

**Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt (Genesis 42)**  
**For the week of February 27, 2022**

**Observation** (Read Genesis 42:1-9a)

We know from the last two verses of chapter 41 that the famine was severe, and all the earth came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph. Jacob hears of the grain and sends his sons.

How far did they have to travel? Approximately how many days would that have taken?

Describe what is happening.

**Interpretation**

Was Jacob's home impacted by the famine? Does this go against what was said in Genesis 28:15, 20-21? Explain your answer.

How do you interpret Jacob's question of "Why do you look at one another?"

How do you interpret Jacob's restriction on Benjamin (vs 4)?

From previous information (mainly chapter 41), what is Joseph's approximate age? Given this age, how long since his brothers last saw him?

Why do you think the author changed "the sons of Israel (v 5) to Joseph's brothers (v 6)?

In verse 6, Joseph remembers the dreams. Remind yourself by rereading Chapter 37:5-11.

**Application**

During “severe” times in your life, how do you seek God's provision?

How would you feel if you were in Joseph's position of recognizing the people who betrayed you and you were in a position of power?

**Observation** (Read Genesis 42:9b-17)

**Interpretation**

Why did Joseph accuse them of being spies?

How do the brothers describe Joseph in verse 13? Why?

How do you interpret Joseph wanting the youngest brother brought to him?

**Application**

How do you handle secret sins?

**Observation** (Read Genesis 42:18-25)

Describe what is happening.

**Interpretation**

Why did Joseph say, “for I fear God” (Note: big G not little g) to his brothers?

Why do you think Joseph lessened the demand from one can go back, to one must stay in custody?

Is verse 22 a true confession of wrongdoing? Explain.

Why did Joseph weep?

Why do you think Joseph personally bound Simeon?

What is your interpretation of Joseph's orders in verse 25?

**Application**

How do you handle the guilt of past sins?

**Observation** (Read Genesis 42:26-38)

Describe what is happening in your own words.

**Interpretation**

Why are the brothers fearful? Why do you think they are blaming God?

How do you interpret Jacob's response in verse 36?

**Application**

Is there distrust and/or division in your heart toward someone that God is prompting you to find healing in?