

GUILTY BROTHERS

Genesis 41:47- 42:38

During the seven years of good harvest, the land produced crops by the handfuls. Joseph gathered up food all of those seven years and put it in storage. He gathered so much grain that it was not able to be measured. During that time the Lord gave Joseph two sons. He named the firstborn Manassah, which means: God has made me forget all my hard work and my father's house. He named the second son Ephraim, which means, God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

The seven years of plenteousness ended, and the seven years of famine began to come. There was famine in all the lands around Egypt, but in Egypt there was plenty of food. When the people of Egypt began to run out of food too, they came to Pharaoh for food. He sent them all to Joseph, saying, "He will tell you what to do."

When the people came to him, Joseph opened the storehouses, and sold grain to the Egyptians. People from the countries all around Egypt came to buy grain too, because of the terrible famine.

When Jacob, Joseph's father who was in Canaan, heard that there was food in Egypt, he called his sons and said to them, "Why are you just sitting around here? Go down to Egypt and buy us food so that we may live."

So Joseph's brothers set off for Egypt where Joseph, the brother that they had sold into slavery, was now the governor. When they arrived to buy grain, Joseph knew them immediately, but they did not recognize him. They bowed to him with their faces to the ground, just as they had done in his dreams.

When they came into his presence, Joseph spoke to them roughly, saying, "Where do you come from?" They answered that they had come from Canaan to buy food. Joseph looked at them and accused, "Ye are spies, come to see how things are in Egypt."

The brothers protested, "No, my lord, we have come to buy food. We are all brothers, We are honest men, not spies."

Joseph said to them again, "That's not true, you have come to spy out the land."

Again the brothers told Joseph that they were all the sons of one man. They also told him that they had a younger brother still at home, and that one brother was dead. They thought that Joseph had died as a slave.

Once again Joseph accused them of being spies, he said the only way that they could prove their innocence would be by bringing their other brother to him. Then he threw them all into the prison for three days.

At the end of the three days, Joseph said to them, "If you do this you shall live. If you are really honest men, let one of you stay in prison, while the others return home and bring your younger brother to me. Take grain along home for your families."

The brothers spoke to each other, saying, "We are truly guilty because of what we did to our brother Joseph. We saw his distress, but would not listen when he begged us for mercy. Now this awful thing has happened to us."

Then Reuben said to his brothers, "Didn't I warn you, saying, Do not sin against the child? But you wouldn't listen, now we will be punished for what we did."

As the brothers spoke to each other, Joseph was listening and he understood what they said, but they did not know that he could understand them for he had only used and interpreter in talking with them.

When he heard what they said, he turned away and cried. Then he returned to them, talked with them. Finally, took their brother Simeon from them, had him tied up before their eyes, and then taken off to prison.

Then Joseph commanded that the brothers' sacks be filled with grain, and sent them home. They left for home with heavy hearts and great fears, knowing they would have to tell their father of the loss of another son.

As they were traveling home, one of the brothers opened his sack of grain to feed his donkey, imagine his surprise and fear when he saw the money that he had paid for the grain laying at the top of the sack. All the brothers gathered around to see the latest trouble, their hearts failed them for fear and they said to each other, "What is God doing to us?"

When they arrived home, they told their father Jacob all that had happened to them, how they had been accused of being spies, and treated roughly. They told Jacob that Simeon was being held hostage, and that the only way to get him back was to bring their brother Benjamin to meet the governor of Egypt.

When Jacob their father heard all these things, he said, "You have bereaved me of my children. Joseph is dead, and now Simeon is taken, and you want to take Benjamin away too? Everything is against me. "

Jacob said, "You will not take Benjamin with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left of Rachel's children. If something should happen to him, I would die in great sorrow."

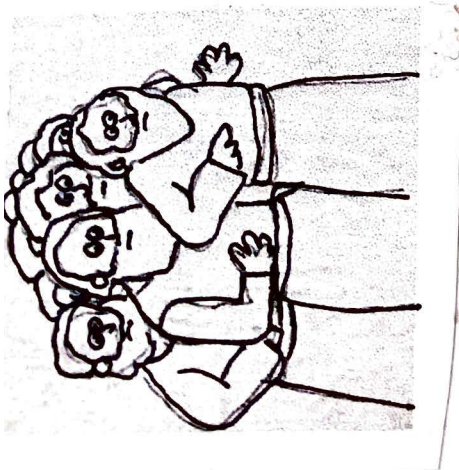
I imagine that when the brothers got rid of Joseph they thought they had solved all their problems, but how foolish they were. All those years they must have felt guilty for what they had done. They could never be at peace, for the wickedness they had done to Joseph followed them everywhere that they went. Every time they saw their father or Benjamin they would be reminded of Joseph. Then when they got to Egypt and were treated badly by the governor, their guilt turned to fear. Fear that God would bring disaster on them for their wickedness.

Always remember that when we do that which is wicked, God sees and knows. If we do not confess and turn from our sin, we will surely be punished. God will right the wrongs, if not now, then sometimes in the future.

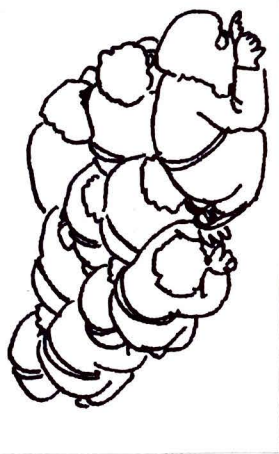
Everyone of us is guilty of sinning against God, and everyone of us is worthy of punishment, but God has made us a way of escape if we are willing to confess our sins and seek his forgiveness. How much better it is to repent and be at peace than to live in guilt and fear.

LEARN: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

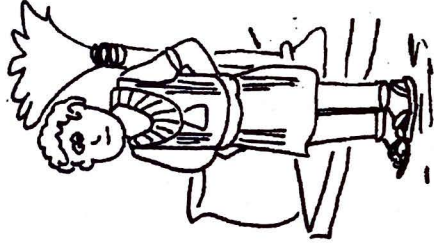
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:8,9



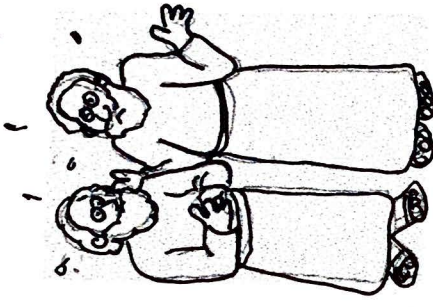
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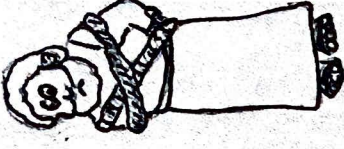
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1. Color each character, cut them out.
2. Cut a piece of construction paper in half lengthwise.
3. Fold it in half - then fourths



4. Paste the Title on cover page
5. Paste the pictures in proper order on each of following pages with matching captions.
6. Paste verse last.

GUILTY BROTHERS

1. Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy food, because there was a famine.
2. The brothers bowed before Joseph, just as they had in Joseph's dream.
3. Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not know him.
4. When Joseph called the brothers spies, they were afraid, and believed their treatment was a result of their guilt.
5. To test the brothers, Joseph had the brother Simeon bound and put into prison.
6. Then Joseph sent the brothers home with their grain. He put their money back into their sacks. This made the brothers even more fearful.

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