

Lesson # 20

1.

Genesis 43, 44:1-13

The terrible famine was still on the land of Egypt and Canaan where Jacob (who was now called Israel) and his son's lived. When the 10 sons had returned from the land of Egypt with sacks full of grain, everyone thought that would last until the famine was over. However, as the days went by the sacks of grain got lower and lower until one day it was all gone.

Israel called his sons together and said, "You must return to Egypt and buy us some more grain for our fields, our cattle and our food." The sons looked worried, "But father, don't you remember, the governor of Egypt said we would not be able to buy grain unless we brought our youngest brother Benjamin with us." Israel paced up and down and pulled at his hair; he knew they had to have grain but he didn't want to send Benjamin with them for fear something bad would happen to him. Judah spoke up, "Father, if you will send Benjamin with me I promise to watch over him. If anything happens to Benjamin I will take the blame forever." Reuben also spoke up and said, "We promise to watch over Benjamin and make sure he is safe."

Israel was very unhappy, but he knew his family had to have food or they would all starve. "Very well, Benjamin may go," he said sadly. "When you leave take the governor of Egypt a present of the best of the land. I'll send you with some spices, some balm and myrrh, a little honey along with some nuts and almonds."

Does this seem like a funny present to send a ruler? Well, it was a good present for those days. Spices were very hard to get and very expensive, balm was a sweet smelling oil used for medicine and myrrh was a very precious perfume, and the land of Canaan was famous for it's honey and nuts. This was a very special gift Israel was sending to the ruler of Egypt. Israel didn't know that the one who would receive his gift was his own son, Joseph. Israel thought Joseph was dead and had no idea that the one who sent him grain was his very own lost son!

Then Israel said, "You must also return the money you found in your grain sacks when you left Egypt last time, and be sure and take more money to buy more grain." When they were in Egypt before, Joseph had returned all their money in their grain sacks.



Israel was an honest man, he could have kept this extra money but he wouldn't displease God. He wanted to teach his sons to be honest also. What would you do if you bought something in a store and the clerk gave you too much money back? Would you keep the extra money and say you made a good deal or would you go back to the store and return the extra money? It would be tempting to keep the extra money, but the honest and truthful thing would be to return the money, wouldn't it? We would be poorer in money, but we would be richer in God's eyes, for he sees our thoughts and is very pleased when we do what's right. If you were with friends and this happened, you would be setting them a good example also, wouldn't you?

Your memory verse for this time comes from a prayer of David's. David ask's God, "Who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?" David is talking about God's kingdom and wondering who could please God. God's reply is in **Psa.15:2**:

"He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, and who speaks the truth from his heart."



This is God's advice on how we should live; be honest, do what's right, speak the truth and really mean it. This may seem hard to do sometimes, but the Bible tells us that those who live this way will live forever in God's kingdom. When you have learned this verse put a check in the gold box.

After much preparation, Israel's sons were ready to leave. The donkeys were packed with provisions and the gift for the governor of Egypt as well as all the extra money. An excited Benjamin was hurrying everyone up. After many days they reached the palace and asked to see the governor of Egypt.



Do you remember who this governor was? This was their very own brother Joseph, who they had sold as a slave many years before. Everyone thought Joseph was dead by now. When Joseph heard that the brother's were waiting to see him, he had his servant send them to his house. Joseph planned on eating with the brothers, but they were frightened. Why didn't he see them, what was he going to do, maybe they were all headed to jail because of the extra money in their sacks! However Joseph's servant assured them that they were just to eat a meal with Joseph. Then the servant brought Simeon to them. Simeon had to stay in Egypt when the brother's were there last time. How glad they were to see him and hear all about his stay in Egypt. Then here came the mighty governor followed by his officials

The brothers all bowed low before Joseph and gave him their gifts from their father. Joseph asked them, "Is your father well, is he still alive?" Joseph loved his father very much and prayed that he would get to see him before he died. "Yes, our father is well," the brothers replied. Then Joseph noticed a younger man standing behind the brothers. Could this be his mother's other son, his very own little brother? Joseph asked, "Is this your younger brother, the one you told me about?" When the brothers said, "Yes, this is Benjamin," Joseph could no longer hold in his tears. He hurried from the room and wept; how much he wanted to hug Benjamin and tell the brothers who he was. However, he tried to calm himself and soon returned to the room. As the second most important ruler in Egypt Joseph and his officials all sat at a different table than the brothers, but before he sat down, Joseph told his interpreter where each of the brother's were to sit. Joseph placed them at the table according to their ages. The oldest one first, then the next oldest and next oldest until the youngest one. They all looked at each other in amazement...how did this ruler know their ages?

Now came the feast. Handsome Egyptian servants came and bowed before Joseph. They carried heavy gold and silver trays filled with all kinds of good food. Then Joseph's special wine cup was brought in. This was a very beautiful cup made of sparkling silver and a special servant brought in the wine and made a ceremony of pouring it into the cup. All the brothers noticed how beautiful it was. Everyone had plenty of food, but Joseph kept sending more and more food to Benjamin, until he had five times as much food as the others! Joseph watched the brothers carefully to see if they would be jealous of Benjamin as they once were jealous of him. Had they changed their jealous ways, he wondered?

After the feast Joseph ordered his servants to fill up the grain sacks, put all his brother's money back in the tops of the sacks and tie them on the donkeys. But, in Benjamin's sack, Joseph ordered them to put his special silver cup!



The brother's happily started home with their full sacks of grain, but Joseph had one more test to give them. He wanted to know if they would gladly sell Benjamin as a slave just as they had once sold him into slavery. Joseph sent his armed guards after the brothers and when they got near, the guards shouted, "Halt, by order of the govenor!" The brothers were very frightened as the armed guards surrounded them.

"Why have you rewarded evil for good," Joseph's steward asked. "Where have you hidden my master's silver cup?" Now the brothers were all sure that none of them had taken the cup, and so they said angrily, "We don't have the cup, search us and our belongings. If anyone of us is caught with the cup, let him be killed and the rest of us will be your slaves." The steward said, "No, if I find the cup with one of you, only that man will be a slave, the rest of you can go home."

The steward began searching through the sacks of grain, starting with the oldest brother's sack. He found nothing, so went to the next oldest, and the next. Finally he came to Benjamin's sack. He reached into the sack....and brought out the beautiful, silver cup!

The brothers were astonished. How could this happen? Benjamin kept saying, "But I didn't take it, really I didn't!" They tore at their clothes in grief, what could they do? They could leave Benjamin here and go on home, but they knew how that would kill their old father. They refused to leave Benjamin, so they loaded up their donkeys and turned back to Egypt.



Joseph was still in his house when the group returned. They bowed low to the ground as Joseph frowned and pretended that he was angry. He said, "Why have you done this wrong? Didn't you know I would be able to tell who had taken my silver cup?"

Then Judah spoke up, "What can we say, how can we clear ourselves? We are your slaves." Joseph answered, "No, only the youngest one shall be my slave, he was the one who had the cup, the rest of you can return to your home."

Judah spoke again, "Please don't be angry, our father loves this son very much and didn't want him to come to Egypt for fear some harm might come to him. I told my father I would take good care of him, now if we return without Benjamin, our father will die of sorrow, let one of us stay in his place." When Joseph heard this his heart about burst for joy. He quickly ordered all the Egyptian servants out of the room, then he began to cry and said, "I am Joseph, your brother! Please tell me if my father is still alive?" The startled brothers couldn't believe their ears. This mighty ruler in the Egyptian clothes was speaking in their own language! He said he was Joseph! How could this be?

Then Joseph said, "Don't worry or be angry at yourselves for selling me as a slave. This was God's purpose to bring me to Egypt to save many people from starving. Go now, bring my father and your wives and children back to Egypt for there will be five more years of famine.

The servants were listening at the door and heard Joseph crying and telling the brother's who he was. They quickly went to Pharoah and reported that Joseph's brothers were here. Meanwhile Joseph was hugging and kissing all his brothers and telling them all that had happened to him since he was sold as a slave many years before.



Pharoah was very happy for Joseph, for he had learned to respect and love him. He sent for Joseph and told him to bring his family to Egypt.

They could choose the very best part of the land for them to live in.

Pharoah said he would send wagons to help move his father and his brother's family and their possessions. When the brothers arrived home and told their father that Joseph was still alive he couldn't believe it. But when he looked outside and saw all the Egyptian wagons standing there he began to cry for joy. His beloved Joseph really was alive and he would be able to see him once again before he died.

The brothers loaded their belongings and families and got their herds of cattle and sheep ready to travel. They would start out early in the morning and soon be on the way to a new home in Egypt. Before he left, Israel built an altar and prayed to God. Israel remembered the promises God had given to his grandfather, Abraham and to his father Isaac and to him, also. He was about to leave this special, promised land that God said they would inherit forever. Israel wondered if this was the right thing to do. That night God came to him in a dream and told him, "I am the God of your father, don't be afraid to go to Egypt, for I will be with you there and your family will become a great nation. You will see Joseph again and he will be with you when you die, but you will be brought back here again, to inherit this land."

How do you think Israel will be brought back to the land to inherit it forever when he was to die in Egypt? It was God's way of telling Israel about the resurrection and the kingdom when they would no longer be strangers in the land, but would own the land forever and ever.

Israel and his family happily traveled along in the wagons, often singing and laughing for joy. After several days they arrived in Egypt. When Joseph heard they were approaching Egypt,, he quickly rode out to meet his father. Jacob ran to his father and they hugged and kissed each other in great joy! Pharoah gave Joseph's family a very green and fertile land to live in, called the land of Goshen. Here they were separated from the big Egyptian cities and they could raise crops and keep their sheep and cattle with plenty of grain and water.

LESSON # 20

Question Page

Draw a circle around the correct answer

1. Why did Israel decide to send Benjamin to Egypt with his brothers?
(a) He wanted a vacation (b) They couldn't get food without him (c) He wanted to see Egypt
2. What did Israel send to Egypt as a gift for the governor?
(a) bags of silver (b) a silver cup (c) honey, nuts and spices
3. Which two brothers said they would take extra care of Benjamin if Israel sent him to Egypt? (a) Reuben and Judah (b) Dan and Asher (c) Levi and Simeon
4. Which brother had stayed in Egypt while the others went home last time?
(a) Simeon (b) Reuben (c) Naphtali
5. Why did Joseph order the brothers to his house? (a) So he could arrest them
(b) So they could clean up from their journey (c) To eat with him

Put T or F in the blanks to show if the sentence is True or False

- _____ If someone gives you too much change or loses some money, it's okay to keep it.
- _____ By our good works we can show a good example of God's words to our friends
- _____ Joseph was very angry at his brothers for selling him as a slave
- _____ Joseph gave Reuben five times as much food as he did the other brothers
- _____ Benjamin hid Joseph's silver cup in his grain sack, along with the money for the grain
- _____ God had sent Joseph to Egypt to help save many people by storing up grain for them

Write your answers in the space below each question

1. Why were the brothers so surprised when Joseph told them where to sit at the table?
2. What did Joseph do when he saw his little brother Benjamin?
3. Why did Joseph put his cup and the money in Benjamin's grain sack?
4. Did Joseph forgive his brothers for selling him as a slave?
5. Why did Joseph send wagons to his father's home in the land of Canaan?

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON JOSEPH

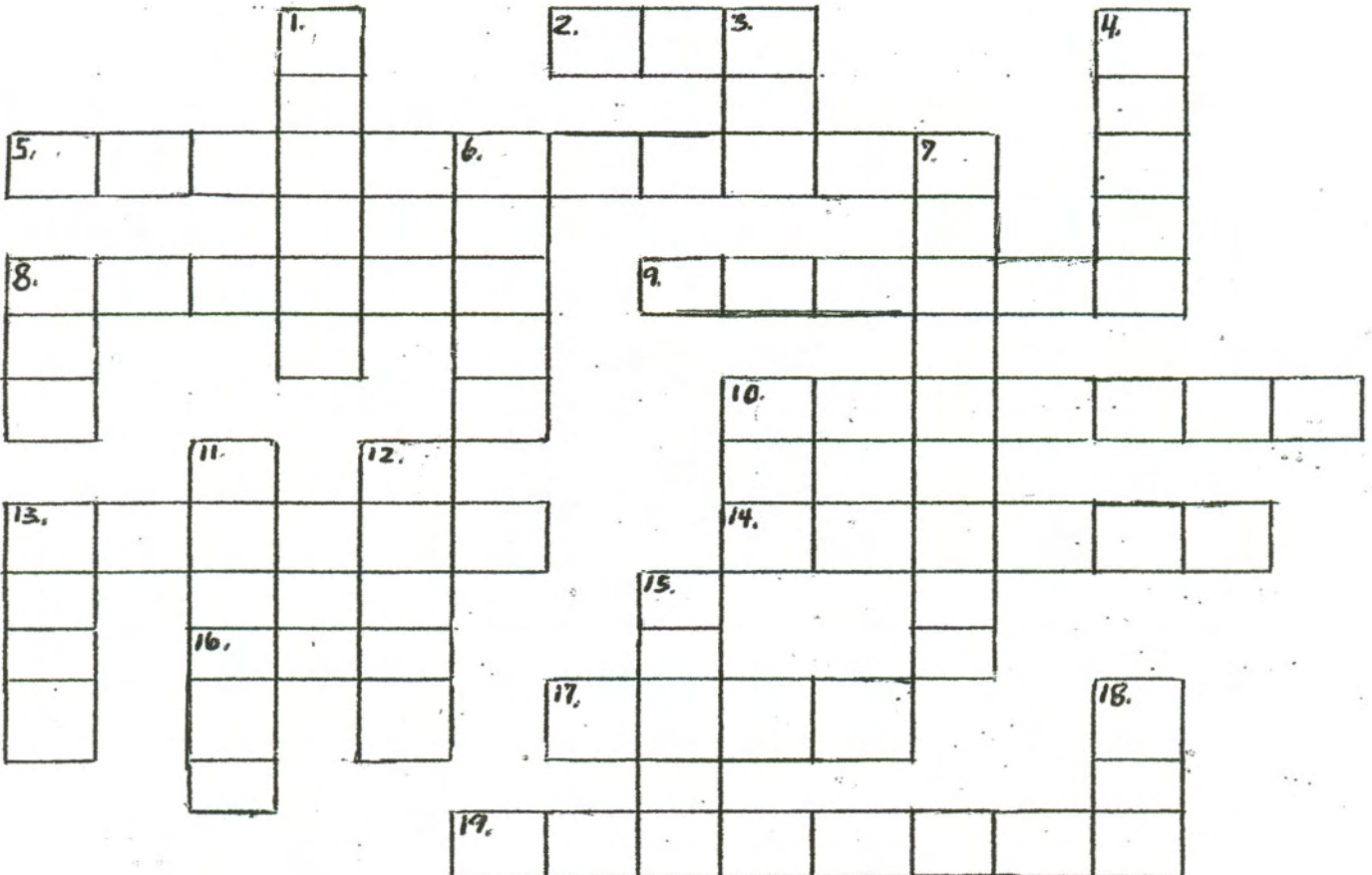
The references below are all found in the book of Genesis

ACROSS

- 2. An object found in Benjamin's sack (44:12)
- 5. Joseph's brothers sold him to the _____ (37:28)
- 8. Joseph was sold for _____ pieces of silver (37:28)
- 9. Joseph's cup was made of _____ (44:2)
- 10. Book of the Bible that tells of Joseph _____
- 13. The brother who tried to save Joseph (37:21)
- 14. What made the Butler and Baker sad? (40:7-8)
- 15. It isn't right to tell a _____
- 17. The hidden cup was found in a _____ (44:12)
- 19. Who was Joseph's youngest brother? (42:4)

DOWN

- 1. There was to be 7 years of _____ in the land (41:30)
- 3. Tea is made in a tea _____
- 4. Who dreamed of three baskets on his head? (40:16)
- 6. To what country was Joseph taken? (37:28)
- 7. How old was Joseph when he tended flocks? (37:2)
- 8. Working out in the sun will give your skin a _____
- 10. The one who can interpret dreams (40:8)
- 11. Who told Pharaoh about Joseph? (41:9, 12)
- 12. How many fat cows did Pharaoh dream of? (41:18)
- 13. Pharaoh gave Joseph his _____ (42:42)
- 16. Joseph sold _____ to the hungry people (42:1)
- 18. How many brothers went to Egypt? (42:3)



Joseph served some delicious food to his family.

Below are eleven kinds of food in this puzzle, reading sideways, down and diagonal.

If you can't find eleven kinds of food look up the references below



P O K H F I G S A
 E N I Q O M R U L
 B I P U X N A G M
 Z O K A B R E A D
 O N F I S H L Y L
 M S T L V M U G G
 E T E G O B C R E
 L A T N U Y A R A
 O I D X F P A H O
 N S G G E C L U D
 W A X S L S A L T



Luke 6:44

Matt.12:40

Exod.12:8

Luke 11:12

Psalms 19:10

Exodus 16:13

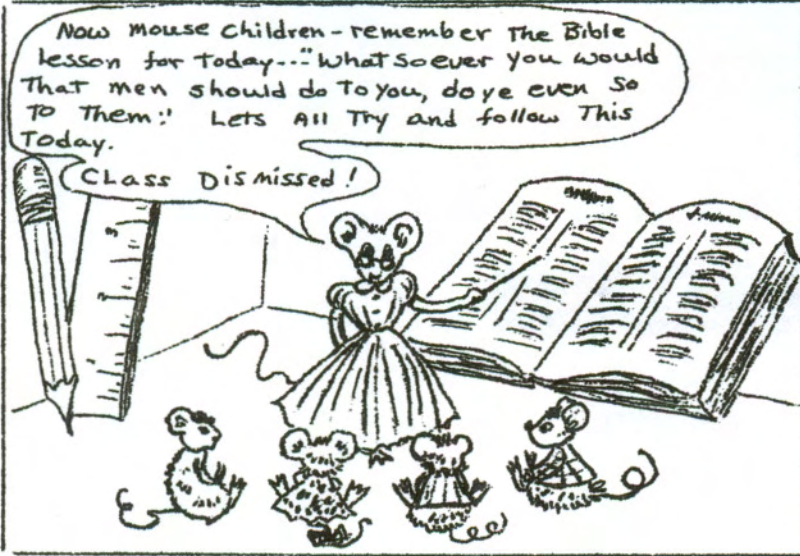
Numbers 11:5

Genesis 43:11

Matthew 5:13

Warning - not ALL the foods pictured here are in the puzzle but some that aren't pictured ARE in the puzzle





Now mouse children - remember the Bible lesson for today... "Whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them!" Lets All Try and follow This Today.

Class Dismissed!



Boy, Am I glad to get out of There! Im hungry! Lets go get Some honey from Mrs. Bee's Secret honey Supply.

I Dont think We should Without Asking Mrs. Bee and her Friends might need The honey



Aw, it wont hurt- I'm not going to Take much

Rodney Lock out!



Ow! You Stung Me!!

You STAY AWAY from my honey!



Boy, I'll Sure fix That mean Mrs. Bee

Rodney, Remember our Bible Lesson today?

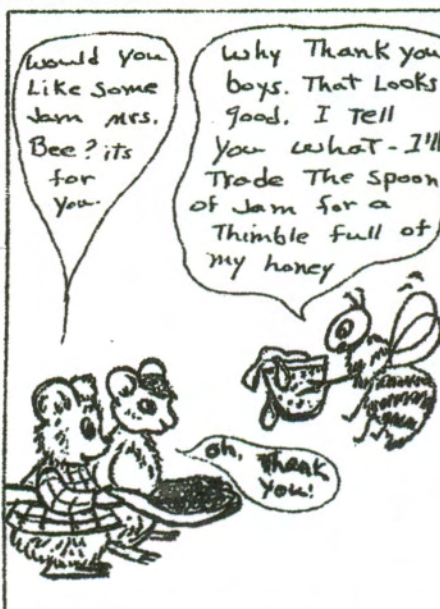


Yeh, I remember. "Treat others The way They Treat you!" Mrs. Bee Treated Me bad, So now I'm going to Catch her in The Jam Jar, and never Let her out! I'll do to her as she did to Me!



Oh Rodney, That's Not The Lesson! If you want people To Treat you good-- you must do good To Them first! Lets give Mrs Bee This Jam Then we will be doing good To Others, Like The Bible said.

Aw, That's No fun!



Would you Like Some Jam Mrs. Bee? its for you.

Why Thank you boys. That Looks good. I Tell you what- I'll Trade The Spoon of Jam for a Thimble full of my honey

Oh, Thank you!