

"A TIME OF TESTING"
Genesis 42:1 – 45:15

1. What was meaningful to you in last week's lesson?

DAY 1 – READ Genesis 42:1-38

2. The famine was severe and action was necessary. What did Jacob propose be done?
3. Why did Benjamin stay home?
4. a. Recognizing his brothers, of what did Joseph accuse them?
b. . . . their response?
5. a. What test did Joseph demand to prove the truth of their statement?
b. Why were the brothers distressed at his command?
c. Joseph had come to Egypt in the bondage of chains, but his brothers came in the bondage of guilt. How does Jesus Christ free us from all bondage?
6. Who remained as hostage?
7. a. What did each man discover when he returned home?
b. Why do you think that frightened them?
8. a. What dilemma did Jacob face?
b. What was his decision in verse 38?

DAY 2 – READ Genesis 43:1-34

9. a. The relief obtained by the first journey to Egypt was soon exhausted and Israel urged his sons to return to Egypt for just a "little" more food. According to Judah, what solemn warning still presented a problem?
b. What was Israel's reaction to this situation?
c. How was Israel persuaded to change his mind?

DAY 2 (Continued) – READ Genesis 43:1-34

10. How did Israel arrange to conciliate the leader of Egypt?
11. a. Arriving in Egypt, the brothers were invited to eat with Joseph. How did they react?
 - b. What encouragement was given by the steward?
 - c. As a fulfillment of prophecy, what act of homage was displayed by the brothers as they came before Joseph?
12. What was Joseph's reaction to seeing Benjamin?
13. a. Why did the Egyptians dine separately?
 - b. What astonished the brothers in their seating arrangement?
 - c. Aware of his brothers' jealous natures, how did Joseph show partiality to Benjamin?
 - d. How do you think the brothers felt about this?

DAY 3 – READ Genesis 44:1-16

14. What instructions did Joseph give his steward?
15. a. When confronted, the brothers reminded the steward of their honesty. Certain of their innocence, what rash promise did they make?
 - b. How did the steward amend their pledge?
16. As the brothers threw themselves before Joseph, how do you think Judah may have felt about the following:
 - a. himself?
 - b. Benjamin?
 - c. his father?
 - d. Joseph?

DAY 4 – READ Genesis 44:17-34

17. How did Joseph test his brothers' loyalty in verse 17?
18. Very briefly summarize Judah's appeal in verses 18-34.

DAY 4 (Continued) – READ Genesis 44:17-34

19. a. What do you think convinced Joseph that his brothers had changed since they sold him into slavery?
- b. Judah had not only been a “surety” or guarantee for Benjamin, but he made intercession for him. How does Jesus do that for a Christian in these Scriptures?
Hebrews 7:22

- Hebrews 7:25

DAY 5 – READ Genesis 45:1-15

20. a. Why do you think Joseph revealed himself to his brothers privately?

- b. From these Scriptures, how does Christ reveal Himself to us?
John 15:26

Acts 10:42,43

1 Peter 1:23

- c. How did the brothers react to Joseph’s self-revelation?

21. a. How did Joseph recognize God’s hand and purpose in all that had happened to him?
- b. What do you see was necessary for their reconciliation to be complete?

22. What was Joseph’s plan?

23. Picture the joy of the “family reunion” in verse 15. Please share an event in your life that was filled with that kind of joy.

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LECTURE NOTES:

PRAYER REQUESTS: