



South Sub Church

July 12, 2026

## “When the Past Comes Back”

### Genesis 42 [verses 1-5 (NLT) listed]

When Jacob heard that grain was available in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why are you standing around looking at one another? <sup>2</sup>I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there, and buy enough grain to keep us alive. Otherwise we’ll die.” <sup>3</sup>So Joseph’s ten older brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain. <sup>4</sup>But Jacob wouldn’t let Joseph’s younger brother, Benjamin, go with them, for fear some harm might come to him. <sup>5</sup>So Jacob’s sons arrived in Egypt along with others to buy food, for the famine was in Canaan as well.

### Sermon Summary:

Life doesn’t always make sense in the moment. Betrayal, disappointment, temptation, loss, and waiting can leave us wondering where God is in the middle of it all. Yet the story of Joseph reminds us that even when all seems lost, God is still working behind the scenes - preparing us for purpose and revealing His greater plan. Join us as we walk through one of the most powerful stories in Scripture and discover how God can use every season of life to shape something bigger than we can see.

### Fun, non-threatening Ice Breaker questions:

1. Have you ever had to face the consequences of a past mistake?
2. What’s a time you were forced to trust someone you weren’t sure about?
3. How do you usually respond when you feel guilty about something?
4. What’s one experience that changed your perspective about another person?
5. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to rely on God during uncertainty?

### Objective Bible study questions (observation):

1. Why did Jacob send his sons to Egypt?
2. Which brother stayed behind with Jacob?
3. Why did Joseph’s brothers bow before him?
4. How did Joseph recognize his brothers?
5. What accusation did Joseph make against his brothers?
6. Which brother was kept in prison?
7. What did the brothers begin to feel guilty about?

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8. What did Joseph secretly place back into the brothers' sacks?
9. How did the brothers react when they found their money?
10. Why was Jacob unwilling to send Benjamin to Egypt?

**Interpretive Questions (meaning):**

1. Why do you think Joseph spoke harshly to his brothers at first?
2. What does the brothers' guilt reveal about the lasting effects of sin?
3. Why might Joseph have wanted to test his brothers before revealing himself?
4. How does fear influence the way the brothers respond throughout the chapter?
5. What does this chapter teach about repentance and accountability?

**Application questions (life response):**

1. Are there past sins or failures you still need to honestly bring before God?
2. How do guilt and shame affect your relationship with others and with God?
3. What does true repentance look like in everyday life?
4. How can you trust God even when circumstances feel confusing or frightening?
5. Is there a relationship in your life where trust or reconciliation needs to begin?