

FINDING PURPOSE UNCERTAINTY

LESSON 5 | Guile and Guilt | Genesis 42-44

Now the ball is in Joseph's court. How will Joseph treat the brothers who cruelly betrayed him?

But when they had gone only a short distance and were barely out of the city, Joseph said to his palace manager, "Chase after them and stop them, 'Why have you repaid my kindness with such evil?'"

GENESIS 44:4 (NLT)

In chapters 42-44, Joseph's brothers make two round trips to Egypt, seeking food during the famine. Traveling from their home in Canaan to Egypt was a 200-mile trip and would have taken 10 days on a donkey.

Benjamin was the youngest in the family and at this point, he was likely around 30 years old. Jacob kept him home because Benjamin was his new favorite!

In these chapters, Joseph recognizes his dream as a young man is coming true. But how is he going to treat his brothers, who viciously betrayed him years ago? In these chapters, we find that God gives Joseph the grace to do the right thing.

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age." Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)

- 1 | What new insight did you learn in Pastor Dale's sermon on Genesis 42-44?

- 2 | Read all three chapters of Genesis 42-44. Has Jacob changed much over the years? Explain.

- 3 | Joseph's treatment of his brothers seems extreme. Outline it from these references:
 - Genesis 42:9
 - Genesis 42:14-17
 - Genesis 42:25-28
 - Genesis 42:24
 - Genesis 42:34
 - Genesis 44:1-5
 - Genesis 44:10-12
 - Genesis 44:17

- 4 | What do you think Joseph's purpose was in these tests?

- 5 | Almost everyone has experienced some sort of betrayal in his or her life. People generally respond in one of four ways. Some ignore the betrayal. Some confront the betrayal but don't resolve it. Some take revenge on the betrayer. Some forgive and move on. How have you responded to betrayal?

- 6 | How would you like to respond to betrayal? Do you think you could have responded like Joseph did?

- 7 | Reading the last sentence of verse 42:36, have you ever felt like Jacob? Were you able to find some encouragement?
- 8 | Is there Scripture or advice you would give someone who feels like everything is against him or her?
- 9 | What did Israel (Jacob) do before he allowed his sons to return to Egypt? (Gen. 43:11-14)
- 10 | What was his prayer request?
- 11 | Do you think the brothers have truly repented? If so, where do you see true repentance by the brothers? If not, what do you think is going on in their minds? Give examples from chapters 42-44.
- 12 | What are your thoughts about Judah's speech to Joseph in Genesis 44:18-34?



13 | What lesson from his speech could you apply to your own life?

14 | Compare the brothers now to their actions in chapter 37. What changes have taken place in their lives?

15 | How does Joseph appear to be handling the situation with his brothers?

16 | Define “mercy.” What do the following verses teach us about mercy?

- Proverbs 28:13
- Matthew 5:7

17 | Have you recently had the opportunity to give (or receive) mercy from someone? Explain.

18 | How has God shown mercy to you?

