

GOD IN THIS MOMENT

Part 7: Family Reconciliation 2.0 - Genesis 42-45

Test #2 – Discerning the level of their LOYALTY to the Family

Joseph intentionally shows FAVORITISM toward Benjamin 43:1-2, 16-34

The SETUP – a special MEAL vs. 16, 24-25

The GREETING vs. 26-31

The SEATING arrangements vs. 32-33

The various PORTIONS vs. 34

The brothers PASS the favoritism test vs. 34

Joseph intentionally puts Benjamin's life in JEOPARDY 44:1-34

The SETUP – the silver CUP vs. 1-5

The ACCUSATION vs. 6-10

Benjamin 'CAUGHT' vs. 11-13

The TOUGH sentence vs. 14-17

The brothers PASS the loyalty test vs. 18, 32-34

Joseph finally REVEALS himself and RECONCILES 45:1-5

He names their sin, but points to God's Providence in it

*'God's Providence is when He arranges normal
human events for His desired outcomes'*

God's Promises: Getting Abraham's family to Egypt; Building a mighty nation of people

Application questions:

Do you have an estranged relationship but now, like Joseph the victim, you need to move toward possible reconciliation – looking for real heart change, but staying open to what God might be restoring?

Do you have an estranged relationship where, like the offending brothers, you need to seek reconciliation – gladly offering evidence of your remorse and repentance?

In all of this can you see God's Providence? How is He working to arrange the outcome He desires?

Life Application Questions – May 24, 2026

Genesis 43:34 *He took portions to them from his own table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. So they feasted and drank freely with him.*

DISCOVER (Review Genesis 42-45)

1. Define "biblical loyalty." Cite three or four examples from God's word. How does loyalty impact a family? ...or a community? ...or an entire nation?
2. Have you ever known someone whom you considered to be a person of integrity, only to discover that they had acted unjustly in some way? Why did you misread them? Do you still consider yourself a good judge of character? Why is that?
3. You are interviewing someone for an important position. They tell you they are "hard working," "honest," a "team player," "organized," etc. Assuming you would not simply check on their work history through past employers, how could you go about validating each of these virtues?
4. If you were Joseph, how would you have handled the reunion with your brothers?

EXPLORE

1. Read Matthew 5:38-39. How do you reconcile Jesus saying turn the other cheek with Joseph wanting far more confidence before bringing the family back together? Why is it so important to be an under-demander for acts of humiliation?
2. How does maintaining distance work to make you more confident in your assessments in difficult relationships? Must you always work to restore estranged relationships?
3. What was Joseph's intention by focusing on bringing Benjamin into the picture? What moral, principle or truth can you glean from this strategy?
4. Read Genesis 44:5 and 15. What is "divination" referring to about Joseph? Is this divination the same as we find in Deuteronomy 18:9-14? How might the use of special or privileged knowledge be used to your advantage in a relational situation you are facing or will soon be facing? How might that backfire?
5. Compare and contrast agape love with deep family loyalty as in Joseph's story. Were Joseph's brothers finally in agape love for their family? Explain. How can the distinction between these two attributes help us in reconciliation with family members?

EXPERIENCE

1. How does the account of Joseph and his brothers encourage you to view your family relationships in light of God's redemptive purposes?
2. Is there an estranged relationship where, like Joseph the victim, you need to offer reconciliation – looking for real heart change, but staying open to what God might be restoring?
3. Is there an estranged relationship where, like the offending brothers, you need to seek reconciliation – gladly offering evidences of your remorse and repentance? What will it take for you to develop the heart attitude of "What's my role in this?" during relational breakdowns?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, guide us with Your grace and wisdom, helping us to reach out with pure intentions and humility. Help us to listen with compassion and to speak with kindness, trusting that Your love can heal all wounds. Thank you for being a God that sees and restores.