

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** (October 29, 2023)

### **The Rocky Road To Reconciliation**

This is a big story! But everyone in a family (that would be all of us) are a part of a big story. We are bound together by history and shared experiences of both joy and pain. We are entwined on this journey called life by both choice and blood; and often the path is not easy.

As we venture on in Genesis to see the amazing end of Joseph's story, we are confronted with the difficulty of reconciliation. His path takes many twists and turns but, just like our story, God will bring about His holy purpose in spite of the mess.

Join me this week as we see how a disaster – famine – can lead brothers back together. And for both better and worse they keep finding God in the middle of it!

### **Read Genesis 42:1-24**

(Jacob sends Joseph's brothers to Egypt for food, and when Joseph recognizes them, he accuses them of being spies and takes Simeon as a captive until they return with their youngest sibling as proof of their innocence.)

#### Questions:

1. How did Joseph's brothers' behavior validate his gifting?
2. Why do you think Joseph persecuted them accusing them of being spies?
3. What was their answer to the accusation?
4. Why did Joseph weep?

### **Read Genesis 42:25-38**

(The brothers return home without Simeon and Jacob is grieved. They find their silver payment has been returned in the bags of grain. And Simeon makes a bold offer.)

#### Questions:

1. The brothers return to Jacob with a story. What is your story?
2. In v. 37 do you think Reuben is genuine? And how do you feel about his offer?

### **Read Genesis 43:1-13**

(Once the food from the first trip is used up, Jacob and his sons must decide if they will return to Egypt for food, and who they will take with them.)

#### Questions:

1. Why does Jacob relent?
2. What is the gospel significance of Judah stepping up?

### **Read Genesis 43: 15-28**

(The brothers return to Egypt and are surprised by a warmer welcome from Joseph. They come prepared with offerings and explanations.)

#### Questions:

1. How has Joseph's heart changed?
2. What do the brothers experience in his house?
3. Verse 28 again affirms what?

### **Read Genesis 43: 29-34**

(Joseph asks the brothers some questions about the family, is introduced to Benjamin and a feast is enjoyed.)

#### Questions:

1. What is the meaning of Joseph's weeping?
2. How do the brothers begin to see there is more than they know going on?

#### Notes

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As you spend time praying, remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Ask God for wisdom. Ask God for courage. Ask God to help you trust Him. Ask God to speak to you. God will speak to you, guide you, and be with you, me too, because He loves us.