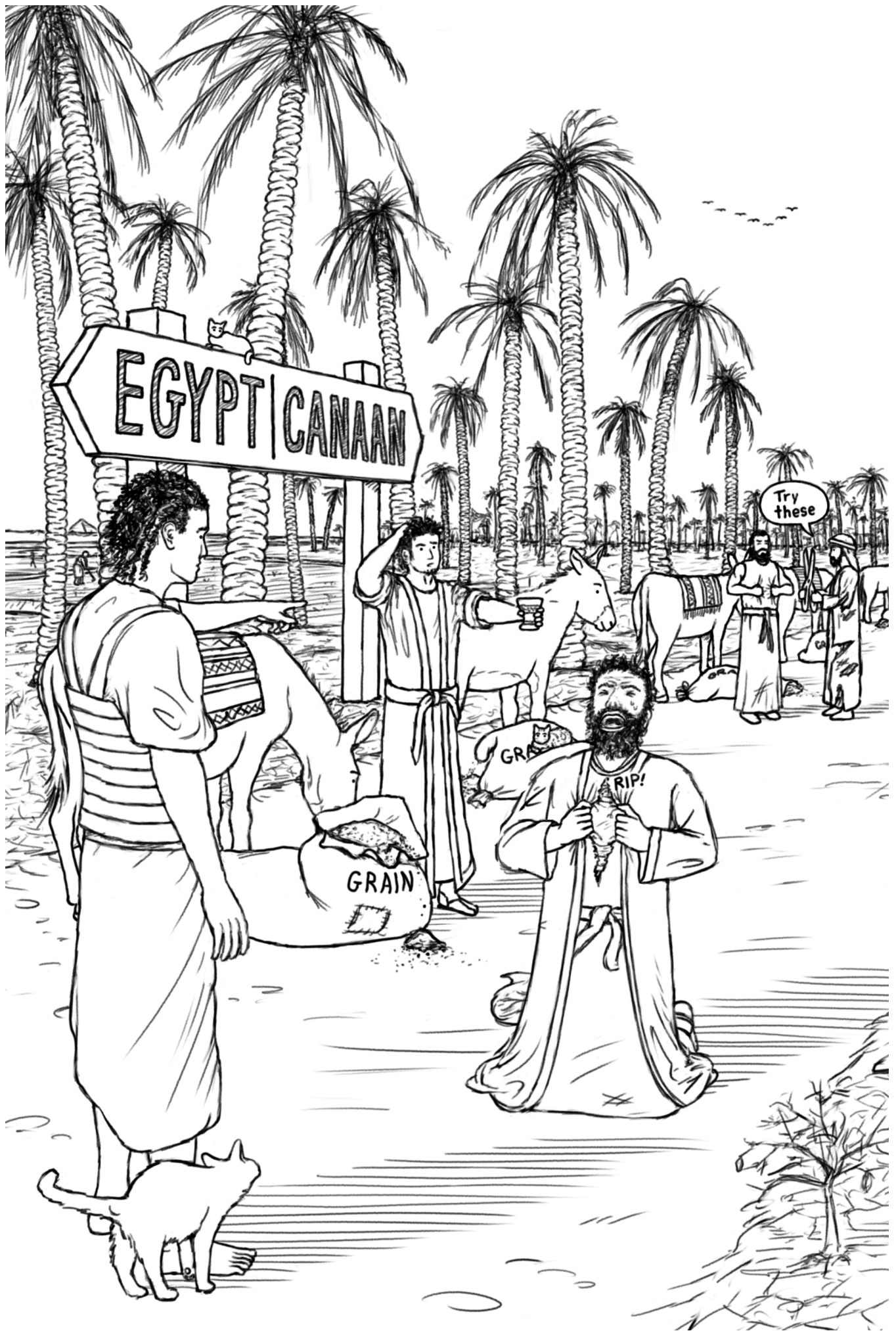




Lesson 16

Micah 7:18

Lord, who is a God like You? You forgive sin. You forgive Your people when they do what is wrong. You don't stay angry forever. Instead, You take delight in showing Your faithful love to them.

A Silver Cup in a Sack

Genesis 44:1–34

¹Joseph told the manager of his house what to do. “Fill the men’s sacks with as much food as they can carry,” he said. “Put each man’s money in his sack. ²Then put my silver cup in the youngest one’s sack. Put it there along with the money he paid for his grain.” So the manager did what Joseph told him to do.

³When morning came, the men were sent on their way with their donkeys. ⁴They hadn’t gone very far from the city when Joseph spoke to his manager. “Go after those men right away,” he said. “Catch up with them. Say to them, ‘My master was good to you. Why have you paid him back by doing evil? ⁵Isn’t this the cup my master drinks from? Doesn’t he also use it to find things out? You have done an evil thing.’”

⁶When the manager caught up with them, he told them what Joseph had said. ⁷But they said to him, “Why do you say these things? We would never do anything like that! ⁸We even brought back to you from Canaan the money we found in our sacks. So why would we steal silver or gold from your master’s house? ⁹If you find out that any of us has the cup, he will die. And the rest of us will become your slaves.”

¹⁰“All right, then,” he said. “As you wish. The one found to have the cup will become my slave. But the rest of you will not be blamed.”

¹¹Each of them quickly put his sack down on the ground and opened it. ¹²Then the manager started to search. He began with the oldest and ended with the youngest. The cup was found in Benjamin’s sack.

¹³When that happened, they were so upset they tore their clothes. Then all of them loaded their donkeys and went back to the city.

¹⁴Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers came in. They threw themselves down on the ground in front of him. ¹⁵Joseph said to them, “What have you done? Don’t you know that a man like me has ways to find things out?”

¹⁶“What can we say to you?” Judah replied. “What can we say? How can we prove we haven’t done anything wrong? God has shown you that we are guilty. We are now your slaves. All of us are, including the one found to have the cup.”

¹⁷But Joseph said, “I would never do anything like that! Only the man found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you may go back to your father in peace.”

¹⁸Then Judah went up to him. He said, “Please, sir. Let me speak a word to you. Don’t be angry with me, even though you are equal to Pharaoh himself. ¹⁹You asked us, ‘Do you have a father or a brother?’

²⁰We answered, ‘We have an old father. A young son was born to him when he was old. His brother is

dead. He's the only one of his mother's sons left. And his father loves him.'

²¹"Then you said to us, 'Bring him down to me. I want to see him for myself.' ²²We said to you, 'The boy can't leave his father. If he does, his father will die.' ²³But you told us, 'Your youngest brother must come down here with you. If he doesn't, you won't see my face again.' ²⁴So we went back to my father. We told him what you had said.

²⁵"Then our father said, 'Go back. Buy a little more food.' ²⁶But we said, 'We can't go down. We'll only go if our youngest brother goes there with us. We can't even see the man's face unless our youngest brother goes with us.'

²⁷"Your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife had two sons by me. ²⁸One of them went away from me. And I said, "He must have been torn to pieces." I haven't seen him since. ²⁹What if you take this one from me too and he is harmed? Then you would cause me to die as a sad old man. I would go down into the grave full of pain and suffering.'

³⁰"So now, what will happen if the boy isn't with us when I go back to my father? His life depends on the boy's life. ³¹When he sees that the boy isn't with us, he'll die. Because of us, he'll go down into the grave as a sad old man. ³²I promised my father I would keep the boy safe. I said, 'Father, I'll bring him back to you. If I don't, you can put the blame on me for the rest of my life.'

³³"Now then, please let me stay here. Let me be your slave in place of the boy. Let the boy return with his brothers. ³⁴How can I go back to my father if the boy isn't with me? No! Don't let me see the pain and suffering that would come to my father."

Questions

- 1 What did Joseph tell the manager of his house to do? Joseph told the manger of his house to _____ Joseph's brothers' sacks with as much _____ as they could carry, put each man's _____ in his sack, and then put Joseph's _____ in the _____ one's sack.
(Gen. 44:1-2)
- 2 A little later, what did Joseph tell his manager to do, when Joseph's brothers weren't very far from the city? Joseph told his manager to _____ after Joseph's brothers right away and *accuse* them of **S** _____ (means "taking without permission") Joseph's silver cup. (Gen. 44:4-5)
- 3 What do you think Joseph was trying to find out with his plan? Joseph was trying to find out if his brothers' **h** _____ (a part of the body) had changed.
- 4 What was the response of Joseph's brothers when they were accused of this crime? Joseph's brothers were **S** _____ (means "surprised and upset") and said they would _____ do anything like that! (Gen. 44:7)
- 5 What did Joseph's brothers tell the manager would happen if one of them had Joseph's cup? Joseph's brothers told the manager that if one of them had Joseph's cup, the one who had it would _____.
(Gen. 44:9)

- 6 What did Joseph's brothers tell the manager would happen to the rest of the brothers? They told the manager that the rest of them would become his _____. (Gen. 44:9)
- 7 Did the manager agree to the brothers' suggested punishment? (Yes/No) _____. The manager said that only the _____ who had the cup would become a _____, while the rest of the brothers would _____ be blamed. (Gen. 44:10)
- 8 What was the response of Joseph's brothers when the manager found the cup in Benjamin's sack? Joseph's brothers were so _____ they _____ their _____. (Gen. 44:13)
- 9 What did Joseph's brothers do after they had turned around and gone back to Joseph? Joseph's brothers _____ themselves down on the _____ in front of Joseph. (Gen. 44:14)
- 10 Which brother took charge and spoke to Joseph? Why this brother? _____ spoke to Joseph, because Judah was the one who had _____ their father he would keep Benjamin _____. (Gen. 44:16, 32)
- 11 Who did Judah say had shown Joseph that Judah and his brothers were guilty? Judah said that _____ had shown Joseph that Judah and his brothers were guilty. (Gen. 44:16)
- 12 Since it was only Benjamin's sack that had the cup, why do you think Judah said that he and his brothers were all guilty and would all be Joseph's slaves? Judah was probably thinking about how he and his other brothers were all guilty of the terrible sin of **S** _____ their brother Joseph.



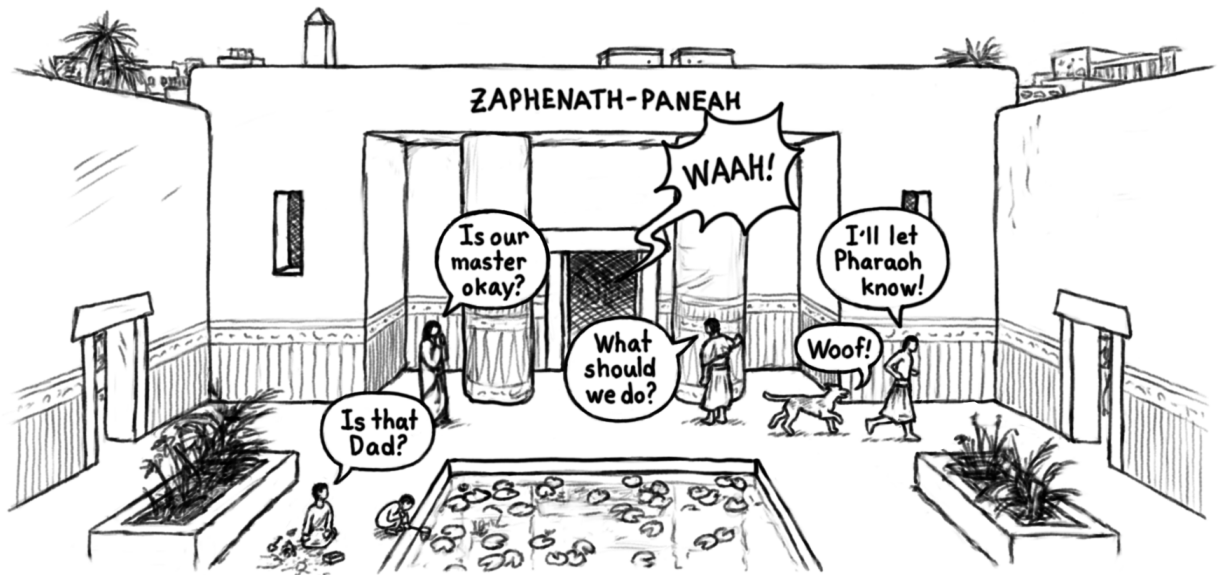
Remember, it was Judah who had come up with the idea of selling Joseph to the Ishmaelite traders.

- 13 Why do you think Joseph insisted that only Benjamin had to become Joseph's slave and that the rest of the brothers were free to go back to their father in peace? Joseph insisted because he was **†** _____ (rhymes with "resting") Judah to see if Judah's heart had changed.
- 14 What was Judah's response? Why? Judah begged Joseph to let him be Joseph's _____ in place of Benjamin, because Judah couldn't bear to see the _____ and _____ that would come to his father if he went back without the boy. (Gen. 44:34)

Joseph Tells His Brothers Who He Is

Genesis 45:1–15

¹Joseph couldn't control himself anymore in front of all his attendants. He cried out, "Have everyone leave me!" So there wasn't anyone with Joseph when he told his brothers who he was. ²He wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him. Everyone in Pharaoh's house heard about it.



³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers weren’t able to answer him. They were too afraid of him.

⁴Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” So they did. Then he said, “I am your brother Joseph. I’m the one you sold into Egypt. ⁵But don’t be upset. And don’t be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me ahead of you to save many lives. ⁶For two years now, there hasn’t been enough food in the land. And for the next five years, people won’t be plowing or gathering crops. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to keep some of you alive on earth. He sent me here to save your lives by an act of mighty power.

⁸“So then, it wasn’t you who sent me here. It was God. He made me like a father to Pharaoh. He made me master of Pharaoh’s entire house. God made me ruler of the whole land of Egypt. ⁹Now hurry back to my father. Say to him, ‘Your son Joseph says, “God has made me master of the whole land of Egypt. Come down to me. Don’t waste any time. ¹⁰You will live in the area of Goshen. You, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you have will be near me. ¹¹There I will provide everything you need. There are still five years to come when there won’t be enough food. If you don’t come down here, you and your family and everyone who belongs to you will lose everything.”’

¹²“My brothers, I am Joseph. You can see for yourselves that I am the one speaking to you. My brother Benjamin can see it too. ¹³Tell my father about all the honour given to me in Egypt. Tell him about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

¹⁴Then Joseph threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept. Benjamin also hugged him and wept. ¹⁵Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept over them. After that, his brothers talked with him.

Questions

- 15 What did Joseph do when he saw that Judah’s heart had changed? Joseph told his _____ to leave him, and then he _____ his brothers who he was. (Gen. 45:1)
- 16 Did Joseph cry? (Yes/No) _____. Joseph wept so _____ that _____ in Pharaoh’s house heard about it. (Gen. 45:2)

- 17 What was the response of Joseph's brothers when Joseph told them who he was? Joseph's brothers were so _____ that they weren't able to **t**_____ (another word for "speak"). (Gen. 45:3)
- 18 What did Joseph say to his brothers when he saw how afraid they were of him? Joseph told his brothers to come _____ and not be _____ or _____ with themselves, even though they had sold him into Egypt. (Gen. 45:4-5)
- 19 Why did Joseph tell his brothers not to be angry with themselves for selling him into Egypt? Joseph told his brothers not to be angry with themselves because _____ had sent Joseph ahead of his brothers to save _____ lives. (Gen. 45:5)
- 20 So, who was it who sent the Ishmaelite traders at the right time when Joseph's brothers were planning to kill Joseph? _____ did.
- 21 Whom did Joseph really want to see? Joseph really wanted to see his _____. (Gen. 45:9)
- 22 Where did Joseph want his whole family to live? Joseph wanted his whole family to live in _____. (Gen. 45:10)
- 23 Who would take care of all the needs of this many people? _____ would take care of all their needs. (Gen. 45:11)



Joseph was at peace knowing that everything bad that had happened to him had been used by God so that Joseph could take care of his whole family's needs.

Philippians 4:19a

My God will meet all your needs. He will meet them in keeping with His wonderful riches.

- 24 How did Joseph respond to his brother Benjamin, the one Joseph made it seem had stolen the silver cup? Joseph _____ his arms around his brother Benjamin and _____. (Gen. 45:14)
- 25 How did Benjamin respond to his brother Joseph? Benjamin _____ Joseph and _____ too. (Gen. 45:14)
- 26 How did Joseph respond to the rest of his brothers, who had once wanted to kill him? Joseph _____ all his brothers and _____ over them. (Gen. 45:15)

1 John 1:9

But God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure.

- 27 What were Joseph's brothers finally able to do after Joseph kissed and wept over them? Joseph's brothers were finally able to _____. (Gen. 45:15)

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?

