## Iudah's Plea

## Read Genesis 44:30-34 and 45:1-2

- **30** "And now, my lord, I cannot go back to my father without the boy. Our father's life is bound up in the boy's life.
- **31** If he sees that the boy is not with us, our father will die. We, your servants, will indeed be responsible for sending that grieving, white-haired man to his grave.
- **32** My lord, I guaranteed to my father that I would take care of the boy. I told him, 'If I don't bring him back to you, I will bear the blame forever.'
- **33** "So please, my lord, let me stay here as a slave instead of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers.
- **34** For how can I return to my father if the boy is not with me? I couldn't bear to see the anguish this would cause my father!"

Why could Judah <u>not</u> go back home without Benjamin (v. 30)? Because Jacob loved Benjamin so much.

What did Judah say would happen to Jacob if anything happened to Benjamin (v. 31)? Jacob would die.

What did Judah guarantee his father (v. 32)? That he would take care of Benjamin and he would take the blame forever if anything happened to him.

**What did Judah offer Joseph (v. 33)?** He offered to stay as his personal slave if he would let Benjamin go home.

**Why did Judah make that offer (v. 34)?** He couldn't stand to see how his dad would act if he lost Benjamin.

- **1** Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, "Out, all of you!" So, he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was.
- **2** Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace.

What finally happened to Joseph (v. 1)? He couldn't keep pretending that he wasn't their brother any more.

**What did Joseph do next (v. 1)?** He told all his servants to leave him alone with his brothers.

What did Joseph do after he told his brothers who he was (v. 2)? He cried very loudly.

**Why do you think he cried? Was he sad?** He was probably sad and happy and relieved all at the same time.