



MESSAGE REVIEW

Joseph continues to test his brothers so that he can know—have they changed? Twenty years after they cruelly sold him into slavery, what is in their hearts? Judah passes the test with flying colors. His eloquent speech offering to take the punishment for Benjamin is a picture of repentance and sacrificial love, a foreshadowing of the love Jesus has for us.

WARM UP QUESTION

What is the hardest test you've ever taken? How did you prepare and how did it turn out?

TALK ABOUT IT

- 1** **Read Genesis 43:1-9.** Describe the setting in these verses—When? Who? What? Why do you think Joseph has told the brothers not to return without their youngest brother?
- 2** How is Judah's leadership evident in verses 3-5 and 8-9? How do his motives seem to have changed since Genesis 37:26-27? Could you speak verse 9 of anyone in your life? Who could you not say this for?
- 3** **Read Genesis 43:26-30.** Describe how you imagine Joseph might be feeling during this interaction. What has Joseph lost and how does he react? What can we learn about the process of grieving from Joseph?
- 4** Have a few different people **read Genesis 44.** What final test does Joseph devise in verses 1-17? How does Judah's speech in verses 18-34 show a changed life? How does he demonstrate both repentance and sacrificial love? How do his words give us a glimpse into the words Jesus speaks on our behalf?
- 5** Talk about some ways your life can start to better reflect the kind of sacrificial love Judah has for Benjamin, both in action and the heart/motivation behind those actions.

RESPOND

What is God saying to you through His Word? How and when will you respond?

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