

Read Genesis 44:18-29

**18** Then Judah stepped forward and said, “Please, my lord, let your servant say just one word to you. Please, do not be angry with me, even though you are as powerful as Pharaoh himself.

**19** “My lord, previously you asked us, your servants, ‘Do you have a father or a brother?’

**20** And we responded, ‘Yes, my lord, we have a father who is an old man, and his youngest son is a child of his old age. His full brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother’s children, and his father loves him very much.’

**21** “And you said to us, ‘Bring him here so I can see him with my own eyes.’

**22** But we said to you, ‘My lord, the boy cannot leave his father, for his father would die.’

**23** But you told us, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes with you, you will never see my face again.’

**24** “So we returned to your servant, our father, and told him what you had said.

**25** Later, when he said, ‘Go back again and buy us more food,’

**26** we replied, ‘We can’t go unless you let our youngest brother go with us. We’ll never get to see the man’s face unless our youngest brother is with us.’

**27** “Then my father said to us, ‘As you know, my wife had two sons,

**28** and one of them went away and never returned. Doubtless he was torn to pieces by some wild animal. I have never seen him since.

**29** Now if you take his brother away from me, and any harm comes to him, you will send this grieving, white-haired man to his grave.’

**How did Judah begin his conversation with Joseph (v. 18)?** Pleading with him. Judah wanted to explain their situation. He didn’t want Joseph to get mad.

**What did Judah tell Joseph (vv. 19-23)?** (Read) Judah reminded Joseph of the conversation the brothers had with him earlier.

**Then what did Judah tell Joseph (vv. 24-26)?** (Read) He told Joseph what happened when they went back home.

**What did Judah tell Joseph his dad (Jacob) said to his sons when they came home (vv. 27-29)?** (Read) First I lost Joseph. Some wild animal killed him. Now if anything happens to Benjamin I will be devastated.

**Why do you think Judah did all the talking to Joseph?** He really loved his dad. And he wanted to take care of his dad so he could enjoy his old age. Plus, we see that Judah was a leader among his brothers. That’s one place we can learn to be a leader – among our family and among our friends/peers.