

JOSEPH MEETS HIS BROTHERS

Old Testament Lesson #31

Joseph had his servants conceal his silver cup in Benjamin's grain sack. As his brothers traveled home, Joseph's steward caught up with them and accused them of stealing the cup. The brothers denied the charge and allowed the steward to search their belongings. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. They were taken back to Egypt to face Joseph.

In front of Joseph, the brothers did not claim innocence. Judah spoke for them and said they would be his slaves. Joseph said only the person who had been found with the cup would be kept as a slave. The rest could return home. Judah pleaded with Joseph to release Benjamin. He explained how Benjamin was one of two sons born to their father through the same mother. The other son was now dead (this was Joseph). If they returned without Benjamin, Jacob would die of sorrow. Judah offered to be a slave in place of Benjamin.

This was too much for Joseph. He sent all his servants away, and he wept. Joseph then revealed himself to his brothers. They were shocked and terrified. He then reassured them that they should not be angry with themselves for selling him into slavery. God had allowed the slavery so Joseph could save their lives later.

Joseph told his brothers to return to Jacob and tell him all about Joseph and the position he had in Egypt. They were to tell Jacob to come to Egypt with his entire household. There were still five years left of the famine, and they could dwell in safety and prosperity in Egypt.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The brothers bowing to Joseph fulfilled what he had dreamt years before (Genesis 37; see also Old Testament Lesson 27).
- Apparently, Joseph had the money and the cup placed in the sacks to see how much his brothers had changed. Judah, for example, who had earlier been willing to sell Joseph, was now willing to sacrifice himself to save Benjamin and spare his father the grief of losing his youngest son.
- God used the circumstances of the famine and the nation of Egypt to provide a deliverance for his people and to reconcile Joseph's brothers with him (Genesis 45:5; 50:20).

Joseph Meets His Brothers

- Joseph's silver cup was hidden in Benjamin's grain sack.
 - Joseph sent his steward to retrieve the cup.
 - The steward also accused the brothers of stealing the cup.
 - The brothers denied the charge and were taken back to Joseph.
- Judah spoke for the brothers and said they would be slaves of Joseph.
 - Joseph said that only Benjamin would be kept as a slave.
 - The others could return home.
 - Judah begged Joseph not to keep Benjamin.
 - Judah explained why Benjamin was such a special child of their father, Jacob, and offered to take his place.
- Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers.
 - They were shocked and terrified.
 - Joseph said they should not be angry with themselves because they had sold Joseph into slavery years earlier.
 - God allowed the slavery so Joseph could save their lives later.
 - Joseph told his brothers to go home and return with Jacob to Egypt.
 - Then they could all live safely during the famine.

ANSWER KEY:

spoke, slaves, only, found, cup, kept, slave, others, return, home, pleaded, release, offered, slave, place

Joseph told them that God had allowed them to sell him into slavery so that he could save them later. He told them to bring Jacob to Egypt to live during the famine.

Joseph had ordered his silver cup hidden in Benjamin's sack. He sent his steward to accuse his brothers of stealing it. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. They were taken back to Egypt to face Joseph.



Answer Graph						
1	A	E	K	N	R	U
2	C	F	L	O	S	V
3	D	H	M	P	T	Y
	4	5	6	7	8	9

What happened when they saw him?

Judah _____ for them. He said they would be his
2,8 3,7 2,7 1,6 1,5

_____ Joseph said _____ the
2,8 2,6 1,4 2,9 1,5 2,8 2,7 1,7 2,6 3,9

person _____ with the _____ would be
2,5 2,7 1,9 1,7 3,4 2,4 1,9 3,7

_____ as a _____. The _____ could
1,6 1,5 3,7 3,8 2,8 2,6 1,4 2,9 1,5 2,7 3,8 3,5 1,5 1,8 2,8

_____ Judah _____ with
1,8 1,5 3,8 1,9 1,8 1,7 3,5 2,7 3,6 1,5 3,7 2,6 1,5 1,4 3,4 1,5 3,4

Joseph to _____ Benjamin. He _____ to be a
1,8 1,5 2,6 1,5 1,4 2,8 1,5 2,7 2,5 2,5 1,5 1,8 1,5 3,4

_____ in _____ of Benjamin.
2,8 2,6 1,4 2,9 1,5 3,7 2,6 1,4 2,4 1,5

Joseph could take no more. He sent his servants away and wept. He revealed himself to his brothers. They were shocked and terrified. But what did Joseph do?

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

Q L H V K S G L O W G S V N G S Z G

T L W S Z W Z O O L D V W G S V N

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H O Z E V I B H L G S Z G S V

X L F O W H Z E V G S V N

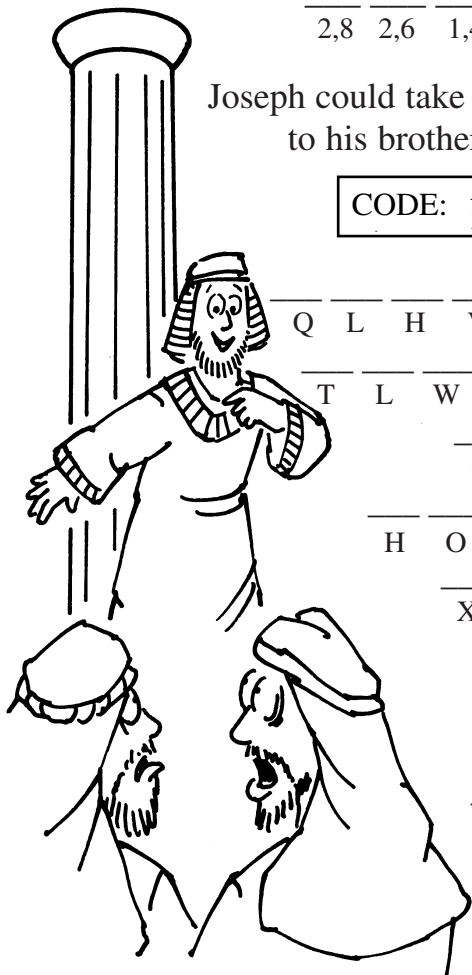
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G S V N G L Y I R M T

Q Z X L Y G L V T B K G G L

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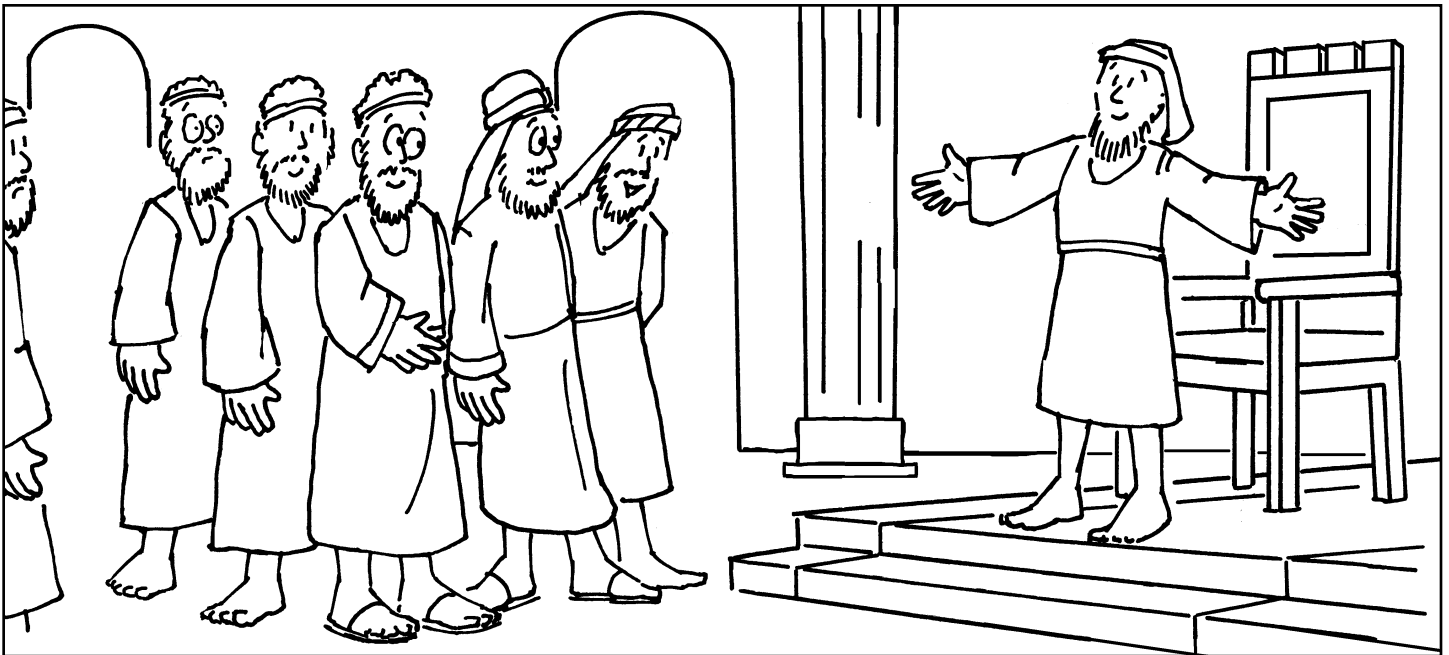
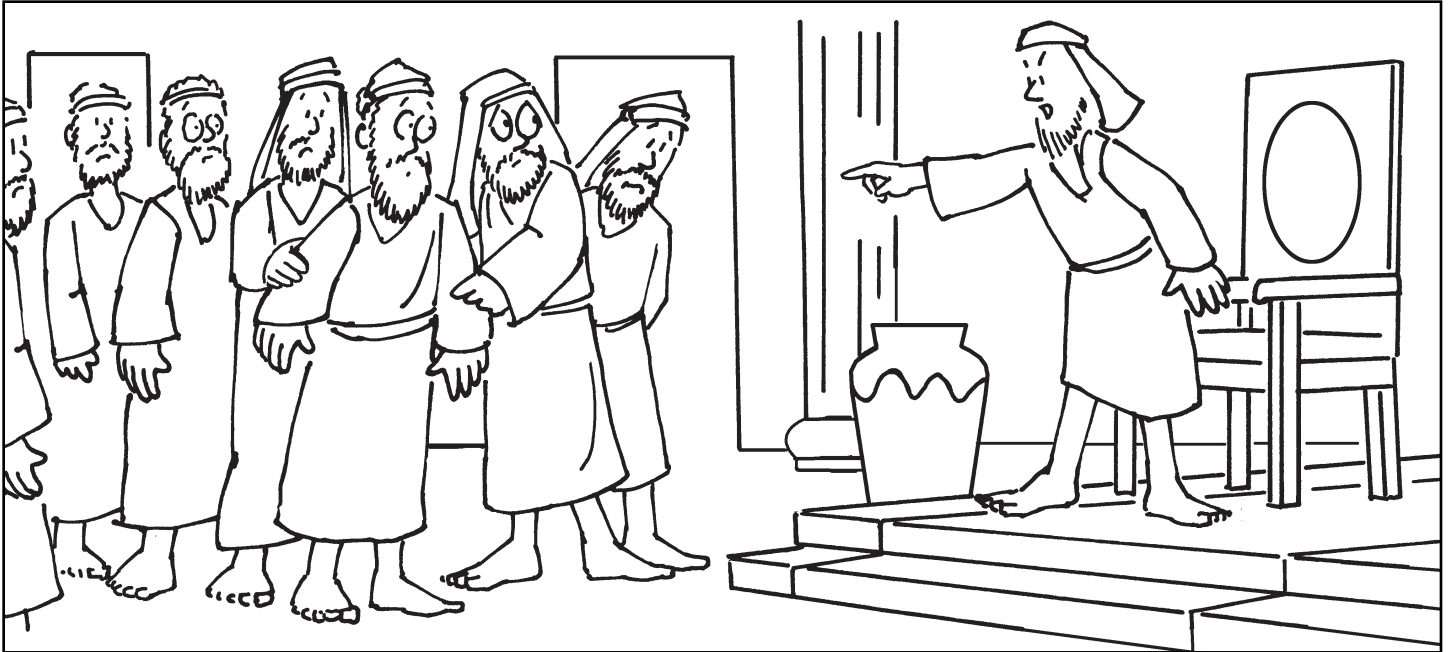
U Z N R M V



Name _____

Joseph pretended to be angry with his brothers.
Later, he told them he had forgiven them.

Circle 10 things different in the bottom picture.



Name _____