

Bible Summary -Genesis 42

God is good

Joseph's 10 brothers are accused of being spies by Joseph when they travel to Egypt to buy grain. They don't recognize him and fear him. They leave with grain and that night discover their money in their sacks of grain and realize they will be accused of being thieves in addition to spies. Their response is, "What is God doing to us?" They blame God, a common response seen by Job and Ruth. Ruth may be the best example as Naomi blames God for killing her husband and two boys. Biblically there are three ways of thinking through this issue. 1) God is the cause. 2) God would never do that. 3) God is not the cause but can use it for His ultimate mission of redemption that we get to partner in through the work of the Cross.

Scriptures: Genesis 42:26-28; Job 6:4,19:6, 27:2; Ruth 1; Ephesians 1:10; Ezekiel 33:11; James 1:13; Proverbs 19:3; Exodus 34:6; Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Jeremiah 29:11; Genesis 50:20; Jeremiah 32:33-35; Isaiah 65:17-25; Ephesians 2:2, 6:12; 1 John 5:19; John 14:30

Bible Questions and Application

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** question listed.)

1. Describe a time when you were tempted to blame God or someone else for a hardship or difficulty.
2. What you think about God's goodness determines how you live.
 - a. If we believed that our actions do not matter because God will do whatever He will regardless, what would the implications be for how to live your day to day life?
 - b. If we believed that God only cares about our comfort and happiness, not our character and holiness, what would the implications be for how you live your day to day life?
3. Has there been hardship or misfortune in your life that God has redeemed for His purposes?
 - a. Do you have a current hardship you'd be willing to share that we can pray for God to redeem?
4. How can we remind ourselves of the Biblical reality that the earth is a battleground, not a playground?