

Genesis 42:1-3 New Living Translation

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

1 When Jacob heard that grain was available in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why are you standing around looking at one another?" **2** I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there, and buy enough grain to keep us alive. Otherwise we'll die."

3 So Joseph's ten older brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain.

Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph Reveals His Identity

1 Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, "Out, all of you!" So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. **2** Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace. **3** "I am Joseph!" he said to his brothers. "Is my father still alive?" But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them. **4** "Please, come closer," he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. **5** But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. **6** This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. **7** God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors.[a] **8** So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser[b] to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt. **9** "Now hurry back to my father and tell him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. So come down to me immediately! **10** You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you own. **11** I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, and all your animals will starve.'" **12** Then Joseph added, "Look! You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that I really am Joseph! **13** Go tell my father of my honored position here in Egypt. Describe for him everything you have seen, and then bring my father here quickly."

14 Weeping with joy, he embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin did the same.

15 Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and after that they began talking freely with him.

Footnotes:

- a 45:7 Or *and to save you with an extraordinary rescue*. The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain.
b 45:8 Hebrew *a father*.

Questions

1. Why did Jacob's sons go to Egypt?
2. What emotions did Joseph express upon revealing himself to his brothers?

Explain in our own words what you think Joseph was feeling.

3. What do you believe Joseph's brothers were thinking when they realized it was really Joseph before them? Explain
4. How does Joseph describe "God's plan" in what his brothers did to him?
5. How has God worked in your life through a difficult time?