

QUESTION 6

- a) The Messianic declaration in **Isaiah 42:6** declares that: *“I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations...”*
- b) We see aspects of God’s covenant plan given to Noah, Abraham, Moses and David. Each point to God’s plan of redemption. Verses like **Ephesians 1:4** and **Revelation 13:8** speaks about a work set out before the creation of the world.
- c) This suggests what has been described as the Covenant of Redemption. That from before the creation of the world the persons of the Trinity entered into a solemn pact to accomplish the work of redemption. The Father promised to give a people to the Son as His inheritance, the Son undertook to accomplish their redemption; and the Spirit covenanted to testify to Christ and apply His redemption to His people's hearts.
- d) Judah bases his plea to Joseph on the covenant he had made with his father. So, we see Jesus doing the same thing in John 17:4 *“I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do”*.

GROUP LEADER’S NOTES – STUDY 15

QUESTION 1

- a) Last time they had been accused of stealing they had sought justice (**verses 7-9**). This time they seek mercy.
- b) As far as they are concerned, all they can do is admit their guilt and plead for mercy for Benjamin.
- c) They know that they are not guilty of stealing the cup, but they confess their guilt, because of what they had done to Joseph. Time had not erased their guilt. The other brothers knew that they did not deserve mercy themselves.
- d) In verse 16 Judah confesses that it is God who has found out their guilt and revealed it to Joseph.
- e) This is the continuing work of repentance that began when they were thrown into prison for being spies in **42:21-22**.
- f) Notice in verse 14 that they throw themselves on the ground before Joseph.
- g) They never question Joseph’s absolute right to do whatever he pleases.

QUESTION 2

- a) All along; we see that Joseph’s aim has not been revenge, but to bring his brothers to acknowledge their guilt.
- b) Joseph is again testing the extent of their repentance. He gives them one more chance to escape; at Benjamin’s expense.
- c) If they do this, then it will show little change of heart from what had happened 20 years previously at Dothan (Chapter 37).
- d) This seems a very harsh thing for Joseph to do. But it is part of the process of transformation in the hearts of his brothers.

QUESTION 3

- a) The opening words of this section in **verse 14** introduce us to Judah immersing as leader and spokesman; although he is not the oldest brother. This will be significant.
- b) He is showing leadership qualities that will put him at the forefront of the family in the future. Jacob will see this and bless Judah accordingly in **Genesis 49:10**.
- c) What we have here is an incredibly moving speech. It is sixteen verses long and the longest speech in Genesis.
- d) It shows humility.

QUESTION 4

- a) Here is the one who suggested they sell Joseph to the Midianite traders (**37:26-27**). This was not out of any desire to save his brother's life, but an opportunity to make money.
- b) He's not going to make the same mistake again.
- c) There is no longer jealousy and a bad spirit in the hearts of the brothers. They are truly repentant.
- d) There is no defence of what they have done; only a plea for mercy.
- e) There is more concern about his father than there had been before. Judah sees in verse 26 that Benjamin's fate and the survival of his father are tied in together.
- f) Here is a reminder of Judah's greatest descendent (Jesus), who intercedes for His people before God (see **Hebrews 7:25**).

QUESTION 5

- a) So far, Judah has been speaking on behalf of all the family (note 'we' and 'us' throughout verses 18-29).
- b) Now he speaks for himself
- c) We see Judah offering his own life in order to save his family. He is the first person in the Bible to willingly offer his life for another. This points forward to the self-giving sacrifice of Jesus. He would be the substitute.
- d) Although he had not stolen the cup; Judah nevertheless knew he was guilty. He could not say he was getting something he didn't deserve.
- e) Twenty years earlier he had sold a brother. Now he was willing to buy the freedom of another with his own life.
- f) Judah had pledged himself as surety for Benjamin (**43:8-9**). Although the cup was not found in his sack, Judah would pay the penalty for it. This shows his love for his brother and father.
- g) This is a lovely picture of the one from Judah's line who would be surety for His people: Jesus (see **Hebrews 7:22**). In **Revelation 5:5** Jesus is described as "*the Lion of the tribe of Judah*".
- h) Jesus was willing to pay the price of our sin so that we, like Benjamin, could walk away from it.
- i) In Genesis 44, the guilty offers himself as a substitute for the innocent. But there would be another one, Jesus, who was innocent, but who would offer Himself as a substitute for His guilty brothers.