

RESCUE AND RESURRECTION

Genesis 42:1—45:28

*“But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth
and to save your lives by a great deliverance.”* Genesis 45:7

1. Read Genesis 37—45. [To capture the drama of the story try to find 20 minutes or so to read straight through the passage.] Two story lines come together in this passage—the story of Joseph in Egypt and the story of Jacob and his sons in Canaan. What is it that brings them together? (Genesis 41:56–57)
2. How do Joseph’s brothers feel about having sold him into slavery 13 years earlier? (42:21, 28; 44:16)
3. Many of us experience guilt over past sins. How has God provided a way for us to deal with our guilt? (Psalm 32:1–7; 51:1–12; Hebrews 9:14; 1 John 1:9)
4. Describe how Joseph responds to his brothers. (Scan chapters 42–44.) Why do you think Joseph responds as he does?
5. Recall Joseph’s boyhood dreams in Genesis 37:5–11.
 - a. How are those dreams being fulfilled? (42:6; 43:28; 44:14)
 - b. How is Joseph feeling about this encounter with his family after so many years? (43:30–31; 45:1–3)
6. How is Judah a different man than he was over a decade earlier? (44:18–34; recall chapter 38)
7. In chapter 45, a key passage in this week’s chapters, what does Joseph say to his brothers? What is his explanation of the events that took place? (45:4–8) How might this explanation be different from what the brothers thought?

8. Name the ways that God is showing his faithfulness in fulfilling his promises to Abraham. (Look back at Genesis 12:2–3.)

9. It's hard to see the "big picture" of our lives when we are bogged down in our daily trials. What perspective on the trials in your life will help you to persevere today? (Romans 8:28; Hebrews 12:1–3; 1 Peter 1:3–7)

10. The Joseph narrative is a beautiful picture of our own reconciliation.
 - a. How are we reconciled to God? (Colossians 1:21–23a)

 - b. What are we now called to do? (2 Corinthians 5:17–21; Matthew 5:23–24; 18:21–22)