

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS IN EGYPT

Old Testament Lesson #30

The famine was very severe and was also felt in Canaan where Joseph's father Jacob and his family lived. When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent all his sons except his youngest, Benjamin, to buy some. When they arrived, Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. Joseph acted harshly toward them and accused them of being spies.

The brothers denied this, saying they were from Canaan and that their youngest brother was at home with their father. Joseph tested their story by placing the brother Simeon in prison. The others were to go home and bring their youngest brother back as proof of their story. Joseph had his servants place their money back in their bags of grain. When the brothers arrived home, they found the money and were afraid. They told their father Jacob everything that had happened, and he grieved over the imprisonment of Simeon.

After awhile, the grain ran out. Jacob told them to go again to buy grain and finally consented to send Benjamin. The brothers returned to Egypt and presented themselves to Joseph.

Joseph still did not reveal himself, but he was pleased to see his younger brother and asked about their father. Joseph was overwhelmed with emotion and left them to cry privately. Joseph then threw a feast for the men, giving special honor to Benjamin.

Joseph told his servants to give them both money and grain. Joseph's silver cup was placed in Benjamin's bag. In the morning, the brothers departed. Joseph sent his steward after them, accusing them of stealing Joseph's cup. The brothers denied it, so a search was made. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. The brothers were grieved and scared. They were then taken back to the city to face Joseph.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Joseph desired to see his younger brother because Benjamin was the only other brother who was a son of his mother Rachel. Rachel had died while giving birth to Benjamin (Genesis 35:16-20).
- The attitude of Joseph's brother, Judah, had changed. Earlier, Judah had wanted to sell Joseph into slavery (Genesis 37:26-27). Now, when Jacob did not want to send Benjamin to Egypt for fear of losing him, Judah guaranteed Benjamin's safety (see Genesis 43:9).

Joseph's Brothers in Egypt

- I. Jacob's family was affected by the famine.
 - A. All the brothers except Benjamin went to Egypt to buy grain.
 - B. Joseph recognized them but said they were spies.
 - C. The brothers, who didn't recognize Joseph, denied the charge.
- II. Joseph said he would test their story for truth.
 - A. He put one brother, Simeon, in prison.
 - B. He sent the rest home and said they should return with their youngest brother.
 - C. The brothers went home and found their money Joseph's servants had secretly placed in their bags.
 - D. They told Jacob everything. He grieved for Simeon.
- III. When Jacob needed more grain, he sent the sons back to Egypt.
 - A. Jacob allowed Benjamin to go.
 - B. The brothers came to Joseph.
 - C. Joseph asked about Jacob and honored Benjamin at a feast.
- IV. Joseph sent the brothers back home.
 - A. Joseph put his silver cup in Benjamin's bag.
 - B. Joseph sent a steward after them, accusing them of stealing Joseph's cup.
 - C. The brothers were scared and sad.
 - D. They were taken back to face Joseph.

ANSWER KEY:

Joseph did not reveal himself yet. He was happy to see Benjamin, and asked about their father. He had a feast later and honored Benjamin. Joseph told his servants to give them grain and money. He placed his silver cup in Benjamin's bag. After the brothers left, he sent his steward after them. He accused them of stealing Joseph's cup. They denied it, but it was found in Benjamin's bag. They were scared! They were taken back to face Joseph.

There was a severe famine. It was felt in Canaan, where Jacob and his sons lived. Jacob sent his sons, including Benjamin, to Egypt to buy grain. There, Joseph recognized his brothers. What happened next?

Write the words in order on the lines.

Joseph¹ Joseph's³ his⁶
 happy¹ found³ brothers⁶
 father¹ were³ He⁶
 Benjamin¹ reveal⁴ denied⁶
 grain¹ Benjamin⁴ bag⁶
 in¹ a⁴ to⁶
 sent¹ his⁴ He⁷
 of¹ He⁴ about⁷
 it¹ After⁴ and⁷
 scared¹ after⁴ give⁷
 did² cup⁴ silver⁷
 to² in⁴ left⁷
 He² taken⁴ accused⁷
 Joseph² himself⁵ it⁷
 and² and⁵ They⁷
 Benjamin's² feast⁵ face⁷
 his² servants⁵ was⁸
 stealing² placed⁵ their⁸
 was² the⁵ honored⁸
 They² them⁵ them⁸
 not³ They⁵ cup⁸
 see³ Benjamin's⁵ he⁸
 had³ back⁵ them⁸
 told³ yet⁶ but⁸
 money³ asked⁶ were⁸
 bag³ later⁶ Joseph⁸
 steward³ to⁶

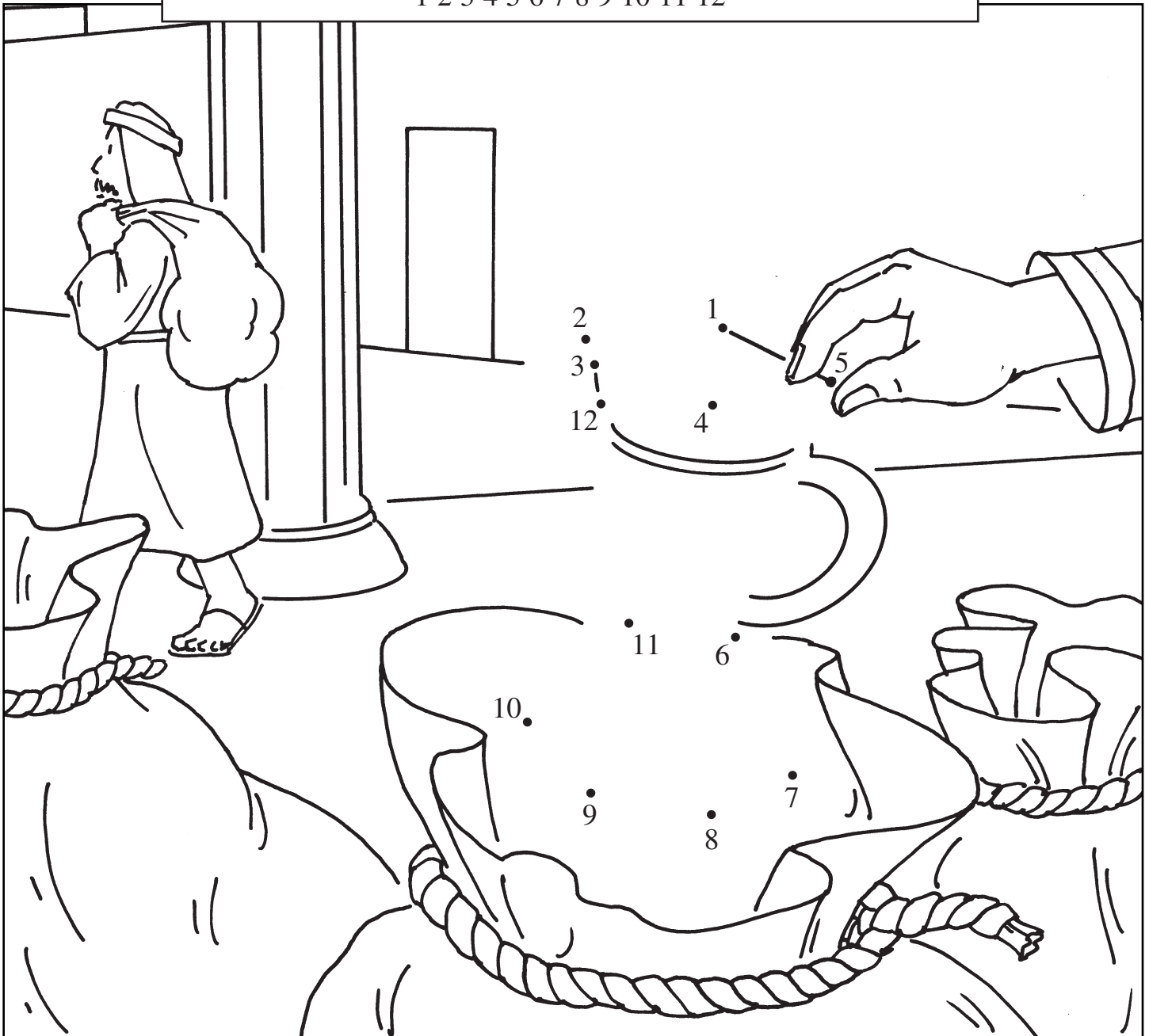


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Name _____

Joseph had one of his servants trick his brothers.
He hid something in one of their sacks before they left.

Connect the dots to see what was hidden.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



Name _____