

LESSON 8

THE SECOND TRIP TO EGYPT

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Feast at Joseph's House

When the brothers arrived in Egypt for the second time, they were shown directly to Joseph's house to have a meal. It is interesting to note that Joseph, his brothers, and the Egyptians all ate separately. The Egyptian caste system was such that shepherds and nomads were seen as uncultured and even vulgar, and the Egyptians refused to eat with them. There were also religious reasons for the separation between the brothers and the Egyptians: the Hebrews from Canaan ate animals, some of which were sacred to the Egyptians. Joseph probably ate by himself because of his high rank, but he also did not eat with the Egyptians because he was still a Hebrew and ate different foods.

The Silver Cup

A silver cup was a symbol of authority. Ancient rulers thought that those cups had supernatural powers and to steal one was a serious crime. Such goblets were used by the Egyptian rulers to predict the future. A person would pour water or oil into the cup and interpret the reflections, ripples, and bubbles. Obviously, Joseph would not have needed one for these purposes because he worshiped the one true God, who told him everything he needed to know about the future.

Joseph Tests His Brothers

Why did Joseph put his brothers to the test? In chapter 42, Joseph could not help overhearing his brothers' conversation, full of distress and regret. They believed that the trouble that had befallen them was punishment from God for throwing Joseph into the pit on that fateful day.

The Bible recorded that Joseph was overcome with love and pity for his brothers when he saw how sorry they were for being cruel to him; he withdrew quietly and wept. Joseph hoped to provide himself, his brothers, and his father with evidence that his brothers were truly changed men. They were truly sorry for what they had done in the past. The brothers' behavior demonstrated that they were true penitents.

God's Wonderful Guidance

God's guiding hand underlies the entire story. When Joseph said, "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good" (Gen 50:20), he was not arguing that God could transform wicked actions to bring about a gracious end. He was saying that from the beginning, it was really God who had sent him there (Gen 45:5, 8).

BIBLE TEXT

Genesis 43:1-44:13

BIBLE TRUTHS

1. Our God never lets misfortunes come to us without a good reason.
2. True love is a self-sacrificing kind of love.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To learn to sacrifice for the benefit of others.
2. To love one another as God has loved us.

MEMORY VERSE

"But through love serve one another."

(Galatians 5:13b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord, we thank You for protecting us through this last week and for bringing us here to worship You. We know that You loved us so much that You came to this earth and sacrificed Yourself for us. Please help us to learn how to make sacrifices for others. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Sacrifice is probably a new idea to your students. They have just come from an age of self-centeredness and are now learning to become group players. Explain to your students that God has commanded us to love one another, and that an integral part of love is sacrifice. Sacrifice means to give up something for somebody else. In Judah's case, he was willing to be personally responsible for the safety of his brother Benjamin in order to save his family from starvation. His sacrifice was different from the sacrifice of Reuben, who was willing to put his sons, not himself, on the line.

We have to give up something we want in order to sacrifice. Unfortunately, human nature is such that it is natural for us to be self-centered. But luckily, God has given us some good examples to follow. God has instilled a natural inclination for sacrifice into parents. Our parents are probably the ones who have sacrificed the most for us

in this world. You can help the students understand how much their parents have sacrificed by pointing out some practical examples: they give up their time and use a lot of effort to work, cook, clean, and make us happy. You can ask the students to list some of the ways their parents have sacrificed for them.

God Himself has set the ultimate example of sacrifice—by coming to this world in the flesh and giving up His very life. Because of His sacrifice, we can be happy with Him in the future. You can bring home the extent of His sacrifice by asking the students if they would be willing to give up their lives for someone else. Help the students understand that we are all recipients of some form of sacrifice, so it is right that we should sacrifice for others in return. In this way, we can follow the Lord's command, "Love one another as I have loved you."

VOCABULARY

sacrifice: to give up something for someone else

ruler: someone who leads others and tells them what to do

trip: a journey to another place

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how Joseph and his brothers met again after so many years. Joseph had now grown up and was the ruler of all of Egypt. Do you remember why his brothers went to Egypt? (There was a famine throughout the land and they needed to buy food.) Did his brothers recognize Joseph? (No.) Did Joseph recognize them? (Yes.) Why did he treat them so harshly? (He wanted to test them to see whether or not they had changed.) He told them to bring Benjamin back the next time they came, or else it would prove that they were spies and he wouldn't sell them any more grain.

BIBLE STORY

Jacob Allows Benjamin to Go to Egypt

Soon, Jacob's family back in Canaan ran out of the grain they had bought from the first trip. Jacob said to his sons, "Go back to Egypt to buy more grain."

But Judah, the fourth oldest, said, "The ruler told us last time that if we didn't bring Benjamin back with us, he wouldn't sell us any more grain."

Jacob asked, "Why did you have to tell him that you had one more brother?"

They replied, "The man questioned us very closely about ourselves and our family. He asked us about you and how many children there were. How were we to know that he would tell us to bring our brother down there?"

The brothers were in a difficult situation. If they didn't go to Egypt, they would all starve. On one hand, if they went to Egypt, the ruler, Joseph, would not give them anything unless they brought their youngest brother

Benjamin. On the other hand, their father Jacob was afraid that something might happen to Benjamin, and he didn't want to lose another son. Boys and girls, if you were one of the brothers, what would you do?

Judah could see that his father was worried, so he said, "Let me take care of Benjamin. I will be held fully responsible for him. If anything happens to him, I will be the one to blame. If we don't go and get more grain, we will all die." You see, there wasn't anything the brothers could do to really make sure nothing happened to their youngest brother Benjamin. But Judah was willing to sacrifice himself for Benjamin's safety. Boys and girls, has anyone sacrificed anything for you? What have your parents sacrificed for you? What has God sacrificed for you?

Finally, Jacob agreed. "If it must be, then do this: take some of the best presents we can give and also take twice

as much silver. We must pay back the money that we didn't give the first time. May God almighty have mercy on you so that He will let Benjamin come back with you safely."

The Second Trip to Egypt

So the eleven brothers brought all the gifts and silver and hurried down to Egypt. When they got there, they went to Joseph again. When Joseph saw that they had brought Benjamin with them, he told his servants to prepare a meal for everyone at his own home. They would all have lunch at his house.

When the brothers were brought to Joseph's home, they were very frightened. They thought that they were going to be punished for the silver that was put back in their bags. So they went to Joseph's servant and said, "Please, sir, we came down here the first time to buy food, and when we stopped for the night, we found all our silver put back in our bags. We didn't know what happened. So this time, we brought that silver back with us, and have brought more to buy the food."

The servant said, "Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, must have given you back your silver. We got your silver for the grain." Then he brought out Simeon, who had been held as a prisoner all that time. They were really happy to see him again and glad to see that he was safe.

Joseph and Benjamin Meet Again

When Joseph got home, the brothers gave him all the gifts that they had brought and bowed down to the ground. Joseph asked them how they were, and how their father was. They answered that he was still alive and well. They bowed low again to show their respect.

Then Joseph looked around and saw his younger brother Benjamin. He asked them, "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" When he was told that it was Benjamin, he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."

Joseph was so happy to see his younger brother Benjamin. He hadn't seen Benjamin since he was a child, and now he had grown up. Joseph quickly went to a room by himself and wept.

A Silver Cup

After he had washed his face, he came out again and ordered that the food be served. All the brothers were seated from the oldest to the youngest, and they looked at each other in surprise. Joseph, his brothers, and the Egyptians all ate separately. When the food was served, Benjamin received five times as much as all the others.

After they happily ate and drank, Joseph came up with one last plan to see if the brothers had really changed their ways. He wanted to see how his brothers would act if their little brother Benjamin was in trouble. He told his servant to fill all the men's bags with as much grain as they could hold, and to put all the silver back in their bags. He then told them to put his own silver cup in Benjamin's bag.

While the brothers were on their way home, Joseph's servant caught up with them. He said to them, "Why do you repay my master's kindness with evil? One of you has stolen his silver cup!"

The brothers replied, "Why do you say these things? We would never steal anything from you! We even brought back the silver that was put back in our bags. You can check our bags; if any one of us is found to have it, you can put him to death, and the rest of us will become your slaves."

The servant agreed, "All right. But only he who has the cup will become the slave; the rest of you can go."

Back to Joseph's House

Each of them quickly lowered his bag to the ground and opened it. Then the servant began to search, starting from Reuben, the oldest, to Benjamin, the youngest. When he got to Benjamin's sack, he found the silver cup. When the brothers saw this, they were so sad and frightened that they tore their clothes. Then they all loaded their donkeys and returned to the city and Joseph's house.

All of this was part of Joseph's plan, and he was waiting for them to come back. You may ask, why was the cup hidden in the sack? Why were they accused of stealing? Was it perhaps to test the brothers' faithfulness to Benjamin? If they were faithful to him, then Joseph would make himself known to them and show kindness to them. Next week, we will find out more about what happened to Joseph's brothers.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1. Why did Jacob finally allow Benjamin to go to Egypt?** Their family had run out of grain; they couldn't buy any more grain if Benjamin didn't go.
- 2. When the brothers got to Egypt, whose house did they go to?** Joseph's.
- 3. When they got there, who was brought out to them?** Simeon, the brother who had been kept prisoner.
- 4. What did Joseph do when he saw Benjamin?** He went to a room by himself and wept.
- 5. Why did Joseph put a silver cup in Benjamin's bag?** He wanted to see if his brothers had really changed.
- 6. What happened after the servant found the silver cup in Benjamin's bag?** The brothers all went back to Joseph's house.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"But through love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13b)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. "But through love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13b)
2. C
3. B
4. silver cup
5. False; they went to Joseph's house.
6. False; the brothers all went back to Joseph's house.
7. To sacrifice means to give up something that means a lot to you.
8. Answers may vary.
9. He gave Himself up for us so that we could go to heaven.
10. Answers may vary.
11. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. True love is a self-sacrificing kind of love.

Judah was willing to sacrifice and be responsible for his brother Benjamin. What does it mean to sacrifice?

Read 1 John 3:18. When we love someone, we can tell them, "I love you," but actually doing something for them shows them that we love them. When we do one thing for someone by giving up another thing, we are sacrificing for them.

Activity: Bouquet of Love and Sacrifice

Brainstorm: The teacher will write on the board everything the students call out during this brainstorming. Ask the students to name all of the people that love them and the people they love. [Make a list on the board with "People Who Love You" on one side and "People You Love" on the other.]

Materials

- One sheet each of red and pink construction paper per student
- 8 thin popsicle sticks or disposable chopsticks per student
- Scissors
- Tape
- Ribbon

Instructions

1. Have each student cut out 4 red hearts and 4 pink hearts from each sheet of construction paper (you may also print out patterns—the hearts should be approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the sheet of paper).
2. On one side of each red heart, have students write one of the people that love them. On one side of each pink heart, have students write one of the people that they love.
3. On the other side of each red heart, have the students write at least one thing that the person who loves them has sacrificed for them. On the other side of the pink heart, have the students write at least one thing that they have sacrificed or that they want to sacrifice for the person they love.
4. Tape each heart to a stick. Tie up a bouquet of hearts with a ribbon.

2. The Lord Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice by giving up His life so that we may have eternal life.

Students, what is the greatest gift God has given us? He gave Himself up for us so that we could go to heaven. Let's read a part of the lyrics to the praise song, "You Are My King (Amazing Love)."

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
 I'm accepted, You were condemned.
 I'm alive and well, Your Spirit lives within me
 because You died and rose again.
 Amazing love, how can it be that You, my King,
 would die for me?
 Amazing love, I know it's true. It is my joy to honor
 You. In all I do, I honor You.

There are many songs and poems written about the Lord Jesus' awesome sacrifice. They often remind us of how much God loves us and how much He has sacrificed for us.

3. The Lord Jesus has commanded us to love one another as He has loved us. In other words, we should sacrifice for one another as He has done for us.

How have others (e.g., parents, brothers and sisters, teachers, ministers, etc.) sacrificed for you?

What are some ways we can sacrifice?

Read Ephesians 5:2. What does it mean to offer a sweet-smelling or fragrant sacrifice?

See the testimony provided below to help your students understand love and sacrifice.

Testimony: Love and Sacrifice

Kelly, Sarah, and Melissa were very good friends who grew up together in the same church. Every summer, they looked forward to going to SSC with all the other kids from church. They loved traveling to SSC together, meeting up with friends from other churches they didn't get to see often, praying together, singing hymns, and listening to sermons. These three friends were inseparable and did everything together.

Kelly received the Holy Spirit two SSCs ago, but Sarah and Melissa were still praying hard. That summer, they decided to fast and pray so that Sarah and Melissa would be able to receive the Holy Spirit. They took this very seriously. They planned to fast meals together at SSC and they even began to pray before school was out.

When summer came and they arrived at SSC, Kelly prayed very hard for her friends, and Sarah and Melissa also prayed hard for each other. In fact, Sarah prayed harder for Melissa than for herself, and Melissa prayed harder for Sarah than for herself. Because the three friends sacrificed their meals by fasting for one another, God blessed all of them by filling them with the precious Holy Spirit. It was the most memorable summer for them, and an experience that they would never forget!

From then on, they have learned to pray together for others, because they know from experience that God loves prayer and He listens to those who show love to others. While other kids may be watching television or playing video games when they get together, Kelly, Sarah, and Melissa know that spending time praying together is much more precious! When they pray together, their friendship grows, it helps them draw closer to God, and it allows them to help others in need through prayer.

ACTIVITIES

1

I Can Do It!

Objective: To understand the importance of showing love to others.

Instructions

1. Refer to the activity sheet. Read how these children are doing their part for God.
2. Talk about the importance of having the right motivation and right deeds.
3. Talk about each picture and how you can show love to those around you.
4. Suggestion: Ask the students to share their lunch time with someone who may be lonely, either at school or at church. They can either approach the person as a group or by themselves. They can show the love of God and make a new friend!

Note: Students may want to pack an extra dessert or something to share with their new friend. Read the following story to encourage the students.

Life Application Story: Jennifer's Best!

Jennifer knocked on the door at the end of the dark hallway.

"Who is it?" asked Mrs. Jones.

"Jennifer," came the reply. Jennifer had come to visit Mrs. Jones in her tiny apartment.

It took Mrs. Jones a long time to unlock the door. "I do not feel well today," she said.

"That's too bad," said Jennifer. Then Jennifer prayed quietly, "Dear God, please help me to do my best to help Mrs. Jones."

She fixed toast and warm milk for Mrs. Jones' breakfast. Then she put away some newspapers.

"I can help Mrs. Jones," Jennifer thought.

While Mrs. Jones took a nap, Jennifer went back to her own apartment. She washed three potatoes and put Jell-O into a dish for dessert.

When her mother came home, Jennifer helped her cook potatoes, meat loaf, and peas for dinner. Jennifer asked, "May I take some of this to Mrs. Jones? She's not feeling well today."

"You sure can," Jennifer's mother said.

So Jennifer put a potato, a slice of meat loaf, peas, and Jell-O on a tray. She took the tray down the hall.

She found Mrs. Jones sitting in a big old chair. Jennifer talked to Mrs. Jones as she ate.

"I feel better now, Jennifer. God bless you," Mrs. Jones said with a big smile.

Jennifer smiled back. She thought to herself, "God was with me today and let me be His helper. I gave up some of my time to help Mrs. Jones, and I really liked it!"

Questions for Reflection

1. Can you share a story of how you were a helper like Jennifer to someone in need? Who was your Mrs. Jones?
2. How did you feel after you helped someone in need? How did that person react to you?
3. What Jennifer did was a very good deed but it was something that anyone could have done. When we help someone out or sacrifice something for someone, it doesn't have to be something super difficult. It can be a small gesture, like bringing extra dinner over to a neighbor like Jennifer did. Here is an exercise for you: when you go home this week, if you see anyone at home who is feeling sad, unhappy, or having a bad day, do one small thing that would make them feel good and happy again, and come back next week to share it with the class.

2

The Children of Jacob

Objectives: 1. To review the genealogy chart of Jacob's family.

2. To know that God changed Jacob's name to Israel, and that from his sons came the tribes of Israel.

Refer to the activity "The Children of Jacob" in lesson 7.

Jacob's 12 sons in birth order: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.

3**Benjamin's Sack of Grain**

Objective: To review the contents of the story.

Materials

- Scissors
- Rice or other grain
- Small drawstring bag or plastic sandwich bags
- Gold poster board or construction paper
- Silver construction paper or aluminum foil
- String

Preparations

1. Make small drawstring sacks or buy plastic sandwich bags.
2. Trace circles on gold poster board or construction paper to make coins (about 5-6 per student).
3. Trace cups (goblets) on silver construction paper. Trace enough for all the students to have one.

Instructions

1. Each student cuts out the gold coins and silver cup. Alternatively, allow the students to form their own silver cups using the aluminum foil.
2. Have students partially fill their sacks with rice or another type of grain.
3. Place the coins and cup inside, on top of the grain.
4. Close the sack. (If using a cloth sack without a drawstring, tie the sack closed with a string.)
5. Students can now show their parents what they have learned and take it home to remind them about today's story. They can even use the sack as a prop and retell the story to someone.

I Can Do It!

1. Read how these children are doing their part for God.
2. Talk about each picture and how you can show love to those around you.



I CAN BE KIND.



**I CAN SHOW MY CARE TO
A LONELY PERSON.**



**I CAN BRING A FRIEND TO
CHURCH.**



**I CAN PRAY FOR MY FRIEND WHO IS
SICK AND WHO DOESN'T KNOW GOD.**

E1 Year 1 Book 2 Lesson 8—The Second Trip to Egypt

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truths: 1. Our God never lets misfortunes come to us without a good reason.
2. True love is a self-sacrificing kind of love.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To learn to sacrifice for the benefit of others.
2. To love one another as God has loved us.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Bible Reading | | | | | | | |
| Prayer | | | | | | | |

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Galatians 5:13b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

1. Write out the memory verse without looking.
-

Multiple Choice

2. ____ : Why did Jacob finally allow Benjamin to go to Egypt?
- Benjamin grew up and Jacob thought he was old enough to go with his brothers.
 - The brothers tricked Jacob into allowing Benjamin to go to Egypt.
 - Their family had run out of grain; they couldn't buy any more grain if Benjamin didn't go.
3. ____ : What did Joseph do when he saw Benjamin?
- He told his brothers who he was.
 - He went to a room by himself and wept.
 - He gave Benjamin a hug.
4. **Fill In the Blank:** Joseph put a _____ in Benjamin's bag.

True or False

5. When the brothers got to Egypt, they went to Pharaoh's house. _____
6. After the servant found the silver cup in Benjamin's bag, they all became slaves. _____

Life Application

7. What does it mean to sacrifice?
-
8. Please give an example of how someone has sacrificed for you.
-
9. What is the greatest gift God has given us?
-
10. Why does God want you to examine yourself if you have done something wrong?
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11. Work with a parent on this question. Think of someone who needs your help either at church or at school. Talk about how you would be able to sacrifice your time by helping that person. Have your parent help you prepare what you need to do to help that person. Write a summary of what you did and how you felt.
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