

## **January 26**

### Genesis 43:1-15

Joseph had instructed his brothers to return home to bring their other brother, Benjamin, to him. This passage tells the story of their second trip to Egypt, this time with Benjamin.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Israel instructed his sons to not only return to Egypt as Joseph had asked, but also to take him some gifts (which Joseph had not requested). Can you think of a time when you did something for someone that was beyond what he or she had requested? What did you do and why did you do it?

#### *Prayer:*

Generous God, sometimes the right thing to do is that which goes beyond what is needed. When such a time arises, help me to be as generous as you want me to be. I pray in the name of the one who gave his all, Jesus. Amen.

## **January 27**

### Genesis 43:16-34

These verses tell of Joseph and his brothers dining together.

#### *Question to Consider:*

The events did not unfold in the way Joseph's brothers had expected and they were still unsure of what was going on. When have you been in a situation that left you confused about what was going on? Did you eventually come to understand?

#### *Prayer:*

All powerful God, your ways are so much greater than our ways and there will be many times in life when I do not understand why something has happened or the events going on around me. In those times of confusion, help me to feel your presence and your peace. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **January 28**

### Genesis 44:1-33

In these verses, the story of Joseph and his brothers takes an unusual twist as a silver cup is hidden in the sack of the youngest brother, Benjamin.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Benjamin's brothers, and especially Judah, were terrified about what might happen to Benjamin, especially in light of the promise they made to their father to keep him safe. Have you faced a situation in which you had to frantically plead your case? How did it turn out?

*Prayer:*

Father God, I know there will come a time when I am accused of something or questioned about something and I will have to explain myself, or plead my case. When that time comes, please help me with the words I will need to say. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **January 29**

Genesis 45:1-15

In these verses, we read that finally, Joseph reveals himself to his brothers and there is a joyous reunion.

*Question to Consider:*

Think of a family member or friend who you have not seen for a long time. Would you like to visit him or her? Chances are, that person would love to hear from you. So, what are you waiting for???

*Prayer:*

Creator God, throughout our lives, you put people in our paths that we love. Help me to be more attentive to my family and friends and to do a better job of staying in touch with them. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

## **January 30**

Genesis 45:16-28

This passage tells of the brothers returning to their homeland to get their father Jacob (Israel) and bring him to Egypt.

*Question to Consider:*

When Joseph's brothers returned home, they told their father that Joseph was alive, but at first he couldn't believe it. Think of a time when you were told some good news that you found unbelievable at first. What was it? When did you finally believe it to be true?

*Prayer:*

Loving God, I thank you for times when I receive good news. I especially thank you for the best news of all – the Good News that I can have forgiveness and eternal life in Jesus. In His name I pray, Amen.

## **January 31**

Genesis 46:1-7, 28-34

These verses tell of Jacob's (Israel's) travel to Egypt and the entire family being together again.

*Question to Consider:*

Is there a way that you might get a group of friends or family together for a joyous reunion? It doesn't have to be large, but it should include some people who haven't been together for awhile.

*Prayer:*

Loving God, help me to stay connected with the significant people in my life and most of all, help me to always stay closely connected with you. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.