

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
Lesson Thirteen
GOD CALLED JOSEPH (2) (Gen. 42-47; 50:14-26)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God fulfills the dreams He had given to Joseph 22 years earlier. His brothers came to Egypt to buy grain because of the famine and unknowingly bowed down to Joseph, as he foresaw in his dreams. We also see how Joseph wisely deals with his brothers ' in order to bring them to repentance before he revealed himself to them and blessed them. By his patient and forgiving treatment toward his cruel brothers we can see that Joseph's heart was full of love for them, not bitterness, anger, or hatred.

Memory Verse:

"This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

Facts to Teach:

1. Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to buy grain (Gen. 42).
 - a. Jacob sends his sons to Egypt to buy grain because of famine in the land.
 - b. Joseph recognizes his brothers but does not reveal himself to them. (Their bowing down to him was the fulfillment of the dream Joseph had twenty-two years before.)
 - c. Joseph accuses his brothers of being spies and puts them in jail for three days.
 - d. Joseph's brothers remember and feel sorry for their unjust, evil treatment of Joseph.
 - e. Joseph allows his brothers to go home with grain but leaves Simeon (the one who probably wanted to kill Joseph when he was young) in prison, until their youngest brother, Benjamin, would be brought back to Egypt to Joseph.
 - f. Joseph's brothers were bewildered when they arrived back in Canaan and found their money in every man's sack.
2. Joseph's brothers return to Egypt the second time to buy grain (Gen. 43-45).
 - a. Jacob sends all of his sons, including Benjamin, to Egypt again to buy more grain because of the sore famine in the land.
 - b. Joseph brings them to his house for a feast and gives them many hints that he is their brother Joseph, but they don't recognize him.
 - 1.) He asks them about their father's health.
 - 2.) He prepares a feast for them.
 - 3.) He set them at the table in the exact order according to their birth.
 - 4.) He had five times as much food served to his little brother, Benjamin.
 - c. Joseph sends them back to Canaan with grain but hides his silver cup in Benjamin's sack.
 - d. The servant stops them on the way, blames them for stealing from Joseph, and brings them back to Egypt.
 - e. Judah begs to be made a slave instead of Benjamin, for the sake of their father.
 - f. Once Joseph saw that at least one of his brothers' hardened, selfish hearts had been dealt with and softened, he revealed himself to them as their younger brother, whom they had sold off as a slave twenty-two years before.
 - g. They all wept and embraced each other.

- h. Joseph sent wagons and supplies to safely bring all of his brothers, families and his old father, Jacob, back to Egypt so they could be fed and live through the remaining five years of famine.

3. Joseph's father and relatives move to Egypt (Gen. 46)

4. Joseph died in Egypt (Gen. 50: 22-26). He prophesied that God would one day bring the people of Israel into the land of Canaan again as He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Note: This lesson may be divided into two parts as follows: point 1 as one lesson and points 2-4 as another.