

# OUT OF THE PIT

## WEEK 8 HOMEWORK

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### DAY 1

1. Read Genesis 44 slowly, paying attention to the order of events. Imagine the scene from both Joseph's point of view and from the brothers' perspective.
2. Read Genesis 44:12-13. When the cup was found in Benjamin's sack, how did the brothers react? Why do you think they responded this way? Why do you think all of the brothers accompanied Benjamin back to the city?

### DAY 2

1. Read Genesis 44:14-34. Remember the unique connection that Joseph and Benjamin share. Again Joseph states that only the one who was found with the silver cup will become his slave, while the others are free to return to the father. What strikes you as brilliant about the test that Joseph so wisely devised? What is the response to Joseph's suggestion they return home?
2. Reread verses 14-34. How many times does Judah make reference to the evil the brothers committed against Joseph 20 years prior? Imagine how Joseph must have felt as Judah recounts the story of Joseph's own "death." How many times does Judah say the name "father"? What would this suggest the brothers have learned through watching someone else's pain?
3. Have you ever wanted to believe that someone's heart has changed or softened? Have you ever been faced with the truth that perhaps your own heart needed to change or soften?

## DAY 3

1. Read Genesis 45:1-15. Write down everything you observe verse by verse. Include all of Joseph's actions and words, the Egyptians' actions (and probably words), and the brothers' actions and responses. (Hint: there are more than 30.)

## DAY 4

1. Twenty years is a long time. Consider Joseph's heart. What spectrum of emotions do you imagine he is experiencing? What do you imagine is running through the minds of the brothers?
2. How does it make you feel to know this is the family God chose to establish the nation of Israel? Does it surprise you to know God picked this family to restore His creation?
3. If God can work miracles through them, do you think He can work them through your life, and/or through your family?

## DAY 5

1. Read Genesis 45. What part of this story resonates with you the most? Does Joseph seem to harbor any ill feelings or bitterness toward his brothers? How is this possible?
2. Have you ever had a moment in life when you looked back on unexpected events and realized that God had been at work?
3. When it comes to persisting through circumstances that you'd rather not face, what helps you keep a hopeful perspective?