

## **MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK**

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016 – Theme: Family*

# **Joseph's Family Reunion**

**Genesis 42:1 – 46:34**

### **Segment:**

- Jacob sent his ten oldest sons to go to Egypt to buy food (all but Benjamin).
- When they arrived in Egypt, they sought out the governor (not knowing it was Joseph)
- Joseph tested the brothers.
- The brothers “passed” the test, which allowed Joseph to unveil himself to them and to organize (with Pharaoh's blessing) Jacob and sons going and living in Egypt.

### **Segment Questions:**

- What were Benjamin's brothers willing to do to ensure Benjamin's safety? Why did Jacob finally let Benjamin go to Egypt with his brothers? Why was it hard for Jacob to let Benjamin go to Egypt?
- Whose health did Joseph ask about? Why is this important?
- Why were Joseph's brothers afraid of Joseph?
- What did Joseph have his servant put in Benjamin's bag? Why do you think Joseph was testing his brothers?
- Which feelings do you think were the most powerful during the reuniting?
- Why do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers? What does forgiveness do for people?
- How did God comfort Jacob before he moved to Egypt?
- How do you think Jacob and Joseph felt when they finally saw each other after so many years?

### **Action Questions:**

- Have you ever lost something or someone who you loved? How can you heal the pain?
- How do you challenge a lie? How do you decide when to speak up and when to stay silent?
- What can we learn from Joseph's defeats and triumphs?

## Genesis 42:1 – 46:34

From: [www.btstories.com](http://www.btstories.com)

Jacob heard there was grain in Egypt, so he sent his ten oldest sons to go and buy food. He didn't send Benjamin because he was afraid of losing him.

When they arrived in Egypt, they went before the governor of the land –and didn't know it was Joseph. He recognized them, but pretended not to know them. He wanted to test them to see if they had changed. He accused them of being spies and asked for proof that they were not. He asked that they go back home and bring back their younger brother so he could see if they were telling the truth.

He kept Simeon, and sent the others home with grain. Without them knowing, he had their money put back into their sacks.

When they told Jacob what happened and asked to take Benjamin back, Jacob refused. He said, "Benjamin is all I have left! If I lose him, I'll die with grief!"

In time their grain from Egypt was gone. Jacob told his sons to go back and buy more. Judah reminded him that they couldn't go back unless they took Benjamin with them. He said, "Send him with me. I'll guarantee his safety. Let us go. We need the food!"

Finally Jacob agreed, and the brothers returned to Egypt with Benjamin. They took double the money so they could return the money they found in their sacks.

When Joseph saw them, he told his servant to take them to his house for the noon meal. The brothers tried to return the money they had found, but the servants said they were not missing any payments. Joseph asked "How is your aged father you told me about? Is he still living?" They replied that he was alive and well.

The next morning, the brothers were sent back to Canaan with their sacks full of grain. Joseph had his servant put a silver cup in the sack belonging to Benjamin. This was another test from Joseph. When the cup was discovered, Joseph said Benjamin had to stay and remain a slave.

Judah said, "I promised our father that I'd guarantee Benjamin's safety. So allow me to be your slave instead of him. I can't bear to see my father's grief when the boy doesn't return to him."

When Joseph heard this, he could control himself no longer. He said to his brothers. "I'm Joseph!" They were terrified and weren't able to answer him. He said, "Come! Come closer and see! I'm your brother, the one you sold into slavery! God sent me here to save your lives. There is still five years of famine left, and God brought me here to prepare a place for you!"

He then told them to go back and bring their father and their families to Egypt. Pharaoh heard of this and told Joseph, "The best of Egypt will be theirs!"