

Read Genesis 50:15-21

15 But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. "Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him," they said.

16 So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us

17 to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' So, we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin." When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept.

18 Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said.

19 But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you?"

20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

21 No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So, he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

Now that Jacob had died, what were the brothers worried about (v. 15)? That Joseph would remember the time when they sold him into slavery and they were afraid that he would get mad and punish them.

So, what message did they send to Joseph (vv. 16-17)? Before he died, our father told us to give you this message -- forgive your brothers for being so mean to you.

Was that true? No. They were lying. But they did beg Joseph for forgiveness.

How did Joseph react when he got the message? He cried.

Why did he cry? He was so sad that his brothers would think he didn't love them and were scared of him and thought he would punish them

What did the brothers do next (v. 18)? They bowed down before Joseph and promised to be his slaves.

What did Joseph say to his brothers (v. 19)? Don't be afraid of me. I'm not going to punish you.

What did Joseph say to his brothers (v. 20)? You thought you were going to hurt me but God protected me and took care of me and gave me this job so I could save lots of peoples' lives.

What did Joseph say to his brothers (v. 21)? Don't worry or be afraid. I will take care of you and your families. He was kind and gentle with his brothers. He loved them.