A Word from Kathy

When people are starving, they often do things they thought they would never do. Would Jacob consider going down to Egypt? After all, God had specifically told his father, Isaac, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land, where I tell you to live.” But a severe famine was in the land, and Jacob heard that there was food there. They did not know it, but God was about to do an amazing work. What completely impossible situation are you faced with? Could a famine be God’s answer for a family’s restoration? Why not ask God if he would move on your behalf? Then stand back and see how big our God really is.

Ps. 84:11 “…No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.”

Read the chapter twice before starting to answer the questions. Pray and ask God to speak to you through his word.

Observation

1. What good news did Jacob hear that could save his family?

2. Who did he send?
   Who did he not send?     Why?

3. What happened in verse 6 that had been foretold in Gen. 37:5-8?

4. Joseph recognized his brothers as they came before him to buy food. Why do you think they did not recognize him?

5. What did Joseph call them?
   What did they repeatedly call themselves?

6. What happened to Jacob’s sons that gave them time to think?

7. Why did they believe this trial had come upon them?

8. What plan did Joseph propose should they want to buy grain?

9. Why do you believe he chose Simeon?

10. What unusual thing did Joseph order his servants to do?
11. When they were a day’s journey away, what did they discover?
   Why were they upset by this discovery?

12. When they arrived home, they told their father all that had happened and what they had found.
   What other even more amazing thing did they discover?
   How did they feel about this find?
   Why would they feel this way?

13. When Jacob heard of the chain of events, what was his response?

14. Reuben stepped up and offered an unusual plan. What was it? What possible good would that do?

15. After hearing their account of the events and the words that had been spoken to them, what was Jacob’s answer?

Application

16. Jacob was willing to send his sons to Egypt when he heard that there was food there. Have you ever been faced with a trial that was so out of your control that you sought help from an unusual source?

17. Joseph came up with an elaborate plan in order to see his younger brother again. Why would he want to see him so badly? Would his brothers have trusted Joseph if he had revealed himself to them and demanded that they bring Benjamin? Can you imagine their fears had they known it was Joseph they were dealing with? Are you able to be discreet with information, like Joseph was, and wait for God’s timing?

18. Did you feel sorry for Jacob when he heard of the chain of events?
   Have you ever snapped at someone, “Why did you say that? Now look what you’ve done,” even though you knew they did not say it to harm you?

19. Like Jacob, a loss can make us want to hold on tighter to what remains. Isn’t that fear ruling our lives?
   What are you holding on to in fear, when you know you should be trusting God?