



the DUNGEON

SERMON GUIDE

A TEST OF LOVE (PART 1)

Genesis 42:1-24 | Pastor Tim Prince

October 30, 2022

Faith Community Church | fchudson.com

Conversation Questions

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- Scripture that stands out to you while you read
- Observations you are making about a passage
- Applications that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- Prayer that invites God to participate in all that you do

Getting to Know Me: What was one of the best meals or most memorable meals (for any reason) you have ever had? Share about the experience and why it was good or memorable.

Note About the Passage: The famine described in chapters 41 and 42 affected "all the lands" and indicates a far-reaching and severe deficit in food supply across the earth. This is the reason Joseph's brothers would be compelled to travel a long distance from the land of Canaan to seek the abundant food storages in the land of Egypt. Remember that Benjamin was the youngest son of Jacob's favorite wife Rachel. Jacob was especially protective of Benjamin after losing his son Joseph (Jacob believed Joseph to be dead because of the deception of Joseph's brothers). When Joseph accuses his brothers of being spies and coming to see the "nakedness of the land," Joseph is using an idiom that refers to scoping out a civilized land for defensive weaknesses, for invasion.

Read: Genesis 42:1-24

S: What verses, phrases, words, or feelings stand out to you as you read this text? Is anything "illuminated," surprising, or jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?

O: Describe the different thoughts and feelings you think Joseph might have had seeing his brothers again. Why do you think Joseph chose not to mention his dream coming true and keep his identity hidden (v.9)?

O: What reasons do you think Joseph had for speaking with his brothers roughly (v.7)? Why do you think he decided to accuse them of being spies and insist that they prove otherwise?

O: The only place God is mentioned in this passage is in verse 18. Why do you think Joseph chooses to mention the fear of God to his brothers?

O: What are your personal reactions to Reuben's rebuke in verse 22? What might have been his motivations?

O: What are your personal reactions to Joseph's need to go away and weep in verse 23?

A: If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?

A: Like Joseph's brothers, is there a sin in your life toward someone else that has been ignored or that is currently unaddressed? What steps could you take to restore the relationship to healthy condition?

P: Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, and forgive you for the ways you have failed. Ask him to provide the direction and strength that you need.