

Lesson 36

Genesis 42:1-38 - Joseph Tests His Brothers
Theme - The Work of God in Lives

What did Joseph do as a great leader in Egypt?

A famine came, just as Joseph had predicted. Israel told his sons to go down to Egypt to buy food. The sons came face-to-face with Joseph. Joseph knew them, but they did not recognize him. Joseph put his brothers through various tests to see if they had changed their attitudes.



Joseph as an Egyptian Ruler

Genesis 42:7 - And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food.

Why did Joseph test his brothers?



Lesson 36A



Hilkiah (Bible)

Why did Joseph test his brothers? Joseph wanted to see if his brothers had changed over the years. **Twenty years** earlier, they had sold him as a slave. Joseph wanted to be friends again with his brothers. His friendship with them would depend on **how they had changed**. God has ways to change people. Through the trials of life, people can get “**bitter**” or “**better**.” The brother who changed the most was Judah.

Something to do:

Read Genesis 43:1-9
and Genesis 44:14-34
How had Judah
changed?

**What does Jesus
have to do with
changing people?**
Jesus completely
changes people!



A Changed Person

II Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new.*

Questions:

1. How long had Joseph been separated from his brothers?
2. On what would Joseph's friendship with his brothers depend?
3. What two things can happen to people through the trials of life?

**Is Jesus changing you?
How have you changed since you became a Christian?**

Junior Lesson 36A

Joseph watched closely to see how his brothers treated Benjamin. Benjamin was Joseph's closest brother, being the only other son of his mother Rachel. When Joseph demanded that Benjamin be left behind as a slave, Judah, with tears, interceded for the boy. Judah told Joseph that he could not bear to see the sorrow that would come to Jacob his father if Benjamin did not return with them from Egypt.

When Joseph saw how much Judah had changed, he too broke into tears and revealed his true identity. Over the years, the brothers, especially Judah, **had changed.**

God has designed the experiences of life to make us become better people. The older a person becomes, the more his life should be pleasing to God.

God wants the Christian to become more like Jesus Christ every day.

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, ...But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ...(Ephesians 4:15)

In order to really change, a person must first be truly born again. As

Joseph's Brothers Changed.



the believer surrenders every area of his life to Christ, he becomes more and more like Christ.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (II Corinthians 3:18).

It is truly amazing what God can do with the life surrendered to Him!

We are Changed as We Behold the Glory of the Lord.



JUNIOR QUESTIONS

1. What did Joseph watch closely when his brothers came to buy food in Egypt?
2. Which brother of Joseph had changed the most?
3. What is the first thing a person must do in order to become like Jesus Christ?
4. How does the believer become more and more like Christ?

Intermediate Research Questions

1. How does God use life experiences to change us?
2. Does God have plans for us after this life?
3. Is this life a preparation for the next life?

Advanced Research Questions

1. Compare the spiritual maturity of young people in the Bible with their adult peers.