

## **Digging Deeper - Genesis 42**

Written by Elder Rick Noonan

### **Day 1**

Pray to God, confess your sins, and ask for His help as you dig deeper into His word this week. Get your journal to write down the ideas and questions He has for you as you study. Read Genesis 42. Why does Jacob not have grain, and does he give his sons a hard time just standing around? See Gen 41:15-16 and 41:25-31. Why does Jacob hold Benjamin back from going with his brothers to buy grain from Egypt? Check out Gen 29:18. Jacob's first love was Rachel. Read Gen. 30:22 and Gen 35:16-19 - Jacob's sons Joseph and Benjamin were born from Rachel. This explains why Jacob would be favoring Benjamin and hold him back, when his wife Rachel had died, and he believed Joseph to also be dead.

### **Day 2**

Pray to God about what he wants you to learn as you study in His word about Sunday's message. Read Genesis 42. Jacob's brothers arrive to buy grain from Egypt. Who do they meet with and what do they do? Read Gen 37:7 & 9. How many dreams about this event did Joseph have? How many dreams did Pharaoh have about the famine? What does Joseph say about why this is important? See Gen. 41:32. Has the Holy Spirit ever supplied repetitive dreams to you?

### **Day 3**

Pray to God as you learn from His word today. Is there someone you need to reconnect with that you haven't spoken to in a long time? Read Genesis 42. Joseph could have revealed his identity to his brothers at once. Why do you think Joseph did not do that? Perhaps Joseph's last memory of them may have been their faces as they sold him to slave traders. Were his brothers still evil and treacherous, or had they changed over the years?

### **Day 4**

Find a quiet place to settle your body, mind, and spirit. Pray for God's help during this digging deeper study time. Write down what the Holy Spirit brings to your heart and mind. Read Genesis 42. Why did Joseph demand to see the youngest brother, Benjamin? In verses 21 to 23, Joseph hears his brothers talking amongst themselves. What are they talking about? How does Joseph respond? How many years had it been between events; Joseph getting sold by his brothers and the brothers' conversation that Joseph overhears in chapter 42? These years between events did nothing to lessen their guilt about what they did to Joseph. As you pray, think about the guilt you might still be experiencing from years past. What can you do about it to make things right?

**Day 5**

Pray for others in your life, and how God is nudging you to come alongside them with kindness and joy today. Read Genesis 42. What happened when the brothers returned to their father Jacob? Why were they terrified? Although many years have passed since selling Joseph into slavery, do you think these circumstances are just random hardships or are they consequences of their previous sinful behaviors?