

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS GO TO EGYPT

Genesis 42:1-38

Genesis 42

¹When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you just keep looking at each other?" ²He continued, "I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die."

³Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. ⁴But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him. ⁵So Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, for the famine was in the land of Canaan also.

⁶Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the one who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. ⁷As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he asked.

"From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food."

⁸Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. ⁹Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

¹⁰"No, my lord," they answered. "Your servants have come to buy food. ¹¹We are all the sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies."

¹²"No!" he said to them. "You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

¹³But they replied, "Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more."

¹⁴Joseph said to them, "It is just as I told you: You are spies! ¹⁵And this is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. ¹⁶Send one of your number to get your brother; the rest of you will be kept in prison, so that your words may be tested to see if you are telling the truth. If you are not, then as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!" ¹⁷And he put them all in custody for three days.

¹⁸On the third day, Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: ¹⁹If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison, while the rest of you go and take grain back for your starving households. ²⁰But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die." This they proceeded to do.

²¹They said to one another, "Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come upon us."

²²Reuben replied, "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood." ²³They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter.

²⁴He turned away from them and began to weep, but then turned back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes.

²⁵Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to put each man's silver back in his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey. After this was done for them, ²⁶they loaded their grain on their donkeys and left.

²⁷At the place where they stopped for the night one of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey, and he saw his silver in the mouth of his sack. ²⁸"My silver has been returned," he said to his brothers. "Here it is in my sack."

Their hearts sank and they turned to each other trembling and said, "What is this that God has done to us?"

²⁹When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them. They said, ³⁰"The man who is lord over the land spoke harshly to us and treated us as though we were spying on the land. ³¹But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies. ³²We were twelve brothers, sons of one father. One is no more, and the youngest is now with our father in Canaan.'

³³"Then the man who is lord over the land said to us, 'This is how I will know whether you are honest men: Leave one of your brothers here with me, and take food for your starving households and go. ³⁴But bring your youngest brother to me so I will know that you are not spies but honest men. Then I will give your brother back to you, and you can trade in the land.'"

³⁵As they were emptying their sacks, there in each man's sack was his pouch of silver! When they and their father saw the money pouches, they were frightened. ³⁶Their father Jacob said to them, "You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!"

³⁷Then Reuben said to his father, "You may put both of my sons to death if I do not bring him back to you. Entrust him to my care, and I will bring him back."

³⁸But Jacob said, "My son will not go down there with you; his brother is dead and he is the only one left. If harm comes to him on the journey you are taking, you will bring my gray head down to the grave in sorrow."

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt?
5		2.) How would Joseph's brother be able to get out of prison?
5		3.) Why didn't Jacob want Benjamin to go to Egypt? (Verse 38)
5		4.) Why do you think Joseph put the silver back in his brothers' sacks?

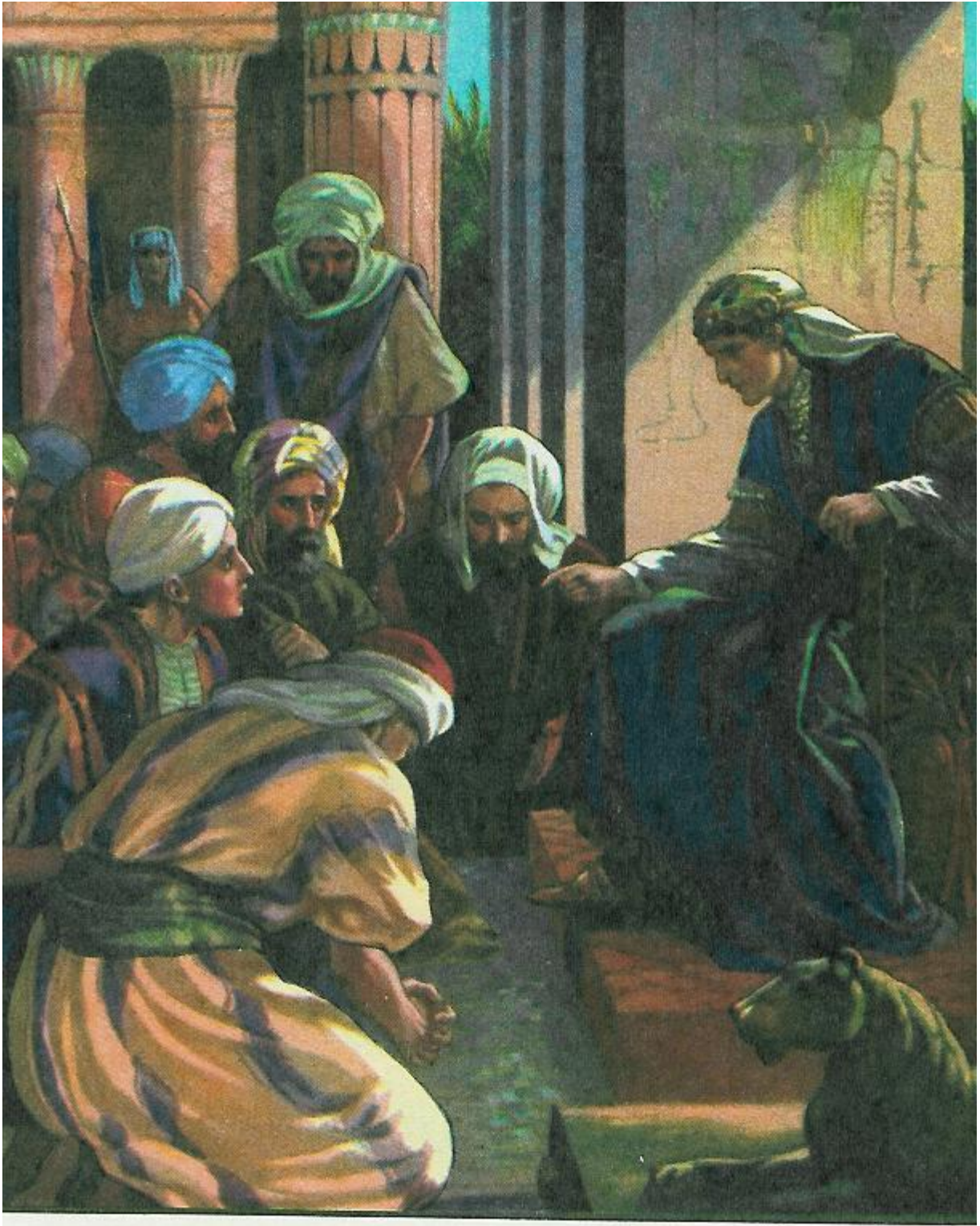
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>"The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 145:9</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	<p>LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ____/____/____</p>

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Genesis 42:1-38



Picture from *The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes* by Kenneth N. Taylor. Moody Press: Copyright © 1956.

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS GO TO EGYPT

Genesis 42:1-38



Joseph's brothers bow before him

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS GO TO EGYPT

Genesis 42:1-38

CRAFT/ACTIVITY: GRAIN SACKS

Students will make a grain sack to remind them of Joseph's brothers going to Egypt for grain during the seven year famine.

MATERIALS

1. Tan 67 lb. Cardstock
2. Grain sack pattern
3. Scissors
4. Hole punch
5. 18 inch pieces of yarn
6. Rice



DIRECTIONS

1. Copy a grain sack pattern for each student onto 67 lb. cardstock.
2. Have students cut out the grain sack pattern.
3. Instruct students to carefully crumble and recrumble the circle numerous times. The more the circle is crumbled, the softer and more cloth-like it becomes. Caution students to crumble carefully so as not to rip the paper.
4. Smooth out the circle and punch holes on each of the black dots.
5. Weave yarn in and out of each hole.
6. Tie both ends of the yarn together.
7. Fill the bag with dry rice to represent grain.
8. Draw the mouth of the bag closed by pulling carefully on both ends of the yarn.

FOR DISCUSSION

As students are crumbling their "grain sacks", remind them of how Joseph had compassion on his brothers. Joseph could have chosen to harbor bitterness towards his brothers' treatment of him, but God used him to provide for *their* needs! Discuss how God showed compassion on *us* by sending his son Jesus to die for our sins. Give students the opportunity to receive Jesus as their personal Lord and savior.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 20 minutes

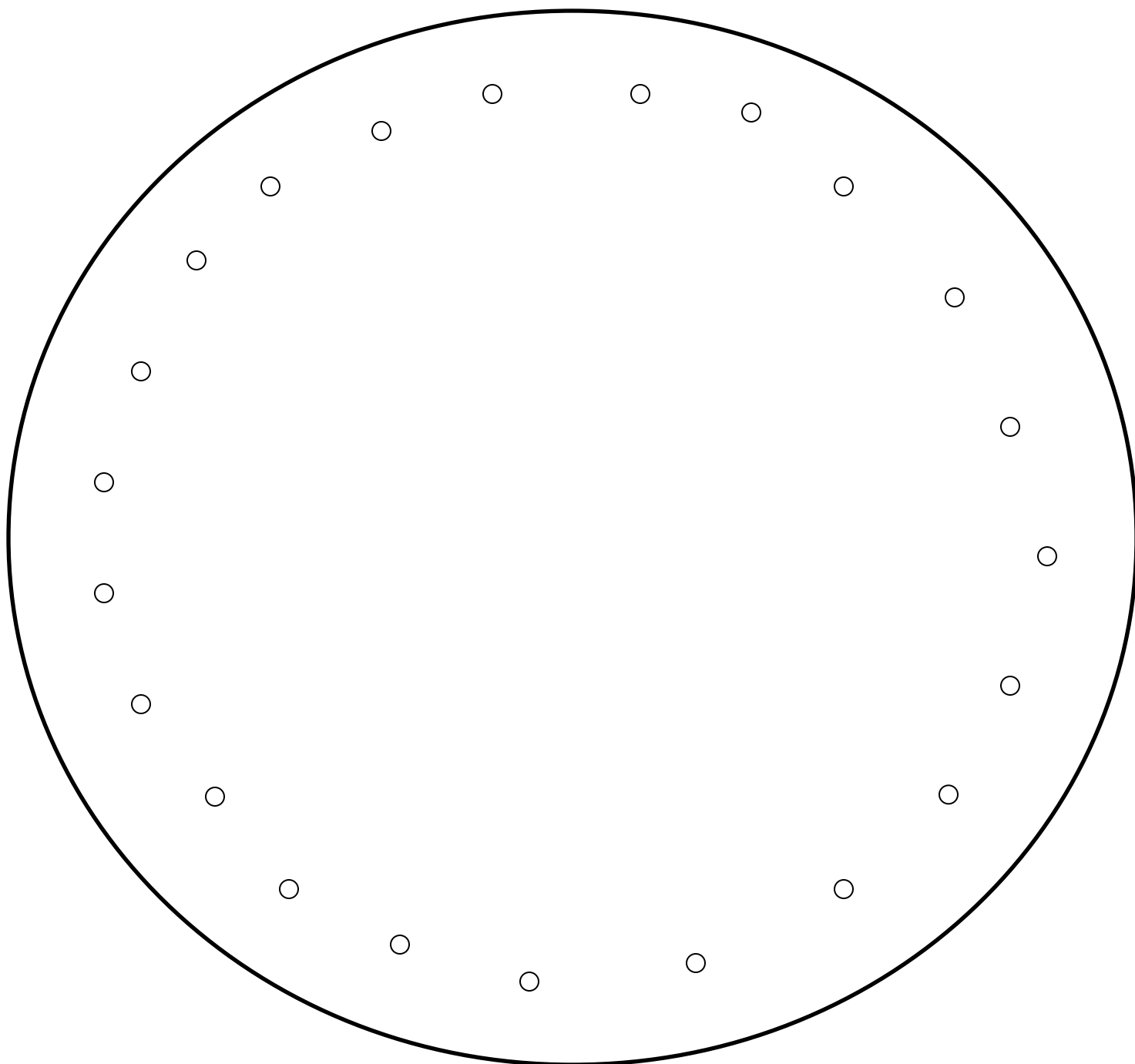
MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made."
Psalms 145:9

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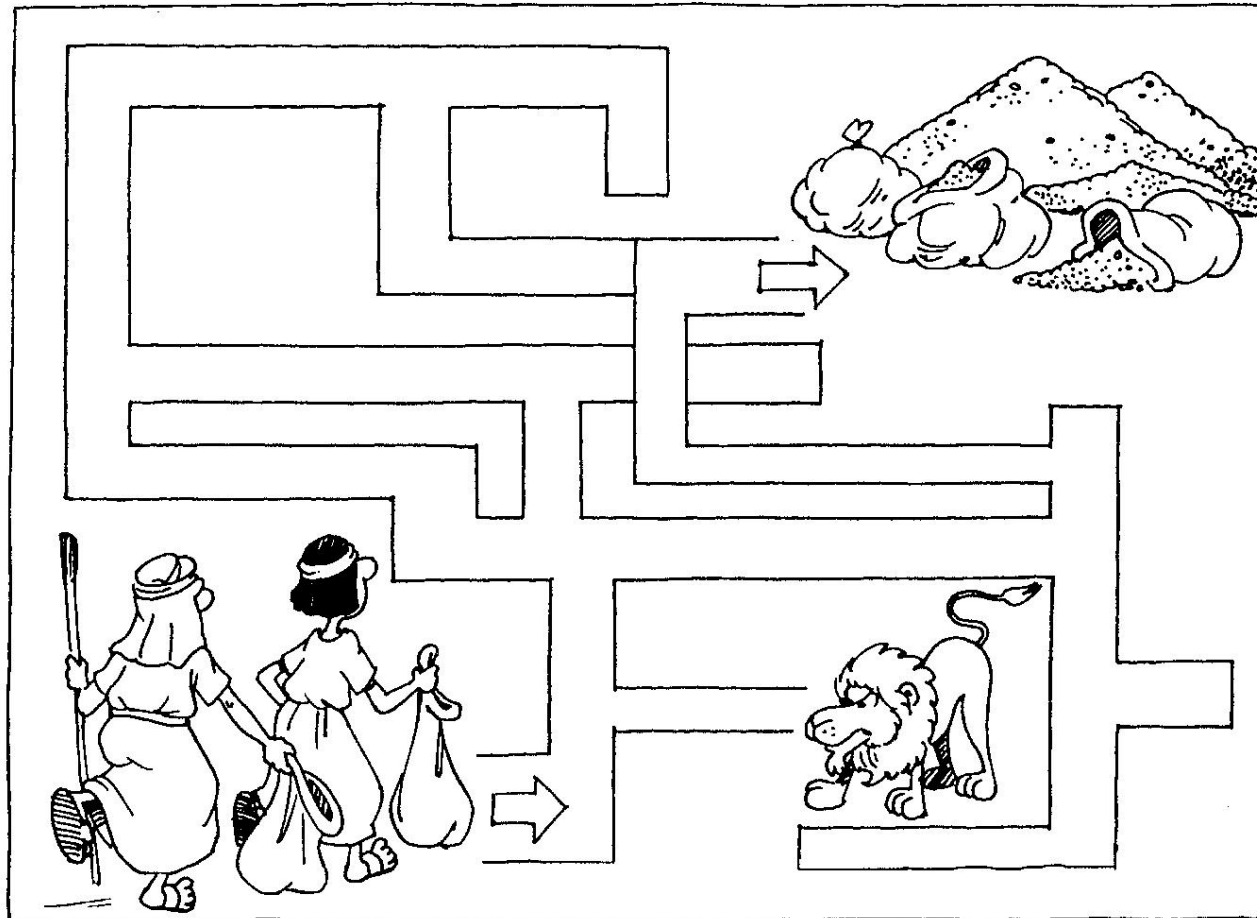
GRAIN SACK PATTERN



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These hungry men need to get to where the food is. Can you help them?



Many people were going hungry during the seven years when crops wouldn't grow. Joseph's family back in Canaan heard that there was food in Egypt. So Jacob sent some of his sons to Egypt to buy food.

THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON GENESIS 42:1-38

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS GO TO EGYPT



There were seven good years in Egypt with plenty of food. Then there was a famine in the land that lasted for seven years. A famine means there is little or no food in the land.

Jacob, Joseph's father, sent his other sons to Egypt to buy grain because they had no food. Jacob had heard that Egypt had grain to sell. Joseph had been saving grain for seven years so there would be food during the famine.

Joseph saw his brothers when they came to buy grain, but they didn't recognize him. Joseph's brothers bowed down to Joseph--just as he had dreamed.

Joseph treated his brothers as if they were spies. Joseph noticed that his youngest brother was not standing there with his other brothers. He put his brother Simeon in jail and told his other brothers to bring his youngest brother Benjamin back to Egypt.

Joseph had their bags filled with grain. He even gave back the silver they brought to buy grain with. The brothers didn't find out about the silver until later that night. When they opened their bags, there was their silver! They were scared! Would Joseph think they stole it?

When the Joseph's brothers got home, they told their father what had happened in Egypt. They told Jacob that they had to bring Benjamin back with them to Egypt. Jacob said, "No." He didn't want to loose another son. Remember that Jacob thought Joseph was dead?

For more details, please read Genesis 42:1-38 in the Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt?
2. Did Joseph's brothers recognize him?
3. What did Joseph do for his brothers?
4. Why didn't Jacob want Benjamin to go to Egypt?

MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made."

Psalm 145:9

UNSCRAMBLE THE MESSAGE

gave	eat	brothers	to
his	grain	Joseph	

Joseph _____

_____.

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