

Study Guide

Pray: Pray that God will show you something new in His Word and that you will be fully present as you consider these questions.

Read: Begin by reading Genesis 43 & 44 straight through, as you would read the chapters of any book.

Questions:

1. Was there any particular thing in these chapters this week that struck or impacted you personally?
2. What did Jacob tell his sons to do, and why? (vs.1-8) Why was there resistance to Benjamin going and what persuaded/forced Jacob to let Benjamin go?
3. Do you think Jacob (Israel) was confident about this second journey with Benjamin? Why or why not?
4. What were the concerns the brothers had when they found they were invited to Joseph's house?
5. What were Joseph's first questions to his brothers? vs.26 & 27 and what sight caused him to leave the room?
6. Although they may not have known the math (1 in 39,916,800 chance) the brothers are amazed that they were placed in birth order, what emotions do you think they have?
7. What emotion / reaction do you think Joseph was trying to prompt when he instructed that Benjamin get 5 times the portion of the others?

8. It is in Benjamin's sack that the silver cup was hidden – Benjamin goes from receiving favored status to the victim of what appears a cruel trick....what reaction do you think Joseph was trying to prompt or to test by singling out Benjamin again?

9. ***If the brothers had turned on Benjamin*** – what would the outcome have been for:

- Joseph
- Benjamin
- the brothers
- Jacob/Israel

10. When the brothers returned to Joseph – what final offer did Joseph make to them (v. 17)

11. Summarize the counter offer that Judah proposed.

12. Who was Judah most concerned about? v.34

Isaiah prophesied that one would come and give His life for us (Isaiah 53 v. 5 & 6) and we would be like sheep gone astray. Jesus himself uses the same analogy of us being like sheep and Him as the shepherd when he explained this to the disciples (John 10 v.14 &15, 18a)

¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.

Meditate on the substitution that was made for you, and give thanks.