Israel most likely met many others on the road to Egypt who were all headed to buy grain for their families (vs 1-5).

Part of the responsibility of Joseph as second in command of Egypt was to sell grain and make sure that there would be enough to make it through the seven year famine. He must have been greatly surprised one day when he saw his ten brothers who had thrown him into the pit and sold him into slavery come and kneel before him. Though it had been over 20 years, Joseph immediately recognized his brothers, but he was not ready to reveal himself to them yet. Instead, he spoke harshly to them and questioned them about their intentions. The brothers didn't recognize Joseph and were not aware that the dream that they were so upset about many years before was coming true. Joseph accused them of being spies.

They kept denying the accusations and were doing all they could to appease Joseph because they now feared for their lives (vs 6-11).

As Joseph insisted that they were spies, the brothers kept denying his claims. Joseph then declared that one of them should go back home and get their youngest brother so they could prove they were not spies. He kept them in prison for three days so they could think over his demands and perhaps there was some part of Joseph that wanted to see his brothers squirm. On the third day, Joseph changed his mind a little bit, and, instead of having all of the brothers stay, Joseph told them that he feared God like they did and would allow them to all go except for one of them who would have to stay. He would send the rest home with grain if they promised to return with their younger brother (vs 12-20).

The brothers thought that all this was happening to them because of the way they had treated Joseph many years earlier. Though they had tried to forget the evil they had done, it must have continually been in the back of their minds. They were discussing their guilt in front of Joseph in their language, thinking that Joseph could not understand, but he was able to understand their full conversation in front of him. Hearing his brothers talk about this caused Joseph to start weeping so he had to leave the room. I wonder how many times in the last twenty-plus years he had thought about what he would say or do if he met his brothers again. Joseph left the room because he was crying, but when he composed himself and came back to them he decided to keep Simeon in Egypt and let the other brothers go. Joseph then ordered that their sacks be filled with grain and that they be given provisions for the journey home (vs 21-25).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you realize the long term consequences for your actions? The brothers of Joseph thought that getting rid of him would make them feel better and their lives easier, but this choice haunted them. You can tell from the reading that it was something they thought about many times over the last several years, most likely with great regret. Acting on your immediate emotions or feelings will often get you into trouble. When you are tempted to act on your emotions or feelings, make sure you take some time to think through the end consequences. Many times, those consequences will be greater than you realize and the short term benefits for acting on your emotions will often pale in comparison to the long term difficulties that you will create for yourself.

What did Jacob tell his children to do (vs 1-2)? Why?

Who traveled to Egypt (vs 3)?

Why did Benjamin not go (vs 4)?

What was Joseph responsible for (vs 6)?

How did Joseph treat his brothers (vs 7)? Why do you think he did this?

What advantage did Joseph have (vs 8)?

What did Joseph remember (vs 9)? Why do you think this phrase is in the passage?

What did Joseph accuse his brothers of (vs 11-12)?

What did Joseph decide to do with his brothers (vs 13-17)?

Why do you think he made this choice?

What solution did Joseph come up with (vs 18-20)?

Why did Joseph's brothers think this was happening to them (vs 21-22)?

What does this reveal about consequences for bad decisions?

What did they not realize when they were talking in front of Joseph (vs 23)?

How did Joseph respond (vs 24)? Why do you think he responded this way?

How do you think you would have reacted if you were in the place of Joseph?

What did Joseph order to take place (vs 25)?

Why do you think Joseph sent their money back with them (vs 25)?

# “Confession and Repentance”

**Study:** Genesis 42:26-38

**Reading:** Psalm 51:1-19

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:1

**G**uilt has done amazing things to people and has been the subject of many stories, plays and movies. This is because guilt is something that every person can relate to. One of the most famous stories about guilt is “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe. It is the story of a man who carefully planned out the murder of another man and carried out the crime perfectly. Everything went according to plan and he was sure that no one would ever find out what happened. He ended up burying the dismembered corpse in the ground underneath his wood floor. After he replaced the floorboards, everything looked like new and there were no stains or evidence of the murder left in his house. Though some of his neighbors had heard a shriek at the time of the murder and called the police, there was no evidence of a crime. Yet, the murderer kept hearing the heart of the man he killed and thought they had heard it as well. In the end, his guilt forced him to confess his perfect crime.

Today, we are going to see how guilt has great power and we will be reminded of the importance of confession and repentance.

## What Does the Bible Say?

The nine brothers loaded up their donkeys with grain and headed back to their father in Canaan. When they stopped to stay the night, one of them opened his sack to feed the donkeys. To his amazement he saw the money they had payed for their grain in the mouth of his sack. When he showed his brothers, their hearts sank because they feared for their lives. They wondered if this was punishment from God for what they had done to Joseph many years before (vs 26-28).

They arrived back home and told Jacob all that had taken place while they were in Egypt. Then, they told Jacob some news that he did not want to hear. They told him they needed to take Benjamin back with them if they wanted Simeon back and if they wanted more grain. This was bad enough for Jacob to hear, but then all the brothers started to unload their

sacks. They realized that the money that had been paid for each sack had been placed back in the sacks, which meant that all the grain they had bought had been free. This normally would excite people, but knowing they had to go back to Egypt and get Simeon sent great fear through their hearts (vs 29-35).

Jacob refused to let Benjamin go back to Egypt with them. He had already lost Joseph, now he thought that Simeon would be dead and he did not want to take the chance of losing Benjamin. When Jacob refused to send Benjamin, Reuben spoke, telling his father that he would bet his son’s life on the fact that they would return. He swore to his father that he would make sure that nothing would happen to Benjamin on the trip. Jacob still refused to let Benjamin go because he didn’t want to take any chance of losing his son, who was the only child left from his beloved wife Rachel (vs 36-38).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Everyone has regrets for actions they have committed foolishly. Yet, there is a difference between having a regret and living with guilt. The brothers of Joseph lived with constant guilt, and though at times they were able to suppress it, at other times, especially when difficulties would come their way, Joseph’s brothers would wonder if the problems they were facing were a punishment from God for how they treated Joseph. This guilt could have been avoided by being wise in the first place, but even after the incident happened, they could have found relief from their guilt if they had chosen to confess and repent of their sin. God doesn’t punish you over and over again for your sins, but if you do not repent and confess, regardless of what the consequences may be, you will live with guilt that will be hard to overcome. Take time today to let God show you if there are any areas of guilt pointing to sin that you need to repent of. Confess it to God and make it right with others.

## Suggestions for Prayer

*\* Thank God for the forgiveness He offers for even the most wicked sins.*

## Thought for the day

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Who did the brothers leave in Egypt (vs 18-25)?

Why do you think this would have been difficult for them?

What happened when one of Joseph's brothers opened up his sack on the way home (vs 26-27)?

How did the brothers respond (vs 28)?

Why do you think they thought God was doing something to them (vs 29)?

How did the brothers describe their interaction with Joseph (vs 30-34)?

Why was the accusation of being a spy such a serious one (vs 30-31)?

Why did the brothers say that Benjamin needed to go to Egypt with them (vs 34)?

What did the brothers find in their sacks (vs 35)?

How did they respond to this (vs 35)?

What view did Jacob have of the whole situation (vs 36)?

What offer did Reuben make (vs 37)?

Why do you think he made this offer?

What was Jacob determined not to do (vs 38)?

Why was Benjamin so special to Jacob (vs 38)?

What did Jacob say would happen if something happened to Benjamin (vs 38)?

How do you think the brothers felt about this?

Why do you think the brothers continually brought up their past actions?

## *“Sacrifice of the Sacred”*

**Study:** Genesis 43:1-15

**Reading:** Genesis 22:1-19

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:1

One of the questions my college age daughter received often when she went to Thailand is “What do your parents think of you being here by yourself?” Knowing my daughter, she may have responded by saying something like “I am an orphan” or “My parents don’t love me.” The reality is that we were 100% for it and encouraged her to go. Though we didn’t expect anything to happen to her, we knew that she is God’s child and she is in His hands. Though she is very special to us, my wife and I have chosen to give her and the rest of our children over to the Lord and to trust that He will work all things out for her good.

Today, we are going to see how Jacob battled with giving up what was near and dear to his heart, but we will also see in the next few days that his sacrifice was worth it.

### What Does the Bible Say?

Jacob had wanted nothing to do with sending Benjamin back to Egypt, but it is amazing how necessity will change the minds of people. When the grain his sons brought back from Egypt was gone and the hunger began to grow, Jacob instructed his sons to go back to Egypt to buy more grain. Judah reminded him that they could not return without Benjamin and the only way he and his brothers were going to Egypt was with Benjamin. Jacob was upset with his sons because they had told Joseph they had another brother, but his sons told Jacob that Joseph questioned them so hard that they had no choice. They had no idea that Joseph would tell them to bring Benjamin down. That was truly a strange request. Judah pledged that he would carefully watch over Benjamin on the trip and would protect him with his life. If they could not go, Judah felt that his family would starve in the land of Canaan. They could have already made two trips to Egypt and back and wouldn’t be starving if Jacob would have agreed to let Benjamin go (vs 1-10).

Since there was no other choice for Jacob, he agreed to send Benjamin and also sent with them some of the fruit from the land. Most likely, this

was some of the last of what they had left because of the famine. This was to be a significant present to find favor and Jacob was willing to make the sacrifice, knowing that they desperately needed grain. Jacob also instructed them to take a double amount of money to pay for the last load of grain and for the load they were about to buy. He asked God to bless them on this journey and came to the point where he relinquished all control over his children and put them in the hands of God (vs 11-14).

The sons did as Jacob had said and took Benjamin, along with some gifts and money, and headed to Egypt where they would once again confront Joseph (vs 15).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

What things are you holding tightly to? Are you willing to trust God with everything that is dear to you? The sons of Jacob were well into adulthood at this point, but family clans were much stronger than most family units today. Jacob was willing to take the chance with his older sons, but Benjamin was extremely dear to him. The thought of letting go of the one thing that he loved more than anything in the world was hard for Jacob. He delayed and delayed until he was forced to give it up since there was no other choice. Little did he realize the great blessing that was waiting for him when he chose to give Benjamin up. He could have been reunited with Joseph much sooner, and they could have been spared from the effects of the famine, yet he clung to Benjamin until he had no other choice. There will be times in your life when God will want you to give up something for Him. From some examples in the Bible you can realize that this doesn't mean you will have to do without that thing. Sometimes God takes that thing away and then rewards you with something greater. Other times God will let you keep that thing but blesses you with more. The question you have to ask yourself is are you willing to trust God with that thing you have to give up. Sacrifice is hard, but obedient sacrifice is always worth it.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

\* *Ask God to help you give up what is dear to you for His cause.*

## **Thought for the day**

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How severe was the famine that was in the land (vs 1)?

What did Israel want his sons to do (vs 2)?

What did Judah remind Israel about (vs 3)?

What did Israel's sons refuse to do (vs 4-5)? Why?

Why was Israel upset (vs 6)?

Why did the brothers tell Joseph about Benjamin (vs 7)?

What did Judah encourage Israel to do (vs 8)?

What did Judah pledge to do (vs 9)?

What did Judah express in verse 10?

What did Israel agree to do (vs 11)?

Why was this such a hard decision for Israel?

Why is being willing to sacrifice the things near and dear to us so difficult?

What were they to take with them (vs 11-12)?

Why did Israel want them to take so much with them?

What did Israel want God to do (vs 14)?

What did Israel finally resolve in his mind (vs 14)?

What did the brothers end up doing (vs 15)?

Why do you think this was a very trying time for all of them?

How do you think you would have felt or acted if you were in this scenario?

# *“In Due Time”*

**Study:** Genesis 43:16-34

**Reading:** Galatians 6:1-10, I Corinthians 9:19-27

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:1

I have been blessed many times to hear back from individuals who I have invested my life in to. During the times where I was giving my life to them, whether picking them up for church or sharing the Gospel with them, I wondered if I was making any difference. Many of them would stop coming to church and they would live as if they had no interest in God. Later, sometimes a few years, sometimes several years, I heard back from some of them with words of thanks for the investment that I made. Every time this happens, I have been reminded of the importance of obeying God regardless if I see the results I would like to see or not.

Today, we are going to see how Joseph started to reap the full rewards of his faithfulness to God.

## **What Does the Bible Say?**

Think of the anticipation that Joseph must have felt as day after day passed and there was no sign of his brothers returning. How he must have longed for the day when he would see his brother Benjamin and find out more about what was going on with his family. We are not told how long of a time it was between the first visit and the second visit, but we know that there was a delay because Israel didn't want to send Benjamin. Then, the day came when his nine brothers had returned, and there with them was his beloved brother Benjamin. As soon as Joseph saw this, he ordered his servants to prepare a feast so that he could dine with his brothers that afternoon. The brothers feared for their lives so it must have been a shock to them when they were invited to Joseph's house. Why would they be going to the house of Joseph? Was it to face more punishment for stealing the grain and keeping the money? They thought that this might be a ploy to get them away from the crowds so they could be attacked and killed (vs 16-19).

The terrified brothers arrived at the house of Joseph and immediately started explaining how they ended up with extra money in their sacks. They told him that they brought the money back along with gifts and more

money. Though they said all of this in a panic, thinking of every reason their lives should be spared, the steward of Joseph's house told them that it was their God who had put the money in the sacks and that the grain had already been paid for. The steward then brought out Simeon and reunited him with his brothers. The steward treated the brothers like welcomed guests, having their feet washed and animals fed. They soon found out that they would be eating a meal with Joseph. Imagine the great confusion that must have been going through their minds during this time (vs 20-25).

When Joseph arrived, they must have been completely unsure about how to act and respond. They bowed down to Joseph and gave him the gifts they had brought with them. Joseph asked them about their father and then he started asking them about Benjamin. Joseph gave a quick blessing to Benjamin and then had to excuse himself because the love that he felt for his brother was overwhelming. He had to find a place to weep and release the great emotion that had been stirred up inside of him. Once he had composed himself, he came back in and ordered that the food be served. Joseph didn't eat at the same table with his brothers because the Egyptians considered themselves above the Hebrews (vs 26-32).

Joseph had arranged for the brothers to sit in order of their age, which amazed his brothers and they wondered how he could have known. The food they ate was not just ordinary food but the same food that Joseph ate. It was taken off the head table and given to his brothers. The brothers and Joseph had a great time together during the meal and the brothers most likely ate better than they had eaten in months.

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Are you experiencing the rewards for your faithfulness? Do you wonder if you will ever be rewarded for being faithful to God? Joseph was starting to see God's whole plan in his life. His life had been very difficult for the past 20 plus years (Joseph was probably near the age of 40 at this time.) Yet, God was showing Himself faithful to Joseph and helping him see why he went through all the trials that he went through. It is easy to let the trials and difficulties of this life, especially continual ones, keep you from living how God wants you to live. If you are going through something right now or are serving in an area where you are not seeing the results that you had hoped for, hang in there and don't quit. God is using everything in your life to make you who He wants you to be. He will reward you in due time.

What did Joseph do when he saw his brothers returning (vs 16)?

Where were the brothers of Joseph taken to (vs 17)?

How were his brothers feeling about this (vs 18)?

How do you think you would have felt if you were in this situation?

What did they decide to do when they arrived at the house of Joseph (vs 19)?

What were they trying to convince the steward of (vs 20-22)?

What did the steward tell them (vs 23)?

How do you think the brothers felt when they heard this?

How were the brothers treated (vs 24)?

What were they surprised about (vs 25)?

Why would this have been such a big deal?

What did the brothers do when they entered the house of Joseph (vs 26)?

What did Joseph want to know (vs 27)?

What did Joseph declare to Benjamin (vs 29)?

Why did Joseph have to leave the room (vs 30)?

Why did Joseph not eat with his brothers (vs 32)?

How did Joseph arrange his brothers when they sat to eat (vs 33)?

How did the brothers respond (vs 34)?

What was significant about Benjamin's portions (vs 35)?

## Memory Verses

*Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,*