

Read Genesis 42:8-14

8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they didn't recognize him.

9 And he remembered the dreams he'd had about them many years before. He said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become."

10 "No, my lord!" they exclaimed. "Your servants have simply come to buy food.

11 We are all brothers—members of the same family. We are honest men, sir! We are not spies!"

12 "Yes, you are!" Joseph insisted. "You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become."

13 "Sir," they said, "there are actually twelve of us. We, your servants, are all brothers, sons of a man living in the land of Canaan. Our youngest brother is back there with our father right now, and one of our brothers is no longer with us."

14 But Joseph insisted, "As I said, you are spies!

Joseph recognized his brothers right away but did the brothers recognize Joseph (v. 8)? No.

Why didn't they recognize him? The Bible doesn't tell us. Maybe because of the way he was dressed. Or maybe he had a beard. He had probably changed a lot in 15 years.

What did Joseph remember (v. 9)? He remembered his dreams when his brothers were bowing down to him. Those dreams came true right here and now.

What did Joseph accuse the brothers of? Being spies. Trying to figure out how to attack Egypt.

How did they respond (vv. 10-11)? We're not spies. We just want to buy some food.

What did Joseph accuse them of again (vv. 12, 14)? Being spies.

Did Joseph really think they were spies? No. It was just a part of his plan of how he was going to treat his brothers.

How did the brothers describe themselves (v. 13)? (Read)

Who was the brother that is "no longer with us?" Joseph himself!