

The Grace of Guilt / Genesis 42
(Sermon Questions for Life Groups: April 11th, 2021)

Ice Breaker: Do you consider guilt to be a gift from God? Explain your answer.

Read Genesis 42 Together / Pray and ask God for the Spirit's wisdom.

1. According to verses 1-11, What was the crisis at hand that was causing the family to head to Egypt? Was there any delay by the brothers to go to Egypt? Why did Jacob get his sons moving along?

Why did Jacob not send Benjamin to Egypt? What was Benjamin's relationship to Joseph? Was it unique?

What was Joseph's thoughts when he saw his brothers (vv. 6-9)? Why did they not recognize Joseph but he recognized them?

Why was Joseph harsh with his brothers? What feelings may have been going through his heart and mind?

According to verse 11, what did Joseph's brothers claim that went against their character? Did Joseph believe them?

2. Why was Joseph's initial position about keeping his brothers in jail and how did it change in 3 days? (42:12-20)

Why do you believe Joseph changed his mind? For what reasons would he demand Benjamin to come to Egypt and is this significant?

What was Joseph trying to test?

3. What were Joseph's brothers still struggling with according to verses 21-22? What can be learned from this for us today? Was Joseph still struggling with this mistreatment 22 years after the fact?

4. Who did Joseph's brothers blame for the money in the sack? (vv. 23-28)

5. What was Jacob's response to all the money in their sacks and his son's request (v. 36-38)?

Living It Out:

What is the proper response to guilt for us as God's people?

How can guilt hinder our relationships with one another?