



WORKBOOK INTRODUCTION

January, 2011

Dear Young Person,

Greetings in the Amazing Hope we share! By now, we hope you've completed Part 1 of the study, or have at least gotten into the amazing story of Joseph! God willing, this second part of the workbook will build on the details and lessons we've gained from looking at the story already in a general way. We will dig deeper into the story now... but don't let this scare you! We may say we're dealing with the “story” of Joseph, but remember it's actually an “account” of his life, and we should be able to identify with Joseph and others in his life. They went through the same difficulties we go through, had to grow in the same way we have to grow, and many overcame in the same way we hope to overcome by the grace of God!

Because the “account” of Joseph's life is so practical, we have chosen not to divide Part 2 “Research Questions” into the same six sections as we divided Part 1 into (those six divisions will be of use during the discussion groups during the Youth Conference, God willing). Instead, we've chosen to divide this part of the workbook up in a more practical way. ☺ There will be three sections: **1. ACKNOWLEDGE** **2. CHOOSE** **3. TRY**

As you may have noticed, if you combine the first letter of each of the words, it spells “ACT!” Joseph's example teaches us that we must ACT, that we must be “doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22). We can see from so many signs in the world that Jesus is coming back very soon (perhaps even before Youth Conference comes!) and there is such a need for us to ACT – and not make excuses! As you progress through each section, we will explain why each word has been chosen.

Here's a few general guidelines we have for you with regards to Part 2:

1. **Please complete Part 1** to the best of your ability before starting Part 2 (you will need the background knowledge from Part 1 to use and build on in this section)
2. **Be sure to work in a group**, if this is possible, to share and discuss ideas!
3. **Don't be scared by the apparent length of some of the questions** – often, a lot of typing is needed to steer you in the right direction, so the point we are trying to make gets across.
4. **You are able to choose** some questions out of each of the sections (although we won't be upset if you do them all!) ☺ We hope this makes the study more enjoyable and beneficial.
5. **Because you can choose, be sure to share** (now and up at YC) your ideas and discoveries from this section!
6. **Answer questions on separate pieces of paper.** There is basically no space for your answers.
7. **Try to get your hands on “Teenagers of the Bible” and read it!** (pg 8-98) It's an easy read and we guarantee you won't regret it!
8. **Be sure to pray for God's guidance** as you study His word and as you seek to live the lessons and principles you discover!

We would like to thank everyone who helped us – in so many different ways – put this workbook together. Most importantly, we thank our Heavenly Father for recording the life of Joseph in His Word, to allow us to learn from our Brother's wonderful example. Please feel free to contact either of us, if you have any comments, questions or difficulties...or to share some points with us! We look forward to sharing ideas with you during the week of the Youth Conference, God willing. May God bless and guide each one of us as we endeavour to learn and live these wonderful lessons of perseverance, faith, forgiveness and love. As we all grow in the Truth, may our goal be to “seek our brethren” in these last days, so that when the Lord Jesus Christ returns, we will be waiting and hoping for his appearing!

Love in Christ Jesus,

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www.bcyouthconference.com
Jul. 16-23, 2011 (God willing)



PART TWO: Research Questions

ACKNOWLEDGE

"God meant it unto good" (Genesis 50:20)

Our first action word is **ACKNOWLEDGE**. When we look at Joseph's life and the lives of those around him, we can see that **self-acknowledgement** was a vital factor in their spiritual development. When they acknowledged their weaknesses and sins, and sought to change, then God was able to work with them and develop in them godly characteristics. This section **ACKNOWLEDGE** involves the **character development** of Jacob, Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Joseph's brothers and Joseph. Character development occurred at different times, stages and rates for each of the people we will look at in this section.

Four very important lessons we learn from the examples in this section are:

1. God can and wants to develop our character
2. We are never too young or too old to grow and develop spiritually
3. Our example can have a huge impact on the spiritual development of others
4. God doesn't give up on people, so we can't either! (if you think somebody has gone too far or sunk too low to turn back to God, then just think of Joseph's brethren...how low they sank and how long it took for them to turn back to God!)

In our lives in the Truth, in order for us to grow and become more like the Lord Jesus Christ (as the people we'll consider in this section did), we must **acknowledge**:

- where we have come from (spiritually speaking)
- how useless the things of the world are
- what our character is
- our sins and failures
- in what ways God wants us to change
- the power of God and His Word to transform our minds and lives
- that being part of God's family (the ecclesia) is the best way for us to truly develop spiritually



When we **acknowledge** these things, our attitude and our perspective are dramatically impacted as we live each day. If we develop a faithful perspective like Jacob, Joseph and his brethren, then we will realize that no matter what good or bad happens to us, God is in control. He can change us, He wants to change us and if we **acknowledge** this, He will "create in us a clean heart" (Psalms 51:10) and make "all things work together for our good" (Romans 8:28) so that we might praise and honour Him, and share in His glorious Kingdom with these faithful examples.

"God is not willing that any be lost, and He will go to incredible lengths of time and circumstance to draw people back to Him. This is called the 'overall picture.' We only see the small part of His omniscient view of things – the part that has to do with our situation, and it is only by studying the lives of faithful men and women that we can really understand His wonderful ways"

- *Teenagers of the Bible* (pg 25)

Please choose 4 of the 7 research questions in this section to do



Question # 1- JACOB

When we look at the development of Jacob's character, we will quickly see a tremendous lesson of the **dramatic spiritual impact that we (especially young people!) can have on others in the Ecclesia.**

1. Jacob's name was changed to "Israel" in **Genesis 32:24-32**.
 - a) Make a list of the details of the events that happen in this section of verses.
 - b) How do we know that Jacob wrestled with an angel? What was the outcome?
 - c) What are the meanings of both names?
 - d) Why did God change his name?

2. God gives Jacob a "wakeup call" in **Genesis 35:1-15**
 - a) Jacob is told to build an altar for God. Building altars and sacrificing to God has to do with dedication to God, as well as preaching to those around (it was something others could see!) Find 3 occurrences of Abraham building altars in Gen 12 and 13.
 - b) What does Jacob tell his family in v.2-3? What does this tell us?
 - c) Since his name was changed to "Israel" in Gen 32, Jacob has not been called "Israel" up to this point. What does God say to him in 35:9-12? Why is this a wakeup call for Jacob?
 - d) In v. 21, 22 we have "Israel" twice, but in v. 22-29 we have "Jacob." What does this tell us?

3. Joseph comes on the scene in **Genesis 37**.
 - a) Jacob is called "Israel" twice in this chapter. Find these 2 places and show why he is called "Israel" in these places.
 - b) We see that when Jacob is called Israel, he is seeing things through eyes of faith and often demonstrating divine will (as in 43:11-13). Also, when Jacob is mentioned in context with Joseph, he is often referred to as "Israel." Show how this is true for:
 - 43:8 45:28 46:29, 30 48:11-14
 - c) Jacob took a long time to learn to live up to the name God had given him! We have a name to live up to - what name is that? How do we live up to our name?
 - d) What does young Joseph's spiritual impact on Jacob teach us?

"When teenagers respond to the call of the Truth, what a reaction it has in the ecclesia! The spiritual pulse beings to quicken; there is a stirring amongst the members. They all join in transformation."

- Teenagers of the Bible (pg 95)

4. **Gen 37:11** tells us that Jacob "observed the saying" (regarding Joseph's dreams).
 - a) Look up the word "observed" (Strong's). What does this suggest about how Jacob viewed Joseph's dreams?
 - b) Each of the following 4 passages have the same word in them, which is translated "observed" here in Genesis. Look up the passages and describe of whom and what each passage is speaking of.
 - **Ex 20:19** – "Keep"
 - **Isa 62:6** – "Watchmen"
 - **Psa 103:17-18** – "to such as keep"
 - **Luke 2:51** – "kept"
 - c) Using these verses as a guide, what does Gen 37:11 tell us about Jacob's thought process, and what lessons are there in this for us to consider?
 - d) **Mary**, the mother of Jesus, went through a very similar process. There are 3 different ways in which Mary's thought process is described in **Luke 1 & 2** (1:29 "cast in her mind," 2:19 "pondered them in her heart," 2:51 "kept these sayings"). Look up each word used to describe how Mary reacted to the information that was given to her (each word has a



different meaning, and sheds light on how intent Mary was on listening and understanding what God was saying to her)

- e) **“Listening attentively”** is a dying art. Consider others who attentively listened and come up with at least 3 additional examples. For starters look at **Mark 12:41-42** (hint: the money was deposited in great copper drums, shaped like a funnel. When you threw money into it, it rolled around with an enormous clatter for all to admire and see! What did Jesus hear?)
5. There **is little mention of God** by Jacob or his sons during the time that Joseph is in Egypt.
- a) In **Gen 42:36**, Jacob says “all these things are against me.” He didn’t ACKNOWLEDGE the reason for these things happening to him. What was the reason? How can we sometimes be like Jacob in responding to events in our lives?
- b) In **Gen 43:13-14**, Jacob seems to be re-energized in spiritual things and declares “God Almighty give you mercy before the man.” What has caused Jacob to be re-energized spiritually? (v. 3-9)
- c) Remembering he is re-energized at this point, **Gen 43:13** is a huge display of self-sacrifice on Jacob’s part. Why?

“During the long period of Joseph’s captivity in Egypt, Jacob had mourned, as only a father can, for the loss of a son who was a ray of sunshine in the Truth amidst the darkness of an evil world and the disappointment of unheeding members of his own family...which of the brethren would respond to the anguish of their father? To our surprise it is Judah...with these words from the lips of Judah, there is a dramatic effect on his father Jacob. Jacob could see that his son was maturing in spiritual things, and that his hard heart had been touched by the things he had suffered. And that is an effect that can still be seen today in the lives of those who allow the Word of God to direct their thinking.”

- **Teenagers of the Bible (pg 63-65)**

6. Take a look at **Gen 45:25-28**. Jacob thinks his sons have told him the biggest lie of their lives in v. 26 when they return from Egypt and tell him that Joseph is alive! But something changes his mind - what is it that actually convinces him that Joseph is alive? (read carefully...is it what he sees or what he hears?) What can we learn from this about influencing others by the example we show?

“...from this point onward in the narrative, an entirely new spirit sweeps through the record, evidencing the dramatic change that has taken place in Jacob. There is an important lesson here for young people. Their attitudes and frame of mind have a great bearing on the atmosphere of ecclesias...when the young people are active and joyous in the work, a remarkable change can come over a meeting.”

- **Teenagers of the Bible (pg 94-95)**

7. Have a look at Jacob’s blessing of Joseph’s sons in **Gen 48**.
- a) Jacob is called “Jacob” 2 times and “Israel” 9 times in this chapter. Why?
- b) Read v. 5. Joseph’s sons are counted as Jacob’s sons and given inheritance. Who do they replace? Why? (Numbers 1:10, 47-49)
- c) What’s amazing about v.11?
- d) Read v. 8-20. What is unusual about this blessing?
- e) Jacob is mentioned in the “Faith Chapter” (Heb 11:21). Of all the events in Jacob’s life, this blessing is mentioned as the pinnacle of his faith. Why?
8. Take a look at Jacob’s blessing of his sons in **Genesis 49**. Take special note of v. 18. It is between the blessings of Dan and Gad.
- a) Is it spoken directly to any of his sons?
- b) What does it reveal about Jacob’s level of spirituality at the end of his life? Why is this verse so remarkable?



Question # 2 - REUBEN

This question has to do with **going against the flow**. Reuben was the oldest of Jacob's 12 sons, born to Leah (Gen 29:31-32). But as we've seen, he was not respected as or given the privileges of the eldest brother. He was a very weak and unstable man (Gen 49:3-4) who learned lessons very slowly. Take a look back at page 8 (Part 1) and go over your answers for the question about Reuben.

In **Gen 37:21-29** we saw Reuben had to speak up against his brothers and stand alone when he tried to deliver Joseph out of their hands. Reuben pleaded for mercy (for Joseph), because Reuben acknowledged Joseph's innocence and his own standing with his father. Reuben was living with a conscience of personal failure and he did not want to disappoint his father again (think back to what he had done in Gen 35:22). But, unfortunately he was not strong enough to persuade his brothers from their evil plot. Reuben wanted to deliver Joseph and bring him back to Jacob their father, but did not ACT quickly enough. When he returned to the pit to deliver Joseph, Joseph was gone!

1. Give **background** to Reuben's character:
 - a) What privileges and responsibilities did a firstborn child have? (for starters, Gen 27:26-29, 32-40)
 - b) What was the "birthright"?
 - c) Reuben did not receive the birthright. Who did it go to? Why? (1 Chron 5:1)
 - d) Who else in Genesis received the birthright, even though they weren't the firstborn?
 - e) List everything you know so far about Reuben, considering his age, status, family situation, Ecclesial situation, etc. (provide references wherever possible)

2. Think about what happened in **Gen 37:21-29** again.
 - a) "Not being part of the solution means you're part of the problem." Do you think this was true in Reuben's case?
 - b) We saw from Part 1 that Reuben, in this situation, reminds us of Pilate. Pilate acknowledged Christ's innocence, but was not strong enough to deliver him from the Jews. In what way can we be like Pilate and Reuben?
 - c) What does this situation teach us about standing up for what is right and taking action? (both in the world and even among our brethren)
 - d) What are some situations that require us to speak up and take action?

3. Now consider what happens in **Gen 37:29-35**.
 - a) Do you think the brothers ever told Reuben what they had done with Joseph? (consider 42:22 also – what did Reuben think had happened to Joseph?)
 - b) Why would they not tell Reuben?
 - c) If this is the case, do you think Reuben was genuinely lamenting for Joseph with his father?
 - d) In different situations at work or school or even in the ecclesia, people may know us as "goody two shoes." What lessons can we learn from Reuben's example?

4. We are not told much more about Reuben, besides **Gen 42:37-38**.
 - a) Compare what Reuben offered as surety for Benjamin as opposed to what Judah offered (42:8-9).
 - b) Jacob says, "My son won't go with YOU." Why did Jacob not trust Reuben, but trust Judah?
 - c) Reuben and Judah both fell into the darkness of sin, but had rebounded and were growing spiritually. Who was more loving and spiritually mature at this point? Why?
 - d) What does this tell us about Reuben?
 - e) What can we learn?

5. What further insight into Reuben's character are we given from his blessing in **Gen 49:3-4**?

6. What is the **most important lesson** you think we can learn from Reuben?



Question # 3 - SIMEON

In this question, we're going to take a look at **dealing with anger and cruelty** and **punishment**. We aren't told a lot about Simeon, but we are told enough to realize what sort of man he was and to take lessons from this. We do know that he was the second oldest son of Jacob, born to Leah (Gen 29:33). He didn't receive the blessing after Reuben, because he also proved himself unworthy (the blessing went to Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim)

1. Let's start off with **some things we know** about Simeon:
 - a) What do we know Simeon had done in his life? (Gen 34:25-31)
 - b) How would you describe his character?
 - c) Why didn't he receive the blessing?
 - d) Can you find any other passages in Genesis where Simeon is mentioned? What are we being told?

2. In **Gen 42:24**, we see Simeon was the one brother that Joseph kept in prison in Egypt, while the other brothers went back for Benjamin.
 - a) Why was Simeon kept?
 - What was Joseph's real reason for keeping one of his brothers in Egypt?
 - How did keeping Simeon help in that purpose?
 - b) Why didn't Joseph keep Reuben the oldest?
 - c) Why didn't Joseph keep Judah the leader?
 - d) What does this teach us about how God deals with us? (ie. "punishment")
 - e) While in prison, do you think Simeon ACKNOWLEDGED why he was there?

3. **Simeon and Levi** are mentioned together a lot (Gen 34:25, 30)
 - a) Although they were not the leaders, they probably aided Judah (their younger brother!) in his cruel plots. What does this teach us?
 - b) Being around people that think the same way as us will cause us to do the things we'd probably do anyway! How is this true in their case?
 - c) What's the lesson for us?

4. Take a look at Jacob's "blessing" of Simeon and Levi in **Gen 49:5-7**.
 - a) Why does Jacob "bless" them together?
 - b) What do these verses reveal to us about Simeon's character?
 - c) What other verses in the Bible talk of how God views anger and cruelty?
 - d) What are some practical ways for us to control our anger?

5. What is the **most important lesson** you think we can learn from Simeon?



Question # 4 - JUDAH

This question has to do with **leadership** and **repentance**. Judah was the fourth oldest son of Jacob, born to Leah, after Reuben, Simeon and Levi (Gen 29:35). He didn't receive the blessing either, however the lineage of Christ came through Judah, and we'll soon see why.

1. First, start at **Gen 37**.
 - a) What indications in this chapter are we given that Judah has become the leader of the brothers?
 - b) Who do you think came up with the plot to stain Joseph's coat with blood, in order to deceive their father?
 - c) Is Judah a positive or negative influence on his brothers?
 - d) What is his attitude toward his father in this chapter?
 - e) How would you describe his character at this point in the story?

2. Now, let's look at **Gen 38**!
 - a) Judah went down from his brethren. What does this one word tell us?
 - b) Who did Judah become friends with? Was his "friend" a good influence? (v. 12, 20)
 - c) Read v. 12 –26. What sin did Judah commit?
 - d) What lessons do you think he learned from this?
 - e) Is this chapter in chronological order? Why is it right in the middle of the story of Joseph?
 - Contrast this story to Joseph's example in 39:7-12.
 - f) Why did God allow this story to be in the Bible?
 - g) V. 26 – Did Judah learn his lesson? What does this teach us? (consider John 8:11)
 - h) Look at v. 27-30. Where else does a scarlet cord come up in the Bible? Can you figure out how the two events are connected?

"Judah is shown to be a mindless, insensitive man, lumbering through life with his chief concern of having a good time. Unbeknown to him, God's ministering angels were nearby, watching all and recording all. Judah might have been appalled to realise that his escapades would be exposed through the Inspired record for all generations to see. The reason why God has preserved this story is to warn those who are following the same course of self-destruction. It is a reminder of the consequences of our actions, for flesh has not changed, and we are subject to the same propensities...leaving us with strong warnings about the frailty of human nature"

- Teenagers of the Bible (pg 32)

3. If we have a look at **Gen 44:8-10**, we see Judah is well on the road to spiritual growth at this point.
 - a) Pick out some words that indicate to us that Judah has grown spiritually.
 - b) Why has he changed? What lesson does this provide us?
 - c) Jacob said he would not send Benjamin down to Egypt with his brothers – that was final! (42:38). Why does he take that back now and why does he trust Judah?

4. Now, take a look at **Gen 44:14-17**.
 - a) What is the situation? Why does Judah take charge in this incident?
 - b) V. 16 is an amazing confession and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT by Judah on behalf of all the brothers. What does he confess?
 - c) Why is it amazing, that out of all the brothers, Judah is the one to acknowledge this?
 - d) Is he a positive influence/example to his brothers now? Why?



5. Consider Judah's speech in **Gen 44:18-34**.
- What is so memorable about his speech?
 - Count up the number of times "father" appears in the speech, and then "brother" or "lad." What does this teach us?
 - How would you describe his character now?
 - What has brought about this change?
 - Gen 44:34 "...lest I see the evil that shall come upon my father." Here is the final stage of true repentance and mature love. What do we learn from Judah's attitude here about how our attitude should be towards sin?

"Judah is not pleading on the basis of a protestation of their innocence, but on the devastating effect their conviction would have on the one who was now so dear to them all. He spoke eloquently of his father, an old man and Benjamin, the little one, the son of his old age. Never before had he thought so dearly about his father and family."

- *Teenagers of the Bible* (pg 82)

6. Judah's blessing is recorded in **Gen 49:8-12**.
- What does this blessing tell us about how Jacob feels and how God feels about Judah now?
 - Who or what is "Shiloh"? Where else is Shiloh mentioned in the Bible?
 - What amazing promise is in this passage?
 - What lessons does Judah's remarkable change teach us:
 - About God?
 - About ourselves?
 - About the influence we can have on others?
7. Judah made an **extraordinary turnaround** and, above the others in this story, changed his heart to be in tune with God.
- When did God openly establish that Christ was to come through Judah's lineage? (reference)
 - Although God knows the end from the beginning, we do not. In your opinion, was this event of Judah's repentance the key to Judah being named heir to kingship? Explain and find precedence for your answer (think of one of Judah's brothers).

"Judah is the man who represents the greatest conversion from the depths of sin to manifestation of spirituality. He is the man who proves that 'with God nothing is impossible' ...Judah chose a careless and selfish course of action, leaving a trail of confusion behind him, and yet many years later, under the influence of Joseph, he became a humble and godly man. This teaches us that nobody is beyond the merciful arm of God, providing they are prepared to repent and seek a new way of life."

- *Teenagers of the Bible* (pg 32, 97)



Question # 5 - JOSEPH'S BROTHERS

Joseph's brothers went through a huge change in their characters – both individually and together. As you go through this question, you will see Joseph had a huge part in organizing circumstances so that he could test his brothers and lead them along the long road of repentance (just as God will do for us!) Joseph's brothers had to learn vital lessons about **loving God**, **caring for their father and families**, and **forgetting about material things**. We must also learn these lessons – we may accept and practice them, or we may learn them the hard way, as Joseph's brothers did.

"If we were to draw a line here at Gen 37:36, and ask ourselves who was worthy of salvation and who was not, we would soundly condemn Joseph's brethren, determining they should be suitably punished...but the wonder of Yahweh is that he through His divine grace and mercy He redeems men like Joseph's brethren. Yahweh uses men like Joseph as a vehicle for turning others towards the Truth."

- Teenagers of the Bible (pg 31)

1. Developing a love for God displayed by love and compassion for others

- a) Trace this list of verses through, making note of what each verse shows us about Joseph's brothers regarding their love and care for their father, children and each other (be sure to note the positive progression).
- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gen 37:4, 5 ➤ 37:18 ➤ 37:23-25 and 42:21 ➤ 37:28 (how much silver each?) ➤ 37:32 (<u>sent</u> the coat to Jacob) ➤ 37:33-34 (not <u>one</u> of them said something?) ➤ 37:35 ➤ 42:1 ➤ 42:3 (why aren't they called "Jacob's sons"?) ➤ 42:11 (this is the first of many confessions) ➤ 42:13 (why mention Joseph and Benjamin?) ➤ 42:26 (leaving Egypt without Simeon) ➤ 42:27, 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 42:29 ➤ 43:3-5 ➤ 43:8, 9 ➤ 43:15 ➤ 43:23 ➤ 43:34 ➤ Gen 44:2 (final test!) ➤ Gen 44:9 ➤ 44:10, 13 ➤ 44:16, 17 ➤ 44:33,34 ➤ 46:5 |
|---|---|
- b) What does their development in these things teach us? How long did this "process" take?
- c) Find some other verses that speak of loving God and displaying this love by how we treat those around us.
- d) This development has to do with taking responsibility. In what ways today do we have to learn to take responsibility?

2. Getting rid of their greed and materialism

- a) Trace this list of verses through, making note of what each verse shows us about Joseph's brothers regarding their **greed**, their love for **silver** and their **attitude** towards material things (note, again, the positive progression). We'll see by the end of these events that Joseph's brothers hated the sight of silver!
- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 37:13 (feed themselves, not the flock!) ➤ 37: 28 (how much silver each?) ➤ 42:2 (why did they fear <u>Egypt</u>?) ➤ 42:27, 28 ➤ 42:35 ➤ 43:11 (tiny gift for a <u>king</u>!) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 43:15 ➤ 43:18 -22 ➤ 44:2 (final test!) ➤ 44:8 ➤ 44:11, 12 ➤ 45:22 |
|---|--|
- b) What other verses in the Bible talk about the love of money (and the evil this causes)?



- c) It has been said that Christadelphians today face 2 major problems: unfinished preaching work and materialism. Does materialism affect you? Why or why not?
 - d) What are some practical ways for us to overcome materialism?
3. **Bonus:** On this long road to repentance, there were some “strange” events that Joseph's brothers encountered. Why was each of the events in the following list very “strange” to the brothers? (Is there a lesson for us?)
- 43:17; 43:23; 43:27; 43:29; 43:33; 44:17

“...(Joseph's brethren) had come to understand that the most important things in life revolved around the welfare of their brethren, their families and their father...As we grow and mature in the Truth we become aware that the world does not revolve around us and our desires. There must be compassionate concern for others who are sometimes greatly dependent on us for sustenance, guidance and protection.”

- **Teenagers of the Bible (pg 76, 96)**



Question # 6 - JOSEPH

Joseph was the 11th of Jacob's 12 sons, born to Rachel (30:22-24). His two sons (Manasseh and Ephraim) received the blessing from Jacob (Gen 48), because all the other brothers proved themselves unworthy. In the next section TRY, we're going to consider part of Jacob's blessing to Joseph (question #1), as well as many different aspects of Joseph's life and character (questions #2-9). Right now, we're going to look at the central theme of Joseph's life **“I seek his brethren.”** In this, we see how Joseph ACKNOWLEDGED what God had given him, how he CHOSE to dedicate his life to the things of God, and then how he TRIED to **“seek his brethren”** in a self-sacrificing and humble way. He took responsibility for himself – then went after his brothers. **“I seek my brethren”** - above all in Ecclesial life, this is what God calls us to do. Joseph's life revolved solely on this fact. So must ours.

1. Although the phrase **“I seek my brethren”** only occurs once in the story, this idea comes up throughout the story.
 - a) Find as many examples in Joseph's life where he sought the welfare of others ahead of his own (remember Christ's response in Luke 10:29 to being asked, “Who then is my neighbour?”)
 - b) Joseph looked out for all aspects of his brethren's welfare, and we are exhorted to do the same. Find at least 5 ways we are to care for each other in the ecclesia. Think physically, emotionally and spiritually.

2. Find passages that speak of one **“seeking”** someone out. Look at parables, visions, and real life events. Come up with a minimum of 7 examples. How do these examples add to Joseph's “seeking” of his brethren?

3. In **Genesis 42**, Joseph, as governor of Egypt, sent his brothers away the first time they came to buy corn.
 - a) Why did he do this?
 - b) What was he looking for in them?
 - c) What was he looking for when he imprisoned all 10 of them and asked 1 of them to go back to their father to get Benjamin?
 - d) When he kept Simeon in prison, what was he looking to learn about them here?

4. Turn to **Genesis 50:14-21**.
 - a) What was the concern of Joseph's brethren?
 - b) How did Joseph react to their words and why?
 - c) Turn to the following passages and discuss what they state about forgiveness.
 - Matthew 18:21-22
 - Matthew 5:23-24 (be careful when reading this one, who was wronged here?)
 - d) Practically, how can we become more forgiving like Joseph? (remember ACKNOLWEDGE)

5. **Joseph changed and matured spiritually as he grew from a boy into a man.** His circumstances refined him into the great man of faith we have witnessed. We often get the impression that the same faith Joseph had at 17 is the same he had at 30 – this is not necessarily the case. One area in which he noticeably changed was in his attentiveness to listen and understand what his brothers really needed (Joseph was not wrong in how he dealt with his brothers at 17, but he definitely changed his approach when he was older)
 - a) What differences in Joseph's dealings with his brethren can you see from 17 as opposed to 30?
 - b) If you can find differences, what does that teach us as young people?
 - c) Compare this now to David's life:
 - How did David start out? How did he finish up?
 - Was he stronger or weaker spiritually at the end of his life?
 - If stronger, how?



Question # 7 – JOSEPH, A TYPE OF CHRIST

Joseph is an excellent example for us to learn from and follow. **The Lord Jesus Christ is, of course, the perfect example for us to follow**; but the details of Joseph's life can help us better understand the life of Jesus. Joseph was just a “shadow” or “type” of Jesus and the amazing things Jesus did in order to “seek his brethren.” In Part 1, at different points, we considered some of the ways that Joseph was a type of Jesus. Now, we're going to get serious! ☺

Find 30 types or comparisons relating Joseph's life to Jesus' life (don't just think of Joseph...think of Judah, Pharaoh, Potiphar, Jacob, Simeon, Benjamin, etc.) We realize that the first 10 or 15 types may be fairly easy for you to get, but make sure you do your best to get 30 – the last 20 or so may really require you to think hard! A good way to set up your page might be like this:

	The life of Joseph	Reference	The life of Jesus	Reference
1				
2				
...30				

This is a great discussion question...we encourage you to trade answers!

“There may be (young people) today who endeavour to walk in the steps of Joseph and after the greater example of our Lord Jesus Christ. These young people may be called upon to love their brethren as Joseph did, and to show faithful obedience towards God, after the fashion of Joseph and the Lord Jesus Christ. There are still people as hard-hearted and spiteful as Joseph's brethren...sometimes such people are drawn to the Truth by examples in their own age group which illustrate and manifest some of Joseph's maturity of sacrificial love.” - **Teenagers of the Bible (pg 27)**



CHOOSE

“Joseph went after his brethren” (Genesis 37:17)

Our second action word is **CHOOSE**. After acknowledging their need for change and the power of God to change them, the examples we looked at in the first section had to **choose** the path they wanted to take. As character development was very different and unique to the individuals, so this process of **decision-making** is just as varied.

Jacob **chose** to follow the “God of his fathers” but struggled daily to place his total dependence on God. Joseph’s brothers **chose** to ignore God’s ways and go their own way for so many years, which disappointed and hurt their father Jacob. Joseph **chose** from a young age to serve God and love His ways (just as the Lord Jesus Christ did!) – and ignore the things of the world, the things his brothers were pursuing. Eventually, through God’s providence and the power of Joseph’s amazing example of love and self-sacrifice, Joseph’s brethren came to acknowledge their responsibility to God and to each other. And finally they **chose** to “seek their brethren” as Joseph had. Joseph could only “go after his brethren” because he had decided to first take responsibility for his own spiritual development and actions. Serving God and putting the world aside was a clear **choice** for Joseph, and he strived to help his brothers see this.

In Deuteronomy 30:19, Moses set before the children of Israel a **choice**:

BLESSING & LIFE

or

CURSING & DEATH



Moses counselled them to “**choose life**.” It was clear to Moses, just as it was clear to Joseph. How clear is this decision to us?

Whether we’ve just started studying the Bible or whether we’ve studied it for years, we all acknowledge our own sinfulness and weaknesses, and the need for God in our lives. Now, we must also **choose** who we want to serve:

- Do we want to be like Joseph’s brothers (at the beginning of the story) and forget about God and others, serve ourselves and end up on the path to death?
- Or, do we want to be like Joseph and serve God, ignore the distractions of the world, seek to help others, and end up on the path to life?

This section **CHOOSE** involves the **decisions** we have to make in the Truth. When we acknowledge our sinfulness and need for God’s mercy, and **choose** to be baptized in Jesus Christ, we become a part of the Ecclesia of God. This section also involves things related to **Ecclesial life**.

“Throughout this traumatic period in a strange city (Egypt), Joseph hung on to his understanding of the Truth. It was all he had in the world. It may be that God will lead us into trials for the same reason...to learn that the Truth is all that matters in a world of mirages and false values”

- Teenagers of the Bible (pg 36)

Please choose ☺ 4 of the 7 research questions in this section to do



Question # 1 - CHOICES WE MUST MAKE IN ECCLESIAL LIFE...

The theme of **Shechem** is one of the most intriguing and exciting parallels in the story of Joseph. From this theme comes the foundation point of the entire story "I seek my brethren".

1. As you might have already found, the root word for **Shechem** means "the neck (between the shoulders) as the place of burdens" or figuratively, "the spur of a hill". What is your initial thought as to the meaning of this in the story of Joseph?
2. Look up **Shechem on a map**.
 - a) Where is it?
 - b) What surrounded it on both sides?
3. Shechem was known significantly in Scripture for a number of **key events** taking place there. Look at the following verses and explain what is happening in each passage (Shechem is not mentioned, but we know Joshua and Moses stood in Shechem with Israel around them at these times). Make a list of the **key themes** that emerge from these passages:
 - a) Deut 11:29 – 32
 - b) Josh 8:33-39
4. **Joseph** was buried in Shechem.
 - a) Find the passage that shows us this.
 - b) Jacob was buried in the cave of Machpelah, in Hebron (Gen 50:13). Why wasn't Joseph buried with his father here?
 - c) Detail the events that were involved in Joseph's burial (think who, what, when, why, how...)
 - d) What does this tell us about the significance of Shechem to Joseph and to those after him?
5. Turn to **John 4:1-42** and read this passage at least 2 times. How do we know this is Shechem?
6. Read **John 4:1-4** again and turn to a **map of Israel**.
 - a) Where had Jesus been and where was he going?
 - b) What then is strange about verse 4? (think of the topography of the land...taking the same journey, how would you get to where you were going?)
 - c) What then does this tell us about why Jesus came here? Was meeting the woman a chance encounter?
 - d) How does Christ's attitude about this woman shed light on Joseph's character?
7. As one of the theme of Shechem is to CHOOSE, another important theme is "**mercy and truth.**" Look at the following verses and discuss how each deal with the seeking of truth and once truth was revealed, how mercy played a part.
 - a) John 4:16-24
 - b) Deut 27:9-13; 30:15- 20 (end of Moses' address)
 - c) Gen 37:12-18
 - d) Josh 21:21
 - e) Psalm 108
8. CHOOSING God's way means **servng Him correctly** – in spirit (sincerity) and in truth (John 4:24). List ways we can practically involve these 2 aspects in our service and worship:
 - a) in our ecclesias
 - b) in our personal lives



Question # 2 - PREPARATION FOR ECCLESIAL LIFE

Acknowledging our need for God's mercy and choosing to be baptized, comes at different stages for everyone. But, no matter what age this happens, we need time to **prepare** (whether this means learning the first principles of God's Word or just simply maturing naturally/spiritually). We also need time to **prepare** for different activities in the Truth – going to Youth Conference, going to another country to do mission work, organizing a study day or CYC activity, teaching Sunday School, giving exhortations and talks (for the brothers), etc. We're often required to do things sporadically (like personal preaching or helping someone in need), but never forget the importance of **preparation**.

1. **Joseph** was 17 years old (Gen 37:2) when he was sold as a slave into Egypt and he was 30 years old (Gen 41:46) when he interpreted Pharaoh's dreams and became governor over all of Egypt. It's evident he had a lot of time to prepare before he become second in command over Egypt.
 - a) How do you think Jacob prepared Joseph in his early years? (ie. what did he teach Joseph?)
 - b) In the 13 years before he became governor in Egypt, what situations/trials did Joseph face? (use what we're told in Scripture and your imagination)
 - c) How did these situations help prepare him for his role as governor?

2. There are at least three other times in the Bible where the **age 30** comes up.
 - a) Find these references and who they are talking about.
 - b) What do these occurrences teach us about preparation?

3. **Christ was 30** when his ministry began.
 - a) How do you think Mary and Joseph prepared Christ when he was young?
 - b) How do you think Christ prepared for his ministry during his teens/twenties? (think about Luke 2:42-47)
 - c) What was Christ's mission that he was preparing for?
 - d) How was Joseph's mission similar to Christ's?
 - e) Is our "mission" similar to Christ's? Explain.

4. What are some practical ways that we can prepare for **Ecclesial activities** today?

5. Preparation often involves **making the right CHOICES**.
 - a) In small things and big things, how is this the case?
 - b) What role does prayer play? (try to find some references)

6. We have a '**time of plenty**' now – a wonderful chance to open and read God's Word, without fear of much persecution. As we've seen, times of plenty should be used to store up for times when we only have the basic necessities of life. What does this have to do with preparation?

7. Ultimately, we want to prepare, so that **when Christ returns**, we can be **rulers with him**.
 - a) Where does it say that we will reign with Christ in the kingdom if we prepare now?
 - b) How must we prepare and ACT now, if we want to reign with Christ?



Question # 3 - CHANGE YOUR WAYS...AND YOUR CLOTHES?

The act of **renting (or tearing) one's clothes** is similar to the act of **baptism**. In the Bible, the clothes (garments) represent the old way of life, which must be torn or 'put off' and replaced with new, clean garments, or a new way of life. In Ephesians 4:22-24, Paul tells us to 'put off' our old way of life and 'put on' the new man.

1. There are 3 occurrences of **clothes being rent** in the story of Joseph.
 - a) Find these 3 occurrences and state who was involved.
 - b) In each case, what did they do after they had rent their clothes? Did the renting of the clothes represent a true change?
 - c) What does this teach us about how the act of baptism must be done?

2. Keeping the **spiritual significance** of garments in mind...
 - a) Look at Gen 45:22 – What could this be telling us about the brethren at this point?
 - b) Look at Gen 49:11- Why could this verse be describing Judah's "baptism"?
 - c) Find some verses in the NT that talk of 'putting off' the old man and 'putting on' the new man in baptism.

3. There is tremendous significance in the **coat that Joseph wore**, both physical and more importantly spiritual. Let's take a look at the deeper aspects of this theme.
 - a) Look up and describe what this coat was like:
 - Coat (Strong's)
 - Colours (Strong's)
 - b) Going through the story of Joseph, find as many occurrences as possible where Joseph "wore" that robe (spiritually speaking) so that those around him could see it.

4. Look up the following passages using the same word for "**coat**"
 - a) What does the "coat" represent to each of person in these passages?
 - Exodus 28:4 "garments"
 - 2 Samuel 13:18 "garment"
 - Isaiah 22:21 "robe"
 - b) Using these 3 passages, describe what this coat symbolized in relation to Joseph and his character. What does it tell us about Joseph, and how his father viewed him?

5. Think about how this relates to us as young people? Whatever the coat was made of, it was no doubt a **visible reminder** of his status before God and men.
 - a) Do we wear a "coat" in any way?
 - b) Find at least 3 passages that describe either:
 - how we "wear" a spiritual garment
 - how our actions appear as a garment to those around us.

6. Look at **Genesis 39:12**. In relation to Joseph's spiritual garments, what is ironic about this situation? In what way must we act the same? Find some verses that appropriately describe how we are to act in temptation such as this.

7. **Clothing** is a hot topic for young people today. We have to CHOOSE every day what we wear to school, work and the Ecclesia. When our elders speak about "modesty" we often get our backs up because we often believe their view of modesty is outdated. Come up with some reasonable guidelines for young people to live by when it comes to dress and appearance.
 - Warning: Do **NOT** fall into the trap so often used "We are free to do as our conscience dictates. If others don't like it, too bad." Think first of others, then ourselves. Scriptural proof and precedence is a must in this question. No "I feel this" or "In my opinion". Let your mind be led by spirit, not the flesh and be truly honest with yourself.



Question # 4 - THE BREAD AND WINE

In our consideration of the dreams of the butler and baker, the idea of **self-examination** (in the bread and the wine) enters the picture.

1. The dreams of the butler and the baker are of course linked to the memorials. Find as many occurrences where **bread and wine** are used in the Bible, other than in the last supper.
2. Think of the **baker's dream**.
 - a) What did the baker's dream signify? (what happened to the baker?)
 - b) What does the bread represent in the sacrifice of Christ?
3. Now, think of the **butler's dream**.
 - a) What did the Butlers dream signify? (what happened to the butler?)
 - b) What does the wine signify to us relating to the sacrifice of Christ?
 - c) In the Butler's dream, there were 3 stages to the growth of the grapes (we looked at this in Part 1). Recall some of the details...
 - What were those 3 stages?
 - In Numbers 17:1-10, the same process came to pass. What happened in this passage and what was God teaching in this? (look at the last phrase of v. 10)
 - How does this help us better understand what the wine represents?
4. Let's now focus on the "**memorials**" (**bread and wine**) that those who are baptized partake of each week. It can be a struggle to find the value and true impact of this feast. Making this feast live and impact us every single week is imperative to our growth and well being in Christ.
 - a) What did the symbol of bread and wine mean to the butler and baker?
 - b) What should they mean to us? (you may want to discuss this)
5. Consider **Peter and Judas**. Both partook of the bread and wine, both betrayed their Lord. When they examined themselves, they came to different conclusions.
 - a) After self-examination, what CHOICE did each make?
 - b) How do their conclusions relate to how we could "eat and drink unworthily"? (1 Cor 11:29) Weren't they both unworthy?
 - c) With regards to the bread and wine:
 - How can we sometimes have the same attitude as Judas?
 - How can we sometimes have the same attitude as Peter?
6. Consider the **thieves on the cross**, one on either side of Jesus. Although bread and wine are not there, the impact of what each truly meant was there (Luke 23:39-43).
 - a) Explain what went on during this incident with the 2 thieves.
 - b) What did the partaking of Christ's sacrifice mean for these two men?
 - c) What sort of self-examination did these men go through?
 - d) What CHOICE did each of them make?
7. The fundamental aspect of the memorials is **self-examination**. Joseph must have examined his life on an ongoing basis.
 - a) Although the record does not recount for us when he did this, using your imagination, in what events could you see him assessing his life?
 - b) What do you think about during times of self-examination?
 - c) What should we be thinking about? (try to provide references)



Question # 5 - FAMILY LIFE IN THE ECCLESIA

We've seen how that **Jacob's family is a picture of the Ecclesia.** We've also seen how dysfunctional his family was! There were 66 people in Jacob's family living in Canaan (Gen 46:26), so this Ecclesia was not much different in size to some Ecclesias today. Think about the conditions and people that made up this Ecclesia – and then think of your own Ecclesia. How more amazing Joseph's example becomes when we see what kind of Ecclesia he came from! Joseph made no excuses because of his Ecclesial situation and we can't either!

1. The **problems in Joseph's Ecclesia** were not, of course, unique to that time. Fill in this chart by identifying specific examples of each of the conditions or situations in both Ecclesias – don't forget Leah, Rachel and Jacob for Joseph's Ecclesia. For the First Century Ecclesia, think about the Ecclesias in Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Phillipi, etc. (you may not find some examples for the "First Century Ecclesia" but do your best!)

Condition / Situation	Joseph's Ecclesia	First Century Ecclesia
Wide range of ages		
Polygamy (multiple wives)		
Cruelty and heartlessness		
Constant fighting		
Instability		
Disloyalty/disobedience to parents		
Motherless sons		
Lovers of money		
Friends of the world		
Marriage out of the Truth		
Envy amongst brethren		
Bitter hatred		
Incest		
Adultery		
Rape		
Murder		

2. It may come as a shock to us, but our **Ecclesias are not perfect!** Joseph teaches us unbelievable lessons in patience, endurance, longsuffering, meekness and faith.
 - a) What does the above chart tell us about how we should view our Ecclesial family?
 - b) How are we to treat our brethren and sisters in light of these difficult situations and circumstances? Provide scriptural guidance for your answers.
 - c) How does the theme "I seek my brethren" apply?

3. Let's look at **God's response** to these problems in the Ecclesia.
 - a) What was God's response, if any, to all of these sins? Did He take action, or allow them to continue on unpunished?
 - b) The theory of Job and his friends was, "God rewards good people with good things, and punishes wicked people with evil things." What was the conclusion God drew their minds to at the end of the book of Job?
 - c) In everyday life, does punishment for sin happen immediately? Why wouldn't God remove these horrible people from his plan and purpose? (consider Paul – 1 Cor 15:9-10)



4. Consider **our response** to difficult, worldly situations that invade our Ecclesia.
 - a) How did Jacob deal with the problems that invaded his Ecclesia? Did he deal with them at all?
 - b) How did Paul, Peter or John attempt to solve these issues in the first century Ecclesia?
 - c) What lessons about dealing with each other's faults does Joseph teach us?
 - d) What was Joseph's main goal? Why did he do the things he did for his brethren?
 - e) What does Christ teach us about our ecclesial family? (find chapters and verses for support)

“The only thing that kept Joseph's brethren from becoming mixed up with the world, was their godly home environment...we might feel at times that our home environment is a little too strict for our liking. It is only so for our own good. It takes very little time in bad company, for the influences that surround us daily to assert themselves into our lives and destroy good, wholesome values that bind a family together”

- Teenagers of the Bible (pg 21)



Question # 6 - HANDLING DISAGREEMENTS IN THE ECCLESIA

After revealing himself to his brothers, Joseph sends them back to their father with clothes, silver and food, and wagons to bring their families and Jacob to Egypt. As they are leaving, Joseph says, "**See that you fall not out by the way**" (Gen 45:24). After much patience and many tears on Joseph's part in "seeking his brethren", Joseph's brothers had finally reached a high level of unity and spirituality. They had just been 'converted' and Joseph did not want their old selfish, envious desires to once again cause disputes among them.

1. Let's first take a look at the word "**fall**" (Gen 45:24)
 - a) What does it mean? (look it up in Strong's)
 - b) Does anger have any place in our Ecclesias? (James 1:20)
 - c) How should we handle our own anger / temper? (Eph 4:26, 29)
 - d) How can we deal with others in the Ecclesia who can't control their anger / words?
 - e) List some practical ways that we can handle disagreements in the Ecclesia before others become angry.

2. Next, we'll look at the phrase "**the way.**"
 - a) Trace this phrase through the Bible, thinking about...
 - In the way / by the way (is there a difference?)
 - The Way of the LORD
 - "I am the way" (John 14:6)
 - b) What can we do to make sure we are keeping "in the way"?
 - c) What can we do to help others when they are straying out of "the way"? (keep in mind the theme of "seeking our brethren")

3. Obviously, there were **problems in Joseph's Ecclesia**. When Joseph told the chief butler that he had been "stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews" (Gen 40:15) he didn't tell the butler that it had been his wicked, deceitful brothers that had sold him. What example does this give us as to how we deal with problems in the Ecclesia?

4. Because the Ecclesia is made up of weak and imperfect people (us!), there are no doubt going to be **disagreements**, both small and large. Even Christ's own disciples had disagreements! We can't change the fact that there will be disagreements, but we can determine the attitude we have and how we react to the situation. Let's look at one disagreement that the disciples had in John 20:19-25, 26-29.
 - a) What was the disagreement that the disciples had? Was it a small or big concern?
 - b) What does v. 26-29 show us about the attitude of the disciples? (who was there?)
 - c) What do these verses show us about how they reacted to the situation?
 - d) Find other verses in the NT that talk of:
 - Unity
 - Being likeminded
 - Handling Ecclesial disagreements

"Joseph is not just saying to his brethren 'do not quarrel on the way home.' He is saying that after twenty years and more of agonised waiting, Joseph has finally guided his brethren to 'the Way of Truth.' It would be an absolute tragedy if his brethren NOW lapsed back into their old ways...What is one of the greatest dangers to ecclesial unity? Tempers that are held unchecked, words spoken that ought not to come out of the lips of a disciple of Christ...uncontrolled anger has NO place in the ecclesia of God and if we have any doubts about this, then read the story of Joseph again."



Question # 7 - IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT PART OF THE WORLD

This question has to do with **Egypt**. Of all the places from which Abraham and Isaac had been commanded to stay separate, Egypt was the worst! We looked at 'going down to Egypt' in Part 1 (pg 12) and what that meant in a spiritual sense. But, now we'll look at **Egypt** in a very real, literal way and see how it was just like any modern city is today (whether Toronto, Detroit, London or Adelaide). We'll see what Joseph had to face! Joseph was in **Egypt** at about 1700 BC. He was the only 'Christadelphian' in this huge, ungodly city. He faced many of the same problems that we face at school or work today. He was all alone, without a friend, without his Ecclesia and surrounded by people that constantly tried to appeal to his lusts and desires. Consider the following quotation:

"Joseph is thrust into the slave markets of Egypt. What scenes must have met his haunted eyes! Here was the place he had only been told about in hushed tones. Here was a huge metropolis with every kind of excess and superstition. Rulers rode in golden chariots and enjoyed every kind of luxury. Medicine was advanced and the arts had reached a level where the Sphinx and Pyramids were everyday events. There were universities and shopping malls full of alluring goods. People dealt in the slavery of human beings...we could easily be describing any large city in the world today. The scene has not really changed much at all over the years."

- **Teenagers of the Bible (pg 36)**

1. Research **Egypt** at about the time that Joseph was there. Try to find information that will help you, in some way, better understand the story of Joseph. Think about the following areas:
 - a) King – who was the pharaoh at this time? how was he treated by the people?
 - b) Gods – what were some of the predominant gods?
 - c) Business and education – what sort of facilities did they have?
 - d) Common people – what was daily life like for a common person?
 - e) Entertainment – what forms of entertainment did they have?
 - f) Wars – did the Egyptians have enemies at this time? were they at war with any nations?

2. One very real **temptation** (that we probably haven't thought of!) that Joseph likely faced was when he came before Pharaoh. Pharaoh was treated as a "god" and all who came before him were expected to bow down to him. Think hard about this situation! Imagine what happens...
 - a) Does Joseph bow down to Pharaoh when he comes before him to interpret his dreams? Why or why not?
 - b) Why is this a real temptation for Joseph?
 - c) How can we face the same temptation today?
 - d) List some practical ways that we can be 'in the world, but not be a part of it,' like Joseph (Phil 2:14-16; 1 John 2:15-16).

"...rarely, if ever are the desirable qualities of humility, modesty and acceptance of reproof taught (in the world). These matters are left to the family and the ecclesia, and we can thank God that we have a divinely patterned institution, a haven where these principles are upheld and encouraged in the midst of an intolerant world."

- **Teenagers of the Bible (pg 63)**

Joseph's excellent education at home in his early years allowed him to withstand extreme pressure and temptation in Egypt! If God has given you with parents and other family members in the Truth, and they've taught you God's ways...then thank God for that blessing! If they're still trying to teach you...then thank God as well, and don't ever take it for granted or ignore the lessons they're trying to teach you!



TRY

“the LORD was with Joseph” (Genesis 39:2)

Our third action word is **TRY**. It's such a simple word, but it has such huge implications. We've seen that Joseph, as a young person in the Truth, acknowledged his sinful nature and his need for God, choose to dedicate his life to God, and then **tried** his best to serve God! As we saw in the first section ACKNOWLEDGE, even Joseph, a very spiritual young person, had to grow and mature in the Truth.

So, now that you've had a chance to get to know “Brother Joseph”, think about this...

- Was Joseph the oldest or most influential brother?
- Did he apply for the job God set out for him to do?
- Do you think he completely understood what his dreams meant?
- Do you think he knew exactly how to handle his brothers' wickedness, hatred and deceitful attitudes?
- Did he deserve to be treated by his brothers the way he was?



NO! But, all of this did not stop Joseph from **trying** his best to please God! It didn't matter whether Joseph was among his brethren, in the dirty prisons of Egypt or in Pharaoh's courts, he was always telling others about his God that he loved and served. And Joseph's belief and trust in his Heavenly Father motivated him to stay separate from all the wickedness around him, both in the world and in the Ecclesia (among his brethren). But, Joseph did not give up on those living sinful lives – he **tried** to “seek his brethren” in all situations, by telling others the wonderful ways of God and demonstrating to them the impact that his knowledge of God had on his life.

Joseph's awareness of God shone through in every aspect of his life. Because Joseph always **tried** to please God, “God was with him” and helped him to overcome in his own life, and eventually to save his brothers. The words of 1 Timothy 4:12-16 (RSV) are very fitting words to describe Joseph's situation and the wonderful dedication and self-sacrifice he displayed in his life:

“Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching...devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

God wants us to **try** our best and trust in Him, like Joseph. God won't ask us to do better than our best, because that's all we can do! Your best is YOURS – and nobody else's! But God wants us to **try** to do the small things consistently everyday. He wants us to share with others the glorious hope He has given us, and allow the power of His word to dramatically change our lives – the **words** we speak, the **choices** we make, the **actions** we take, and the **attitude** we have. This section involves the practical issues that Joseph faced daily and that we will face as we strive to follow in Jesus' footsteps as we await his return to the earth. God has promised that if we sincerely **try** our best to live His truth by applying the lessons we learn from Joseph and other examples in the Bible, then we will receive the awesome promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

“Despite the traumatic events that happened to Joseph as a teenager, he never lost faith in God, and thereby saved not only himself but all his brethren as well, though it took many years. This is an important principle to understand. Faithful adherence to the Truth in the tempestuous early teenage years can have a far reaching impact on others. The fruit of a good example may not be realised for some time.”

- **Teenagers of the Bible (pg 32)**

Please choose 5 of the 9 research questions in this section to do



Question # 1 - SEPARATE, YET A SAVIOUR!

The **Nazarite vow** has to do with separation. In Jacob's blessing to Joseph (Gen 49:26), Jacob says that Joseph was "**separate** from his brethren." This is one of the most amazing aspects of Joseph's life – that he was constantly "seeking his brethren" yet he was still separate from their evil ways! This is what we should all be striving for!

1. Read **Genesis 49:22-26**, the blessing of Joseph. Note the phrase, "they shall be on the head of Joseph and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren."
 - a) In relation to "him that was separate" (Strong's #5139 – Nazyir), the same Hebrew word Nazarite. Where in the law is the Nazarite vow spoken of? Once you find that chapter read it a minimum of at least 2 times.
 - b) There were 3 separate aspects of a Nazarite vow. What were they?
 - c) The true meaning of the Nazarite Vow was so that a common Israelite, male or female could become a high priest (in figure), normally reserved only for the Levites. Bearing this in mind, what did each of the 3 parts of the vow signify in relation to the priest?
2. Of Joseph it was said "the blessings shall be on **the head** of Joseph, on **the crown** of him that was **separate** (Nazyir) from his brethren." This is the first time Nazarite is used in the scripture and it is without doubt who the Nazarite vow was modeled after. Find all 3 aspects of the vow at work in Joseph's life.
3. The root of the word Nazarite comes from the word meaning "an unpruned vine." Turn to **Leviticus 25:1-5** where this principle is taken from.
 - a) After reading about the Nazarite vow in question #2, how does this relate to this passage?
 - b) What was the law in this passage supposed to be teaching Israel?
 - c) How does that compare with a Nazarite's oath?
 - d) Which part (out of the 3) of the Nazarite vow compares to Leviticus 25? What did this part of the vow symbolize?
4. **Samson** was a Nazarite (Judges 13-16). He broke the first 2 aspects of his vow with little consequence until he toyed with the third.
 - a) When did he break the first 2 aspects?
 - b) What was that part, and what did it symbolize in his walk to the Kingdom?
 - c) After falling, Samson returned to God in prison. What interesting event took place to signal his return to Yahweh?
5. **Bonus:** Find other Nazarites in the Bible. What was strange about each person? Did any of them keep their vow totally? If the object of being a Nazarite was to be a priest, why was John the Baptist a Nazarite? (hint: tribe?) What then was the vow truly to symbolize?

The next 8 questions deal with different ways that illustrate how Joseph stayed separate, but was able to become a saviour for his brethren...

- Trusted in God, even though alone and surrounded by evil (question #2)
- Awareness of God watching over him (question #3)
- Fled from temptation and stayed pure (question #4)
- Positive attitude (question #5)
- Always spoke words full of grace (question #6)
- Concerned about how God saw him, not man (question #7)
- Ready and willing to forgive others (question #8)
- Preached to those around him (question #9)



Question # 2 - LOOKING FOR FRIENDS...AND DEALING WITH LONELINESS

God has created us with a desire and need for **friends**. We often have the choice who we want to have as friends...we should TRY to choose friends who will help us on the road to the kingdom – and remember that to have friends, we must be a friend! (Prov 18:24)

1. **Dinah**, Joseph's sister, went looking for friends in the wrong place (Gen 34).
 - a) Where did she go looking? (v. 1)
 - b) What happened to her because of looking here? (v. 2)
 - c) What did Simeon and Levi do because of this? (v. 25-27)
 - d) What sort of status did this give Jacob's family (the Ecclesia) with their neighbours? (v. 30-31)
 - e) What lessons are to be learnt out of all of this?

2. **Judah**, Joseph's brother, also went looking in the wrong place (Gen 38).
 - a) Where did he go looking? (v. 1)
 - b) What was the outcome (v. 2-11, 12-26)
 - c) In v. 12 and 20, Hirah the Adullamite is called Judah's "friend". What sort of a friend was Hirah?
 - d) What does Judah's terrible experience teach us?

3. **Joseph** was the only 'Christadelphian' in the huge city of Egypt. He was all alone, without a friend, without his Ecclesia and surrounded by ungodly people. How did Joseph deal with his loneliness? Did he get depressed and down? (think realistically about this...Joseph was like you and me!)

4. Let's think about **friendship** for a minute:
 - a) What advice does the Bible give us about choosing our friends?
 - b) Name some examples of good friends in the Bible.
 - c) What should we be looking for in our friends? (or, looking at it a different way, what should we be showing to those around us?)

"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." - **Proverbs 18:24**

5. Now, let's consider **loneliness** and **living in isolation**:
 - a) What advice does the Bible give us about dealing with loneliness?
 - b) Who in the Bible felt loneliness and how did they deal with it?
 - c) What are some practical ways to deal with loneliness?
 - d) What can those living in isolation do to cope with not having any other Christadelphians around?
 - e) How can those living in areas with large Ecclesias TRY to do to help those living in isolation? (you may want to discuss these questions)

"Joseph was in Egypt without a friend in the world. He was particularly vulnerable to temptation because of his grief and loneliness...but let us remember that Joseph was not entirely alone, for God's angel was still with him... there are moments when our vision of the kingdom needs to be rekindled, and true friends will encourage us in that direction" - **Teenagers of the Bible (pg 39)**



Question # 3 - GOD IS WATCHING!

This question has to do with **Joseph's God-consciousness**, or his acknowledgement that God was watching Him and caring for him – in everything he went through.

1. "**God**" is mentioned 38 times in the story of Joseph, most of them related directly to Joseph.
 - a) Find these 38 occurrences and mark them in your Bible with a coloured pencil.
 - b) What does this reveal about Joseph?
 - c) How does Hebrews 11:6 apply to Joseph?
 - d) How can we TRY to become more God-conscious in our lives?

2. "The LORD was with Joseph." Where is this mentioned in Gen 39? Remembering the rollercoaster of events in this chapter, what does this teach us:
 - About God?
 - About Joseph?

3. In Part 1 (pg 7), we saw that Joseph went to Dothan to look for his brothers on the advice of a "**certain man**" (Gen 37:15). This man was likely an **angel!** Let's see why...
 - a) Did Joseph find this man or did the man find him?
 - b) The man asked him a question: "What seekest thou?" Find other occurrences in the Bible where angels appear to men and women, and ask them questions.
 - c) Where else do we find angels working in disguise?
 - d) What other passages talk about the work of the angels?

4. Joseph saw God's **providential hand** working in his life.
 - a) Find all the occurrences of God's hand acting in Joseph's life.
 - b) Where does Joseph himself show his understanding of God acting in his life?
 - c) How did Joseph's understanding change his character, attitude and perspective?
 - d) What other verses can you find that talk about God's providence?
 - e) What can we learn about God working in our life? What does it teach us about our attitude and perspective?

"In a trial far worse than the treatment he had received from the Ishmeelites, Joseph only survived by elevating God in his mind, and distancing himself as far as possible from seductive temptation. But let us remember that Joseph was not entirely alone, for God's angel was with him."

- Teenagers of the Bible (pg 39)



Question # 4 - COPING WITH TEMPTATION

By the time we are about 17, most of us spend 2/3 of our time in the world (school, work, etc.) We're often alone, surrounded by people that don't care about God and often want to take us away from God! There are also people, billboards, magazines and Internet sites all around us that try to appeal to our sexual desires and cause us to sin (even in our minds!). So, what can we do about it? We know that we can't become hermits and live totally secluded lives – **God wants us to live in the world, but not be a part of it.** Often, friends in the Truth can encourage us and help us stay focused when we are slipping into temptation.

Joseph spent 100% of his time 'in the world' when he was sold into Egypt. He faced the same problems that we face today. He had no friends in the world and he was particularly vulnerable to temptation because of grief and loneliness. When he was tempted, Joseph presented the Truth and had strong personal action!

1. List some ways that **Joseph** dealt with the problems of:
 - a) Being all alone surrounded by ungodly people
 - b) Sexual temptations and desires

2. Everyday, we are faced with **temptations** through what we see and what we hear.
 - a) Name some everyday situations that are temptations to many people.
 - b) What are some of your personal temptations? (to overcome temptation, it is necessary to identify what our temptations are!)

3. **Dealing with temptation...**
 - a) What verses in the Bible provide us with practical advice in dealing with temptation?
 - b) How did people in the Bible deal with temptation? (ie. David, Samson, Christ, Peter)
 - c) What are some practical ways for us to deal with temptation?
 - d) It's often the case that when we have "free time" or "nothing to do" that temptation presents itself. What can we do to TRY to avoid this?

4. **"Temptation, unlike opportunity, always gives you a second chance!"**
 - a) How did Joseph deal with the constant temptation that Potiphar's wife presented to him?
 - b) What does this teach us about dealing with temptation?

5. **Keeping our bodies pure** and having a **pure conscience** are very important in God's eyes.
 - a) What does the NT tell us about our bodies? (1Cor 6:19-20; Rom 12:1)
 - b) What does the NT say about staying pure and separate from sexual immorality?
 - c) Practically, how can we TRY to stay pure, both physically and spiritually?

"Joseph knew that his hope lay in Yahweh and vowed that he would abide by the lessons that he had been taught. He knew that a good conscience is priceless in the sight of God. A good conscience is only possible if we set our heart firmly on living by God's principles."

- Teenagers of the Bible (pg 38)



COPING WITH TEMPTATION

What temptations do you find most difficult? Alcohol? Temper? Immoral thoughts? Laziness? Try writing down the two or three sins which you find most difficult to avoid. You can't begin to cope with your temptations unless you have first identified them. Now that you know what temptations you are needing to cope with, you can begin to think about how you can do it.

Here are two very useful Bible verses on the subject of coping with temptation:

2 Timothy 2:22 "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Together, these verses provide us with the Bible's advice on coping with temptation and suggest the following action plan to help us.

Step 1 Watch: identify your major weaknesses in temptation

Step 2 Run: get right away from whatever it is which is causing your temptation

Step 3 Pray: ask God's help in overcoming your temptation problem.

You have already done Step 1 - you have identified the two or three major sources of your own temptations. Now think about Step 2. What do you need to do to avoid the temptation in the future? If it is alcohol, don't go anywhere where you will be tempted and don't mix with people who will lead you into temptation. If it is laziness, change your daily schedule so that you are less likely to fall for the same problem. It is a good idea to tell one or two close friends what you are doing, because they can help you keep to your aim. Finally, Step 3. Take the two or three temptations you have identified and talk to God about them. Ask Him to strengthen you in resisting the temptation.

Have you ever noticed that these three steps are exactly the approach **Jesus** used to deal with his own temptations? One of his temptations was the desire to have great political power. He had identified it as a problem when he was in the wilderness (Matthew 4:8-10 - Step 1). Later, when the crowds following him sought to make him king in defiance of the Roman government, he withdrew to an isolated mountain (Step 2) on his own to pray (Step 3) (John 6:15; Matthew 14:23). We can learn from his example: get right away from the source of temptation and talk to your Heavenly Father.

Another good example is **Joseph**. When tempted by Potiphar's wife to commit adultery, he refused to even be with her (Genesis 39:10). He was following Step 2 and getting right away from the source of temptation. We can be sure he was also praying regularly about it (Step 3).

When we begin to fight against our temptations, it is easy to think it is all too hard. But remember the promise God has given us in 1 Corinthians 10:13: "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." God allows us to be tempted because it tests our faith and desire to serve Him. But he prevents the temptations becoming too much for us. So whatever you are fighting against, you know you can overcome it with God's help. Resisting temptation is really important. God sends you these temptations to test you and He doesn't want you to fail. But if you are to cope with temptation and not sin, you need to be serious about working on your temptations. Follow the action plan: **Watch, Run, Pray**. And remember the help that Jesus can give: "Because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted." (Hebrew 2:18)



Question # 5 - ATTITUDE

Joseph had a **positive attitude** to the circumstances that God brought into his life. He realized God had chosen the "Hebrews" to be His special people and he TRIED to share the hope of the promises to Abraham with all around. He realized that he was a "**stranger and pilgrim**" awaiting God's kingdom (Heb 11:13-16), and this helped him to accept the circumstances that God had brought in his life. Joseph also had a very **humble** attitude towards others.

1. Take a look at the word "**Hebrew**"
 - a) What does "Hebrew" mean?
 - b) Who was first called a "Hebrew"? (Gen 14:13)
 - c) Find the 3 places in the story where Joseph is referred to as a "Hebrew."
 - d) How did the Egyptians know Joseph was a "Hebrew"? What does this teach us?

2. Joseph knew the **promises God made to Abraham**. He viewed the land of promise as the "land of the Hebrews." (Gen 40:15)
 - a) What were the "promises made to Abraham"? (list the main details)
 - b) What does this tell us about Joseph's faith in the promises to Abraham?
 - c) How can we TRY to develop the same faith, as Joseph, in the promises to Abraham?

3. Joseph could have had a pyramid built for him, because of his high position in Egypt, but we know he didn't!
 - a) Where and when was Joseph buried?
 - b) What does this add to our view of Joseph "the pilgrim"?
 - c) What does it teach us about humility and worldly accomplishments?

4. **Joseph's brothers** didn't have the same attitude as Joseph concerning the "pilgrim life." How did they view themselves and where they came from? (Gen 42:7, 13) We are just like Joseph's brothers sometimes – how?

5. **Jacob** knew that he was to be a stranger and a pilgrim in the land (Gen 37:1)
 - a) What does Gen 36 tell us Esau, Jacob's brother was doing? (v. 36:39-43)
 - b) What does Gen 47:9 reveal to us about Jacob and about the principles of "pilgrim life"?
 - c) Jacob went down to Egypt when he knew Joseph was still alive. Was he still being a "pilgrim" by doing this? (consider 46:4)

6. **We** must TRY to live as "pilgrims" now.
 - a) How can we do this?
 - b) How can we develop humble attitudes and learn to accept what God gives us in life?

7. **Joseph's positive attitude** had an impact on those around him. It's evident that Joseph had a happy countenance, or he would not have been able to ask why the butler and baker were so sad (Gen 40:7).
 - a) What does this teach us about how we should live our daily lives?
 - b) What kind of attitude should we have towards people and the events that happen in our lives?

"We are shown here the alertness of Joseph's mind to the presence of God, and the acceptance of his lot without complaint...We don't know what Joseph felt, for we are not told. But we may fairly assume that he had moments of sadness, placed the matter before God in prayer, and got on with his duties, knowing that he had done all that was possible. Therein lies a great example for us."

- *Teenagers of the Bible* (pg 43, 45)

**Question # 6 - WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!**

We know how Joseph was always "seeking his brethren" in his actions and his words. **Joseph's speech** was always positive, constructive and full of grace, even when others were negative and resentful.

1. **Joseph and his brothers:**
 - a) How would you describe Joseph's brothers' speech? (did it change?)
 - b) How would you describe Joseph's speech? (did it change?)
2. The word "peace" or Hebrew "shalom" is a hallmark for Joseph.
 - a) Find all the occurrences of the word SHALOM (Strong's # 7965) in the story of Joseph (Gen 37-50). It should come up 9 times.
 - b) Show the significance of each one of these occurrences.
 - c) "Peace" was the first word Jesus spoke to his disciples when he appeared to them after his resurrection (John 20:19, 26). Why was this his first word? Is there an application for us?
3. In the CHOOSE section (question 8 – "Handling disagreements in the Ecclesia"), we saw that when Joseph told the chief butler that he had been "stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews" (Gen 40:15) he didn't tell the butler that it had been his brothers that had sold him. What does teach us about watching our words, particularly when **talking about Brothers and Sisters**?
4. The **words we choose** are very important!
 - a) What warning does Matthew 12:36-37 give us?
 - b) What other passages in the Bible indicate how vitally important our words are?
 - c) What are some practical for us to TRY to choose the right words and "watch what we say"?



Question # 7 - LOOKING GOOD...IN WHOSE OPINION?

In Genesis 39, Joseph's good looks got him in trouble. Of course, it wasn't his fault that God had made him a good-looking young man! What's important is that Joseph realized that **God “doesn't look on the outward appearance, but on the heart”** (1 Sam 16:7). He also wasn't concerned with “appearances” like his brothers often were!

1. **Joseph** was good looking, but more importantly, we've seen many examples of how beautiful his character was.
 - a) What makes Joseph such a beautiful character?
 - b) Think of some people you know (all ages) that are just beautiful people – people you just love to be around. What makes them beautiful? Does their age or physical appearance affect their beauty?
2. We often see pictures and paintings of **Jesus** (what people think he looked like!)
 - a) What are we told about Christ's appearance? (Isa 52:13-15; 53:1-5)
 - b) What does John 8:58 tell us regarding Jesus' appearance?
 - c) We know that little children loved to be around Christ. What made Christ so “beautiful”?
3. Many young people today are concerned with **image** and **appearance**, and forget about true “inner beauty.” The NT provides some good advice about appearance and how we present ourselves.
 - a) What does the NT tell us about our appearance?
 - b) What does the NT teach us about “inner beauty”?
 - c) How can we help each other and ourselves TRY to get rid of the whole “**image thing**”?



Question # 8 - GIVE AND FORGIVE...A GOOD WAY TO LIVE!

We've looked at many instances where Joseph gave of himself to help others. Now, let's look **Joseph's forgiveness** – another amazing quality shown to us in this young man, that we all should seek to have.

1. Thinking back to what **Joseph endured at the hands of his cruel brothers...**
 - a) Why did God allow Joseph to suffer through all of this? (consider Psa 105:17-22)
 - b) Why did God subject Joseph to the humiliation of being sold as a slave into Egypt?
 - c) What can we learn from Joseph's example in this?

"...there may not be a CAUSE for our suffering, but there is always a REASON."

2. Now, **having considered that...**
 - a) Show the instances where Joseph displays his forgiveness to his brothers.
 - b) In Gen 50:17, Joseph's brethren didn't think that Joseph had completely forgiven them for what they had done to him. But, he had! What does this teach us about forgiveness? (with regards to others)
 - c) Find 2 or 3 other passages about forgiveness in the OT and NT.
 - d) With Joseph's amazing example and these other passages, how can we TRY to become more forgiving?

3. Forgiveness involves **patience** – to try to work with others, to truly forget others' mistakes, and to allow God to work with that individual to change them.
 - a) Show specific instances where Joseph had patience and self-control, both in his own situations and in his dealings with others (think especially of when his brothers come to Egypt!)
 - b) Find other passages in the Bible that talk about patience. What do they teach us?
 - c) Trace the idea of "waiting on God" in the Bible (find 4 or 5 occurrences at least)
 - What did this phrase mean to those in the Scriptures?
 - What should this phrase mean to us?
 - b) What encouragement does Hebrews 6:12 give us?

"Just pause and think what could have been going through Joseph's mind. He had pleaded with his brethren and they had not listened. Here he was, a lad of seventeen years being sold as a common slave. What bitter thoughts might have gone through his mind. Joseph could have made a vow for revenge. But his record shows that he overcame all thoughts of hostility and malice and instead wondered at the providence of God; what was the purpose of this? How would the dream of his brethren bowing before him ever be fulfilled? He believed the vision, and knew that God would somehow bring it to pass. And, with this belief, Joseph had confidence that, one day, he would have opportunity to convert his brethren and direct them toward principles of truth and honesty."

- Teenagers of the Bible (pg 27)



Question # 9 - PREACHING AND PERSISTENCE

Preaching is very important aspect of our walk in the Truth. Christ commanded us to preach the gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:15-16) and sharing God's Word with those around us should be natural, if it truly means something to us! Often, preaching can seem a little daunting, because nobody seems to be listening. But, this shouldn't stop us from TRYING our best! Even if people don't listen, telling others what we believe and where we stand keeps us honest and consistent. And, the power of God's word (together with our godly example) will change people in time, if they allow it!

1. Think about **Joseph's background** and the circumstances he faced in Egypt.
 - a) Make a list of as many points as you can with regards to this, considering the following: Joseph's age, experience, family situation, Ecclesial situation, friends, the environment in Egypt, etc.
 - b) Did Joseph have any reason to make excuses about why he shouldn't preach?
 - c) What are some typical excuses we make as to why we can't preach to those around us?

2. Joseph made **no excuses** when it came to preaching – he ACTED! He TRIED his best to use every opportunity he had to share the hope of the "promises made to Abraham."
 - a) List all the people that we know that Joseph preached to (in today's terms, he preached to his family, boss, co-workers, employee, leaders, people that didn't care about God, etc.)
 - b) Some people from part a) saw that Joseph was "different." What was it that made Joseph different from those around him?
 - c) What does Joseph's example teach us? How should we be different from those around us?

"He wished all to know that he believed in Yahweh and that he was a Hebrew. Every time this young man spoke, the word of God was on his lips."
 - **Teenagers of the Bible (pg 37)**

3. **Preaching is definitely something every Christadelphian should be doing everyday.**
 - a) Give some verses that illustrate how important preaching is.
 - b) Give 3 examples from the Bible of Brothers who preached
 - c) Give 3 examples from the Bible of Sisters who preached.
 - d) How can we preach the Truth in our Ecclesias, at work, at school, in our neighbourhoods, etc?

4. **Joseph's brothers** didn't listen to him when he shared God's Word with them (his dreams) and they even mistreated and abused him because of it. But he continued to share God's Word and TRY his best to bring them to the Truth.
 - a) How long did it take for Joseph's brethren to be 'converted'?
 - b) Can you think of any other examples in the Bible of people who rejected God's word at first, but eventually accepted and believed it?
 - c) How can/do we suffer for preaching the Truth?
 - d) How can we apply the lesson of Joseph's persistence in our preaching?
 - e) Is there ever a point when we should give up on people?
 - f) Prayer is a huge part of preaching. How?

"No opposition young people might suffer when engaged in gospel proclamation today, should sway them from presenting their knowledge of God's Word. It might take many years for that message to be appreciated, but with consistency of example there is often fruit developed. In the case of Joseph, his patient persistence was rewarded, for eventually his envious brethren understood and responded."
 - **Teenagers of the Bible (pg 14)**



“Reconciliation (being joined to God) was the fire that burnt in Joseph’s heart and he spared not himself to bring his brethren along the long road of repentance. As Joseph persevered, so will the Lord Jesus Christ with his brethren...those who are prepared to acknowledge their sinful past, and to seek full reconciliation with Yahweh through the work of his beloved Son. We can take heart that at the end of days we might be counted amongst the godly young people of the Bible, like Joseph, who did all to the glory of God.”

- *Teenagers of the Bible (pg 98)*