

JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

Introduction: When Joseph saw his brothers, he wanted to forgive them, but he wisely waited until he had tested their attitude toward their father, Benjamin and himself. When they passed his tests, he believed they had truly repented of their sins; so he revealed himself to them and forgave them.

Lesson Aim: Be ready to forgive those who sin against you when they show true repentance.

Bible Verse: "Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you" (Eph 4:32).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer:

I. Joseph Analyzed His Brothers — 43:1-44:34

A. For Honesty — 43:1-15

1. What did Joseph demand of Jacob's sons to prove that they were honest men, not spies? 42:34
2. When Jacob told his sons to buy more grain from Egypt, what did Judah say to him? 43:3-5, 8-10
True The governor said, "You shall not see my face, except your younger brother is with you."
 _____ If you do not send our brother with us, we will not go.
 _____ Send gifts with us that we can give them to the governor.
 _____ Have faith in God that we will bring our brother back to you from Egypt.
 _____ We and our brother must go or we all will die.
 _____ I will give my two sons to you, if I do not bring our younger brother back to you.
3. How did Israel (Jacob) show his faith in God and good works to the governor? 43:11-14

4. What did the nine brothers take to Egypt? 43:15

B. For Jealousy — 43:16-34

5. How did Joseph's brothers feel when they were invited to eat a noon meal with him? 43:16-18
6. What did they do? 43:19-22
7. How did the steward answer them? 43:23
8. When they talked to Joseph and gave him their gift, what did they do that fulfilled his dream? 43:28
9. What made Joseph weep? 43:29-31
10. How did Joseph test his brothers to see if there was any jealousy toward Benjamin? 43:34

C. For Sincerity — 44:1-34

11. What did Joseph tell his steward to put in the sacks of his brothers? 44:1-2
12. How did Judah prove his sincere love for his father and for Benjamin? 44:3-34

II. Joseph Announced His Identity — 45:1-15

A. Emotionally — 45:1-4

13. How did Joseph react when he told his brothers who he was? 45:1-2
14. How did his brothers react? 45:3

B. Forgivingly — 45:5-7

15. How did Joseph explain God's purpose for him being sold as a slave? 45:5, 7

C. Practically — 45:8-15

16. What were Joseph's brothers to tell his father? 45:9, 13
17. How did Joseph show that he forgave his brothers? 45:15

III. Joseph Accommodated His Family — 45:16-46:34

18. Why did God allow Israel (Jacob) to live in Egypt? 46:1-4
19. Where were the Israelites going to live in Egypt? 46:34

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