

# Love Shouldn't Hurt



<sup>6</sup> Now Joseph was governor over the land; it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. <sup>7</sup> When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."

<sup>8</sup> Although Joseph had recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

<sup>9</sup> Joseph also remembered the dreams that he had dreamed about them. He said to them, "You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land!" <sup>10</sup> They

said to him, "No, my lord; your servants have come to buy food. <sup>11</sup> We are all sons of one man; we are honest men; your servants have never been spies." <sup>12</sup> But he said to them, "No, you have come to see the nakedness of the land!" <sup>13</sup> They said, "We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of a certain man in the land of Canaan; the youngest, however, is now with our father, and one is no more." <sup>14</sup> But Joseph said to them, "It is just as I have said to you; you are spies! <sup>15</sup> Here is how you shall be tested: as Pharaoh lives, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here! <sup>16</sup> Let one of you go and bring your brother, while the rest of you remain in prison, in order that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you; or else, as Pharaoh lives, surely you are spies." <sup>17</sup> And he put them all together in prison for three days. <sup>18</sup> On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: <sup>19</sup> if you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here where you are imprisoned. The rest of you shall go and carry grain for the famine of your households, <sup>20</sup> and bring your youngest brother to me. Thus your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they agreed to do so. <sup>21</sup> They said to one another, "Alas, we are paying the penalty for what we did to our brother; we saw his anguish when he pleaded with us, but we would not listen. That is why this anguish has come upon us." <sup>22</sup> Then Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to wrong the boy? But you would not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood." <sup>23</sup> They did not know that Joseph understood them, since he spoke with them through an interpreter. <sup>24</sup> He turned away from them and wept; then he returned and spoke to them. And he picked out Simeon and had him bound before their eyes. <sup>25</sup> Joseph then gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to return every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey. This was done for them.



**get excited!**

(5 minutes)

**Repeat the Lord's Prayer.**

**Verse to Remember**

Then Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to wrong the boy? But you would not listen. So now there comes a reckoning. . ." **Genesis 42:22.**

**key verse exercise.**

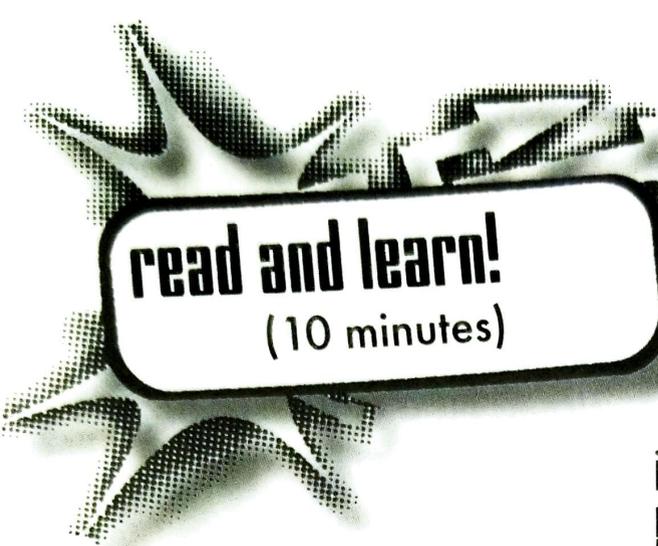
Use the missing letters in the boxes to find the name of the brother who did not want the other brothers to hurt Joseph in the Verse to Remember.

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spectf  l

eautiful

obedi   t



**read and learn!**  
(10 minutes)

**ZION AND ZAYA TALK  
ABOUT JOSEPH'S LOVE AND  
WISDOM**

**ZION** - Do you remember that the Pharaoh in Egypt put Joseph in charge of the entire country? Joseph organized the people to save a lot of food during seven good years so that they would have food for seven years when the famine came, and no food would grow.

**ZAYA** - Yes, I remember. And the seven famine years did come after seven years when the food really grew well. When the famine years came in Egypt, there were other countries that had a great famine also, including Canaan which was Joseph's homeland.

**ZION** - In Canaan, Joseph's family had no food to eat. Joseph's father, Jacob, was very worried about his large family. So, he sent all his sons except one to Egypt to see if they could buy some food. The son that Jacob did not send was his youngest son named Benjamin. Jacob was afraid that something might happen to Ben-

jamin just as something had happened to Joseph. Jacob thought he would sadder that he could bear to be if his youngest son died.

**ZAYA** - When the brothers arrived in Egypt, they had to go to the place where Joseph worked because Joseph was in charge of distributing all the food. When they saw Joseph, they did not recognize him, but Joseph recognized his brothers. Do you remember what Joseph did when he saw his brothers?

**ZION** - Well, I know he asked them a lot of question about their family. He asked them these questions so he could find out how their father and younger brother were doing. Also, I remember that Joseph did not put his brothers in prison like you would think he would do. Since Joseph wanted to please God, he gave them some food even though they had sold him into slavery.

**ZAYA** - True, but that's not all he did. He had his workers fill all their sacks with grain, and he also se-

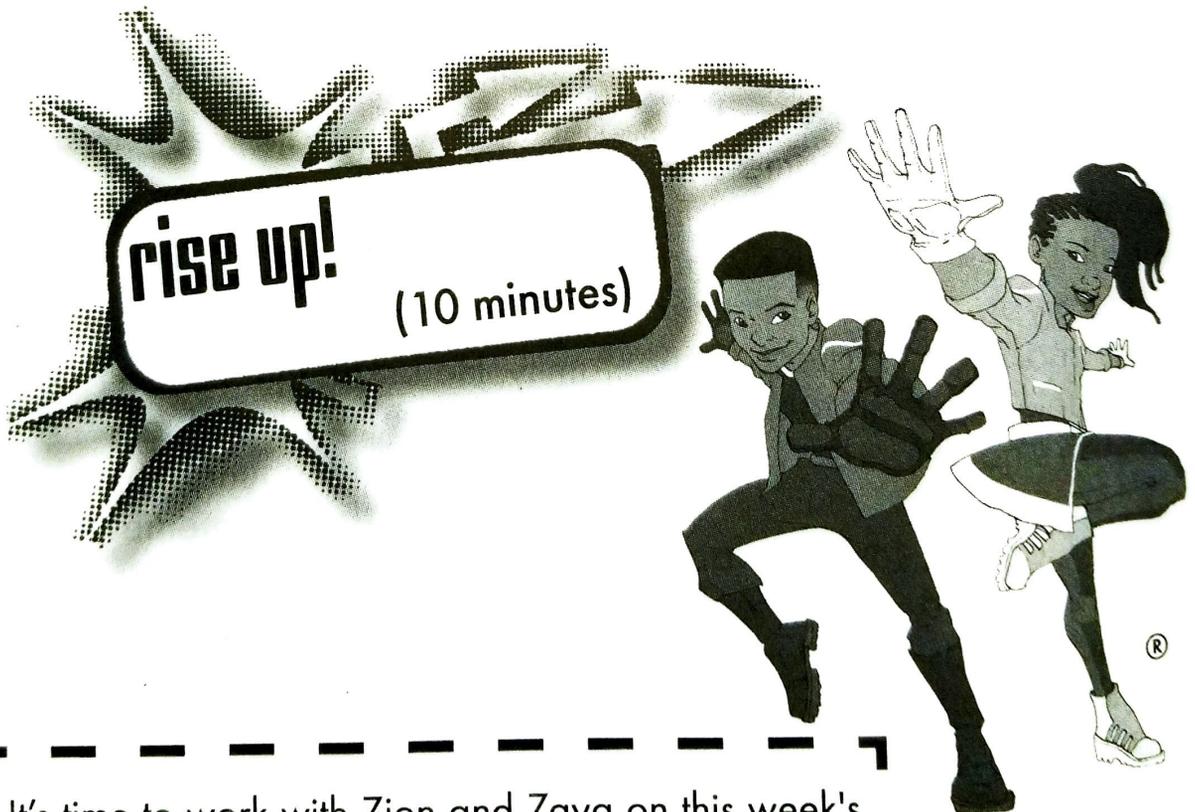
cretly put the money they used to pay for the grain in their sacks.

**ZION** - Did the brothers return to Canaan without ever knowing who Joseph was?

**ZAYA** - No. There's a lot more to this story. Joseph told them to go back to their county and bring Benjamin, their younger brother, back with them. To make sure they would come back, Joseph did not let one his older brothers Simeon go back home. Joseph put Simeon in prison to wait for the other brothers to come back with Benjamin.

**ZION** - Before they left, Joseph told his brothers, "Do this and you will live because I fear God." Joseph said this to let his brothers know that if they came back with Benjamin, he would not harm any of them and he would let Simeon go free.

**ZAYA** - Wow! This is an interesting story. Next week, let's discuss the rest of it.



It's time to work with Zion and Zaya on this week's **"FORGIVENESS NEEDED."** Help Zion and Zaya work through situations that call for forgiveness.

## what do you think?

Why do you think Joseph sent his brothers back to Canaan to get his younger brother Benjamin?

## time to create

Make a forgiving heart.



## time to pray

Dear God, help us not hold a grudge against someone who has done something to hurt us. Teach us how to forgive, because we want to be forgiven too. Please heal all of our hurt feelings. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Instructions and answers can be found in the Teachers Guide at [cedamezion.org](http://cedamezion.org). Click on the "resources tab" then click "CSL," then click the appropriate quarterly.