

2008-09 BSP#10 Group Time Discussion

L – Low, M – Medium, and H – High, indicate the difficulty of a question. Group leaders should select questions that are challenging to their groups but not so difficult that their group members cannot answer.

(A) “He Opened to Us the Scriptures” - Questions for scriptural reading and discussion (Time available: 10 minutes. Do at least 2 questions.)

1. [M] Read Genesis 43:26-34. The portions Joseph heaped up for Benjamin at the dinner table were “five times as many” as any of the brothers. What was the brothers’ reaction to this obvious favoritism (v.34)? Why was their reaction important to Joseph?
2. [L] Read Genesis 46:1-7. As Jacob was leaving the land of Canaan to go down to Joseph in Egypt, God “spoke to Israel in visions of the night” (v.2). How was this night vision similar to the one in Genesis 28:13-15 where God also appeared to Jacob in the night?
3. [H] (You must answer this question in conjunction with question 2 above.) Recall that God’s appearance to Jacob at Bethel (Genesis 28) was Jacob’s first personal encounter with the God of his fathers. This appearance to Jacob at Beersheba (Genesis 46) was His last. What does this last encounter between God and Jacob reveal about the significant change in their relationship?

(B) “Did Not Our Hearts Burn?” – Question for meditation, sharing and prayer. (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

Although he resisted the suggestion of parting with Benjamin at first, Jacob finally accepted God’s will as he said, “If I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved” (Genesis 43:14). When he relinquished them into God’s hands, he was able to move forward. Those steps he took started the process by which his children were returned to him. Is there anything you need to let go of to allow God to work in your life? Can Israel’s example of surrender make a difference for you today?