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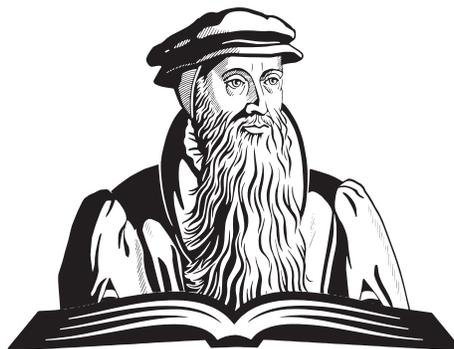
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 26:

Joseph and His Brethren

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

40 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

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| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 25. Joseph Raised out of Prison |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 30. Let My People Go |
| 07. The Coming Judgment – A Way of Escape | 31. Deliverance |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit but to Show
Thankfulness |
| 10. Abram: Called By God | 34. The Lord Dwells among His People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 12. Melchizedek | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 14. Two Sons | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | |
| 24. An Eye upon God | |

Lesson 26

Joseph and His Brethren

Genesis 42 – Genesis 45

Memory Verse

Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 45:5

A Story of Reconciliation

The events related in these chapters of Genesis are indeed beautiful. It is a story of brothers, once at enmity, brought together again in bonds of love. It is amazing to see how the brother they despised is the brother who embraces them. This picture, painted for us in Holy Scripture, is even more magnificent when we consider that it is an illustration of God, in Christ, reconciling a sinful people to Himself.

Not Satisfied

What was it that brought the children of Jacob to Egypt? It was not to search for the brother they had offended and despised. Rather it was a growing need for food. There was a famine in the land. However, they had heard news that, in Egypt, there was food in abundance. It is their need that drives them to Egypt, toward Joseph.

Conviction of Sin

They come to Egypt with great expectations. However, things don't go according to their plans. When they come before the presence of Zaphnath-paaneah, they are accused of being spies. These accusations cause the past sins of the brothers, their sin toward their brother Joseph, to come to the foreground. They recognize that they are being dealt with justly. They had transgressed the Law, and now they feel that the Law condemns them.

A Wonderfully Full and Free Deliverance

They came to Egypt with money in their sacks. They intended to pay for the grain they received. However, on their journey home they open the sacks of grain. And what do they find? Why, each man finds his money in the sack. They paid nothing for the grain.

After some time passed, it was necessary for Jacob's sons to return to Egypt. On their way home the second time, Zaphnath-paaneah's steward confronted them and accused them of stealing a cup. Upon their return, the cup is found in Benjamin's sack. What will the punishment be? He shall become a servant, a slave to Zaphnath-paaneah. What is the reaction of the brothers? Are they glad that it was not found in their sacks? Will they do to Benjamin what they did to Joseph? No, they confess their guilt – "what shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants" (Genesis 44:16).

Upon hearing the confession of his brothers, what does Zaphnath-paaneah do? Why, he weeps. He reveals himself, not as Zaphnath-paaneah, but as Joseph, their brother. He embraced and "kissed all his brethren" (Genesis 45:15). That which had been prophesied concerning Joseph had come true. As second, only unto Pharaoh, all that Joseph had, he laid before his brothers. He would provide all things freely.

Questions

1. After he accused the sons of Jacob as spies, Joseph had them locked in prison. How many days were they in prison?

2. After being released from the prison, the brothers discussed among themselves the guilt that was upon them, for their treatment of their brother Joseph. _____, one of the brothers recalled that he had once said, "Do not sin against the child, and ye would not hear."
 - a. Levi
 - b. Simeon
 - c. Reuben
 - d. Naphtali
3. Which brother was bound and kept as a prisoner, until such time as the others would return with their youngest brother, Benjamin?
 - a. Issachar
 - b. Simeon
 - c. Gad
 - d. Judah
4. Who offered to allow his sons to be slain, if any harm would come to Jacob's youngest son, Benjamin?
 - a. Asher
 - b. Dan
 - c. Naphtali
 - d. Reuben
5. When the food that they had from Egypt began to run out, Jacob commanded his sons to go and get more food. However, they would not go if Benjamin did not accompany them. Who promised Jacob that he would be a surety for the child?
 - a. Judah
 - b. Levi
 - c. Reuben
 - d. Gad

6. When all the brothers sat down to feast with Joseph, to whom did Joseph give five times as much food?

7. Before Joseph would reveal himself to his brothers, he would test them one more time. What item did they place in Benjamin's sack? Why do you think Joseph had the item placed in Benjamin's sack and not in that of one of the others?

- Item - _____

- Why Benjamin's Sack - _____

Genesis 45

8. And _____ said, It is enough; _____ my son is yet _____ : I will go and _____ him before I _____ .

Discussion Questions

1. In the writing above, there are three sections: Not Satisfied, Conviction of Sin and A Wonderful and Free Deliverance. Explain how in these three headings is seen God's work of salvation and reconciliation.

2. When Jacob's sons came before Zaaphnath-paaneah, they said to him, "We are all one man's sons; we are true men, thy servants are no spies" (Genesis 42:11). Explain why their statement concerning their character was false.

3. Explain why Joseph did not reveal his true identity to his brothers immediately.

4. In Genesis 42:25, we read that Joseph “commanded” that “every man’s money” be placed in their sacks. As they journeyed home, the men found the money in their sacks and cried, “What is this that God hath done unto us? (Genesis 42:28). Explain how both these statements are true – that Joseph did it and that God did it.

5. Before going up to Egypt the second time, Judah said to his father that he would be a “surety” for Benjamin (Genesis 43:9). In Genesis 44:32-33, when Zaaphnath-paaneah intends to make Benjamin a servant, for ‘stealing’ the cup, Judah intercedes for the child. What is a surety? How is Judah acting as a surety? How is this an illustration of Jesus Christ, the greater surety?

• Meaning of surety - _____

• How is Judah acting as a surety? - _____

• How is Jesus Christ the greater surety? - _____

6. Reflecting upon Joseph's words to his brothers in Genesis 45:5-8, explain why he did not harbor any bitterness towards his brothers for all the things that he endured because of their enmity.
