



Week #5: When Past and Present Collide

When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you just keep looking at each other?" He 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." Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him.

Genesis 42:1-4 (NIV)

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. 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."

Genesis 42: 6-7 (NIV)

As the past and present collide:

- Relational _____ from the _____ is in the _____.

And this is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. Send 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!" And he put them all in custody for three days.

Genesis 42:15-17 (NIV)

- Be _____ and _____ while looking for evidence of _____.

They 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 on us.”

Genesis 42:21 (NIV)

- Face the _____ and take _____.

I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life.

Genesis 43:9 (NIV)

“Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord’s slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father.”

Genesis 44:33-34 (NIV)

- Demonstrate _____.

God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again.

Philippians 1:6 (NCV)

Bottom line: Honesty about the past _____ in the present.

Discussion questions:

1. When have you seen your past and present collide?
2. Share about a time you needed to take responsibility instead of making excuses.
3. How can genuine change be recognized?
4. What is one practical step you can take to pursue healing in your life or in a damaged relationship?

Recommended resources:

[*You'll Get Through This: Hope and Help for Your Turbulent Times*](#), by Max Lucado

[*Joseph: A Story of Love, Hate, Slavery, Power, and Forgiveness*](#), by John C. Lennox

[*It's Not Supposed to Be This Way*](#), by Lysa TerKeurst

[*The Dream of You: Let Go of Broken Identities and Live the Life You Were Made For*](#), by Jo Saxton

(NIV) New International Version (NCV) New Century Version

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Genesis 42: 6-7 (NIV)

As the past and present collide:

- Relational damage from the past is in the present.

And this is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. Send 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!" And he put them all in custody for three days.

Genesis 42:15-17 (NIV)

- Be open and wise while looking for evidence of growth.

They 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 on us."

Genesis 42:21 (NIV)

- Face the truth and take ownership.

I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life.

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Genesis 44:33-34 (NIV)

- **Demonstrate change.**

God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again.

Philippians 1:6 (NCV)

Bottom line: Honesty about the past encourages healing in the present.

Discussion questions:

1. When have you seen your past and present collide?
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