

SERIES TITLE: Living in God's Story

PART NINE: INITIATE

TEXT: GENESIS 43-44

INTRODUCTION.

This series focuses on the life of Joseph and his brothers. It includes incidents of failure and success, jealousy and integrity, sin and righteousness. Through it all, God's plan prevails. These stories should increase our confidence in God, and our willingness to follow him in all situations.

DISCUSSION. What emotions/reactions would you struggle with if you suddenly met someone who had severely wronged you years ago?

EXAMINATION.

43:1-7 In what way does chapter 43 continue the action of 42?

Vv.8-14 Why does Israel accept Judah's offer, when he rejected Reuben's (42:37-38)?

Vv.15-23 What do the fears of the brothers say about them?

Vv.24-34 Why doesn't Joseph reveal his identity?

In what way does Benjamin occupy the same position Joseph once held?

44:1-10 What does Joseph hope to accomplish with this elaborate plot?

Vv.11-15 How do the brothers' reactions compare to reactions in chapter 37?

Vv.16-34 What does Judah's speech reveal about how he has changed over the years?

Is there any reason to think that this ending is what Joseph had hoped for?

APPLICATION.

- How do unresolved issues (between others and/or God) impact our lives?
- How does the Bible teach that issues are to be resolved? (see Matthew 18:15-22; Matthew 5:23-24; Colossians 3:13-15; Galatians 6:1)
- Over what issues and in what relationships do we have a responsibility to initiate repentance?

- Which of the following best describes you and why: (1) hate to confront anyone about anything (2) love to confront everyone about everything (3) confront strangers more than family (4) confront family more than strangers (5) need to confront more wisely (6) need to confront more directly (7) hope no one is willing to confront me.
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?