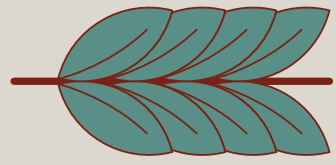


REWRITING

GOD'S HEALING OVER SOUL SICKNESS

After 13 long and troubled years, God has finally fulfilled Joseph's dreams. He is now in a position of importance, utilizing his gifts and talents for the benefit of others. As evidenced by his children Manasseh and Ephraim, God has taken the sting out of his life and has made him doubly fruitful. But now, there are some other family members who need healing. For over 20 years, his brothers have been riddled with guilt and his father is paralyzed with fear since Joseph's absence. The same famine that brought Joseph to power is the same famine that is going to heal this family. Reluctantly, the brothers come to Egypt for food and through a God sized coincidence end up facing their greatest fear, their brother. He recognizes them, but they would never expect this Egyptian leader to be their brother. Now Joseph takes them on a journey similar to his own. He accuses them of being spies. He questions their integrity. He puts them in custody. He was going to hold all but one so he could bring their brother back. He ignores their pleas for help. He then changes his mind and releases all but one to bring back Benjamin. And then as they took silver from the Ishmaelites, he put all their silver back in their bags. All this is to bring them to a place of soul health where honesty and repentance take them to a place where they desperately need God alone.



REMEMBER

Think about a time when your soul was completely at rest and when guilt, shame, anxiety and stress didn't distract you.

How would you describe what you felt?

Thank God for those moments when God brings our soul health.

REVIEW

READ GENESIS 42

Why would the brothers have been so reluctant to go to Egypt? Why was Jacob so insistent?

What emotions would Joseph have felt the moment he saw them?

What kept Joseph from revealing himself to them?

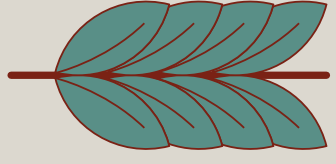
In what ways did Joseph try to get the brothers to experience what he had gone through?

What changes do you see in the brothers from the time they arrived in Egypt til they left?

Why do you think the brothers didn't return to Egypt when they first found the silver in their sack.

Where do you see God at work in the brother's lives?





REWRITE

What lessons does this chapter teach you about confronting the consequences of past actions?

The brothers had suppressed what they had done to Joseph for 20 years and God was still wanting them to experience healing. Is there something in your life, long unsundered to God that He may want to heal you from?

How have you interpreted present experiences through past actions? Have you misinterpreted God's gentle push towards repentance and healing for God's anger and disappointment?

Where is God trying to bring healing in your life? Are there places you are frustrated with God right now but He is actually working to bring spiritual health to your soul.

REFLECT

How is your soul? Where do you need God's healing in your soul?

Thank God for the ways God keeps bringing health to your troubled soul.

