

**SERIES TITLE:** Living in God's Story

**SESSION EIGHT:** ASK THE RIGHT QUESTION

**TEXT:** GENESIS 42

**INTRODUCTION.**

This series focuses on the life of Joseph and his brothers. It includes incidents of failure and success, jealousy and integrity, sin and righteousness. Through it all, God's plan prevails. These stories should increase our confidence in God, and our willingness to follow him in all situations.

**DISCUSSION.** Which of the following problems would be most damaging to a family and why?  
Favoritism; Poverty; Grudges; Anger

**EXAMINATION.**

Vv.1-5 It sounds like Jacob's sons are reluctant to go to Egypt. Discuss why that might be.

What do Jacob's actions in v.4 communicate about their family dynamic?

Vv.6-20 Why is Joseph treating his brothers this way? Is this about revenge? Why or why not?

How does this fulfill Joseph's original dream? (37:7-9)

Vv.21-38 What does the direct dialogue reveal about each of the following:

- The 11 brothers, v.21 and v.28?
- Reuben, v.22 and v.37?
- Jacob, v.36 and v.38?

Why does Joseph return the money, putting it into their sacks of grain?

What are the signs in Jacob's family that there are unresolved issues?

**APPLICATION.**

- How do unresolved issues (between others and/or God) impact our lives?
- How does the Bible teach that issues are to be resolved? (see Matthew 18:15-22; Matthew 5:23-24; Colossians 3:13-15)

- When and why in your life have you asked the same question Joseph's brothers asked:  
*What is God doing to us?*
- Why might that not be the best question to ask?
- How might it change things to ask instead: *God, what do you want me to do?*
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?