thrive
A HOPE WOMEN'S GATHERING

Persevering Faith: Lessons from the Life of Joseph

Lesson 7: Tested
Teacher: Shirley Hayes
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INTRODUCTION:

READING: Genesis 42:3-11(CSB)

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

6 Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's
brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. 7 As 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."

8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. 9 Then 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. 11 We are all the sons of one man. Your
servants are honest men, not spies."

TABLE STUDY:

1. What would cause Jacob to think that harm might come to Benjamin?
2. Look at verse 9. What dream did Joseph remember about his brothers? (Genesis 37:5-7)
3. Why do you think Joseph accused his brothers of being spies?
4. Look at how the brothers describe themselves in verse 11. What do you think of that description?

TEACHING NOTES:

TABLE DISCUSSION:

1. This story shows us that God doesn't disqualify us because of our sin. His forgiveness and work in our lives can make us new creatures. How does that offer you encouragement?

2. Today we saw two examples: we saw God working in Jacob and also in Judah. We can trust God to bring about change in our lives and others. Do we believe that? How have you seen God working in your life or someone else's life?

3. Like us, Jacob was determined to control part of his story by keeping Benjamin with him. He finally chose to trust God and let him go. He let go of the rope so to speak. Is there a rope you are burning your hands with? Will you share about the brick wall in your life?

4. Joseph was living in a foreign land but he clung to the faith of his father. In what ways could it have been difficult? What are the challenges you face when you try to "Live Out Loud"?

UNISON READING: Genesis 50:20

"You planned something bad for me, but God produced something good from it."