

IN THE BEGINNING GOD**The Brothers and Joseph Meet****Genesis 42:1—45:28**

*“But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth
and to save your lives by a great deliverance.”* Genesis 45:7

Day 1: Read Genesis 42—45.

1. Two story lines are beginning to converge in this passage—the story of Joseph in Egypt and the story of Jacob and his sons in Canaan. What is the catalyst that will bring these two “lines” together? (41:56, 57)
2. Take a moment to reflect on God’s breathtaking weave of events in your own life. Jot down some reflections.

Day 2: Review Genesis 42—45.

3. What are the signs that Joseph’s brothers have had a guilty conscience for thirteen years about selling their younger brother to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt? (42:21, 28; 44:16)
4. How has God provided a way for us to deal with our guilt? (Ps. 32:1–7; 51:1–12; Heb. 9:14; 1 Jn. 1:9)
5. Jacob still doesn’t know of his ten sons’ evil crime but continues to believe Joseph was killed by some wild beast. What is the evidence that his grief makes him protective? (42:4, 36–38)
6. Now the tables are turned, and it is Joseph who has the upper hand. Describe how Joseph “plays” his brothers. (Scan chapters 42–44.) Why do you think Joseph is doing this?

Day 3: Review Genesis 42—45.

7. Look back at Joseph’s boyhood dreams (37:5–11). How are these dreams being fulfilled? (42:6; 43:28; 44:14)

8. How is Joseph feeling about this encounter with his family after so many years? (43:30, 31; 45:1–3)
9. How is Judah a different man than he was over a decade earlier? (44:18–34; cf. chapter 38)
10. In what may be the key passage in this week's chapters, what does Joseph say to his miserable and guilt-ridden brothers to allay their fears, and to offer them a better interpretation of events than they have been wallowing in? (45:4–8)

Day 4: Review Genesis 42—45.

11. It's hard to see the "big picture" of our lives when we are bogged down in our daily trials. Read Psalm 105 (esp. vv. 16–24) to get a bird's eye view of the drama of Joseph and his brothers in context.
12. Now bring it home: What perspective on the trials in your life will help you to persevere today? (Rom. 8:28; Heb. 12:1–3; 1 Pet. 1:3–7)

Day 5: Review Genesis 42—45.

13. In the chain of events of Genesis 42—45, God was doing something on several parallel levels. Let's consider two.
 - a. What was he accomplishing in the lives and relationships of Jacob and Joseph and Joseph's brothers?
 - b. How was he advancing the history of Israel in fulfillment of his promises made to Abraham? (Gen. 12:2, 3)
14. The Joseph narrative is a beautiful picture of reconciliation.
 - a. How are we reconciled to God? (Col. 1:21–23a)
 - b. What are we now called to do? (2 Cor. 5:17–21; Mt. 5:23, 24; 18:21, 22)