

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 42 straight through, as you would read the chapter of any book. Read it a second time (it's only one chapter!)

Questions:

1. Was there any particular thing that impacted you personally this week in reading Genesis 42?
2. What did Jacob tell his sons to do, and why? (vs.1-4) Why didn't Benjamin go?
3. How did Joseph treat his brothers, and what accusation did he make? vs.9-16
4. What information did the brothers give Joseph about their family?
5. What did Joseph do to them first (v.17) and then what course of action did Joseph finally settle on? vs.18-20
6. What did the brothers believe was the root cause of their current situation? i.e. how did Reuben explain the situation? vs.21 & 22

7. How was Joseph affected by this discussion?

12. What did the brothers discover the first night they stopped? Why do you think they did not immediately go back?

11. How did the brothers describe Simeon not returning with them? (v.33) Do you think their version of Simeon's situation was to protect Jacob, or themselves (from Jacob)?

12. Who did Jacob blame and what does his response reveal about him? vs.36-38?

Psalm 13 was written by King David. The sentiments at the beginning of the Psalm are perhaps how Jacob felt and we might sometimes feel when things look hopeless.

¹How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

²How long must I take counsel in my soul

and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

By the end of the Psalm David reminds himself of what he knows to be true. May we be conscious in setting our hearts on the goodness of the Lord when we are tempted to despair.

⁵But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me