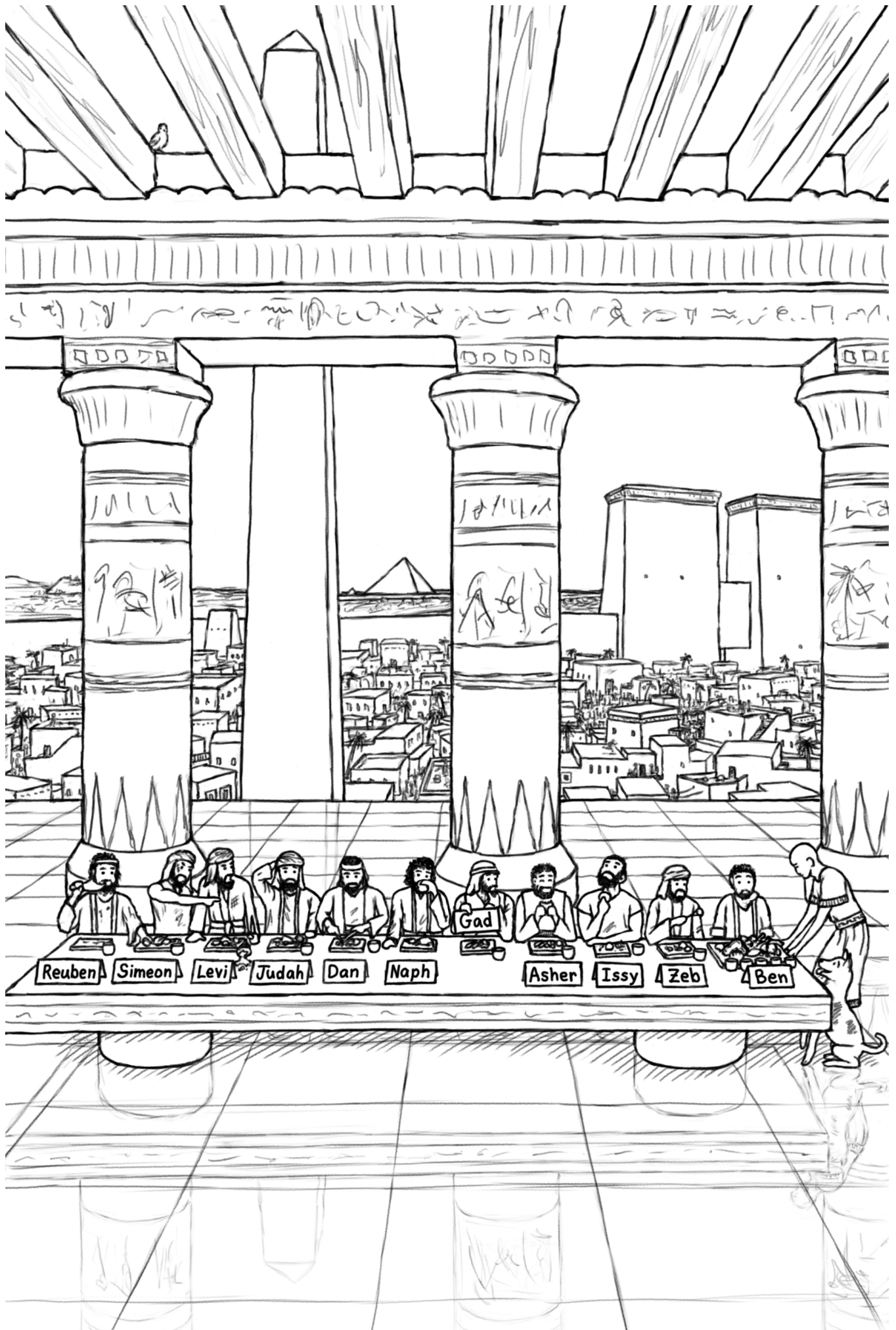




Lesson 15

1 John 4:8

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Joseph's Brothers Go Down to Egypt Again

Genesis 43:1–34

¹There still wasn't enough food anywhere in the land. ²After a while Jacob's family had eaten all the grain the brothers had brought from Egypt. So their father said to them, "Go back. Buy us a little more food."

³But Judah said to him, "The man gave us a strong warning. He said, 'You won't see my face again unless your brother Benjamin is with you.' ⁴So send our brother along with us. Then we'll go down and buy food for you. ⁵If you won't send him, we won't go down. The man said to us, 'You won't see my face again unless your brother is with you.'"

⁶Israel asked, "Why did you bring this trouble to me? Why did you tell the man you had another brother?"

⁷They replied, "The man questioned us closely about ourselves and our family. He asked us, 'Is your father still living? Do you have another brother?' We just answered his questions. How could we possibly know he would say, 'Bring your brother down here?'"

⁸Judah spoke to Israel his father. "Send the boy along with me," he said. "We'll go right away. Then we and you and our children will live and not die. ⁹I myself promise to keep Benjamin safe. You can blame me if I don't bring him back to you. I'll set him right here in front of you. If I don't, you can put the blame on me for the rest of my life. ¹⁰As it is, we've already waited too long. We could have made the trip to Egypt and back twice by now."

¹¹Then their father Israel spoke to them. He said, "If that's the way it has to be, then do what I tell you. Put some of the best things from our land in your bags. Take them down to the man as a gift. Take some lotion and a little honey. Take some spices and myrrh. Take some pistachio nuts and almonds. ¹²Take twice the amount of money with you. You have to give back the money that was put in your sacks. Maybe it was a mistake. ¹³Also take your brother. Go back to the man at once. ¹⁴May the Mighty God cause him to show you mercy. May the man let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. And if I lose my sons, I lose them."

¹⁵So the men took the gifts. They took twice the amount of money. They also took Benjamin. They hurried down to Egypt and went to Joseph. ¹⁶When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he spoke to the manager of his house. "Take these men to my house," he said. "Kill an animal and prepare a meal. I want them to eat with me at noon."

¹⁷The manager did what Joseph told him to do. He took the men to Joseph's house. ¹⁸They were frightened when they were taken to Joseph's house. They thought, "We were brought here because of the

money that was put back in our sacks the first time. He wants to attack us and overpower us. Then he can hold us as slaves and take our donkeys.”

¹⁹So they went up to Joseph's manager. They spoke to him at the entrance to the house. ²⁰“Please, sir,” they said. “We came down here the first time to buy food. ²¹We opened our sacks at the place where we stopped for the night. Each of us found in our sacks the exact amount of the money we had paid. So we've brought it back with us. ²²We've also brought more money with us to buy food. We don't know who put our money in our sacks.”

²³“It's all right,” the manager said. “Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you riches in your sacks. I received your money.” Then he brought Simeon out to them.

²⁴The manager took the men into Joseph's house. He gave them water to wash their feet. He provided feed for their donkeys. ²⁵The brothers prepared their gifts for Joseph. He was planning to arrive at noon. They had heard that they were going to eat there.

²⁶When Joseph came home, they gave him the gifts they had brought into the house. They bowed down low in front of him. ²⁷He asked them how they were. Then he said, “How is your old father you told me about? Is he still living?”

²⁸They replied, “Your servant our father is still alive and well.” And they bowed down to show him honour.

²⁹Joseph looked around. Then he saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son. He asked, “Is this your youngest brother? Is he the one you told me about?” He continued, “May God be gracious to you, my son.” ³⁰It moved him deeply to see his brother. So Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to cry. He went into his own room and cried there.

³¹Then he washed his face and came out. He calmed down and said, “Serve the food.”

³²They served Joseph by himself. They served the brothers by themselves. They also served the Egyptians who ate with Joseph by themselves. Because of their beliefs, Egyptians couldn't eat with Hebrews. ³³The brothers had been given places in front of Joseph. They had been seated in the order of their ages, from the oldest to the youngest. That made them look at each other in great surprise. ³⁴While they were eating, some food was brought to them from Joseph's table. Benjamin was given five times as much as anyone else. So all Joseph's brothers ate and drank a lot with him.

Questions

- 1 Did the grain the brothers had brought from Egypt last until the drought was over? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 43:1-2)
- 2 What did Jacob/Israel tell his sons to do? Jacob told his sons to ____ back to Egypt and _____ a little _____ food. (Gen. 43:2)
- 3 Which son spoke up and told his father that he and his brothers couldn't go back to Egypt unless Benjamin came with them? What reason did this son give? _____ was the one who spoke up. He said they couldn't go back without Benjamin because of the _____ warning from the mean man in Egypt. (Gen. 43:3)

- 4 Was Judah able to convince his father to let Benjamin go along with them to Egypt? (Yes/No) _____. How was Judah able to convince his father? Judah said that if he and his brothers didn't go back for food with Benjamin, then they, their children, and Jacob would _____ anyway. (Gen. 43:8)



In other words, Israel really had no choice.

- 5 What did Judah promise his father? Judah promised his father that he would keep Benjamin _____. (Gen. 43:9)
- 6 What did Israel tell his sons to do to try to please the man in Egypt? Israel told his sons to put some of the _____ things from their land in their bags and take them to the man as a _____. (Gen. 43:11)
- 7 What exactly did Israel tell his sons to bring to this man in Egypt? Israel told his sons to bring some _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, twice the amount of _____, and their _____ Benjamin. (Gen. 43:11–13)
- 8 Whom did Israel finally decide to trust the future of his family to? Israel decided to finally trust his family to _____. (Gen. 43:14)
- 9 What was the first thing Joseph did when he saw that his brothers had finally returned with Benjamin? Joseph told the manager of his house to _____ Joseph's brothers to Joseph's house, _____ an animal, and _____ a meal for them. (Gen. 43:16)
- 10 What was the response of Joseph's brothers when Joseph's manager took them to Joseph's house? Why? Joseph's brothers were _____. They thought Joseph was **a** _____ (means "very mad") because of the _____ that was put back in their sacks the first time. They thought Joseph or his manager would _____ them, _____ them, _____ them as _____, and _____ their _____. (Gen. 43:18)



I guess now Joseph's brother knew a little of how Joseph must have felt when he was about to be sold as a slave to strangers.

- 11 What was the manager's response when Joseph's brothers pleaded their innocence to him? The manager told them not to be _____. (Gen. 43:23)
- 12 Who did the manager say had given the brothers the riches in their sacks? The manager told the brothers that their _____ and the _____ of their father had given them the riches in their sacks. (Gen. 43:23)

1 Samuel 2:7

"The Lord makes people poor. He also makes people rich. He brings people down. He also lifts people up."

- 13 What else did the manager tell the brothers? The manager told them that he had _____ their money. (Gen. 43:23)



The manager did receive the brothers' money—he just put it back in their sacks, as Joseph, who followed God, had instructed him to do.

- 14 After the manager finished speaking with the brothers, whom did he bring out to them? The manager brought _____ out to them. (Gen. 43:23)
- 15 What else did the manager do for Joseph's brothers? The manager gave them _____ to wash their _____ and provided _____ for their _____. (Gen. 43:24)
- 16 What did Joseph's brothers do when Joseph came home? The brothers gave Joseph the _____ they had brought and _____ down low in front of him. (Gen. 43:26)
- 17 Was Joseph mean to his brothers this time? (Yes/No) _____. Instead, Joseph asked them _____ there were doing and how their _____ father was. (Gen. 43:27)
- 18 How many times now had Joseph's dreams come true? _____ times now Joseph's dreams had come true.
- 19 What was Joseph's response when he saw his brother Benjamin? Joseph was moved _____ to see his brother Benjamin, so he _____ out and looked for a place to _____. (Gen. 43:30)
- 20 Did Joseph still treat his brothers kindly when he calmed down and came back in? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 43:31)
- 21 According to Egyptian beliefs, could Egyptians eat with Hebrews? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 43:32)



The meaning of the word "Hebrew" isn't certain, but here it probably referred to some class of foreigner to Egypt that included at least the descendants of Abram/Abraham (see Genesis 14:13).



Why did Egyptians refuse to eat with Hebrews? The answer isn't known, but one possibility is that it was because Hebrews were shepherds, and it was "the practice of the people of Egypt not to mix with shepherds" (Genesis 46:34).

- 22 Did Joseph eat with his brothers? (Yes/No) _____. Those serving the food gave Joseph his to eat by _____. They also gave the _____ who ate with Joseph their food to eat by _____. (Gen. 43:32)
- 23 How were Joseph's brothers seated? They were seated in _____ of Joseph in the order of their _____, from the _____ to the _____. (Gen. 43:33)
- 24 What was the response of Joseph's brothers as to how they were seated? They _____ at each other in _____ surprise. (Gen. 43:33)
- 25 How much more food was given to Benjamin than anyone else? Benjamin was given _____ times more food than anyone else. (Gen. 43:34)
- 26 How much did all Joseph's brothers eat and drink? They ate and drank _____. (Gen. 43:34)

How did the Holy Spirit speak to you this week as you studied these Bible verses? In other words, what did you learn this week from reading God's Word?

