

During the seven years of famine, Joseph's brothers are forced to Egypt in order to buy grain, resulting in a confrontation. They do not recognize Joseph, but they remember their misdeeds, attributing their calamity to divine judgement.

# Genesis 42:1-38

## Joseph's

## Brothers Visit

## Egypt

### I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

#### **MY EXPERIENCE...**

#### **YOUR EXPERIENCE...**

Scripture seems pretty clear that a man reaps what he sows. While we can be clever with our sin, it really is simply a matter of time before we are found out. Whether in this life, or after death, our sin will be found out.

### II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

**WHAT** is the difference between remorse and repentance?

**HOW** are you able to determine whether or not someone is truly repentant as opposed to simply being remorseful?

**CAN** you recall a time when applied pressure was necessary in order to reveal your true heart or attitude on a particular matter?

**HOW** does God tend to apply pressure in order to reveal our true character and **WHY** is this sometimes necessary?

# Genesis 42:1-38 Read Genesis 42:1-38

## Joseph's Brothers Visit Egypt

### OBSERVATION

What does Jacob discover in vs. 1?

All of Jacob's sons travel to Egypt with the exception of whom?

When Joseph and his brothers encounter each other, who recognizes who (vs. 6-8)?

What does Joseph accuse his brothers of in v. 9-12?

How does Joseph determine he will "test" his brothers (vs. 14-20)?

In vs. 21-22 why do Joseph's brothers conclude these distress to be upon them?

What order does Joseph give in vs. 25, and what do his brothers think of it (vs. 25-28)?

How does Jacob respond to the report of events when his sons return in vs. 29-38?

### INTERPRETATION

Why do you think Jacob was fearful of what might happen to Benjamin? What is the source of his concern? Keep in mind Genesis 35:24.

In vs. 9, what dreams did Joseph remember and why is this a significant point in the story? Consider 37:9-11.

What do you think Joseph is "testing" (vs. 15) in his brothers?

What do you notice about Reuben and his perception of the troubles he and his brothers face? Why do you think he is so confident in his reasoning for their distress? Recall 37:21-22.

Why do you think Joseph begins to weep in vs. 24?

How does Joseph's response to his brothers reflect God's heart toward us?

Joseph showed both justice and mercy. How is this a picture of how God balances justice and mercy in the Gospel?

### APPLICATION

How do you tend to deal with forgiveness as it relates to others? Do you seek justice more than mercy? How would you explain your answer?