

## **Small Group Study Guide, Week of June 1, 2025**

Genesis 42: “The Sin that Remains”

**Q:** What effects will unrepentant sin have in a person’s life?

**Big Idea:** While unrepentant sin will haunt you all your days, Jesus seeks your repentance to heal you in all your ways.

**Ice Breaker:** What is the longest time you have been separated from your family? What was memorable about your reunion?

**Dig:**

1. As this passage opens in vv1-5, what circumstances did Jacob and his family experience? Look on a Bible map to ascertain about how far the ten sons had to travel.
2. Why were Joseph’s brothers unable to recognize him? Why did Joseph treat his brothers so harshly? How do you square that with Joseph’s behaviors in vv24-26?
3. In vv22 and 37, we hear from Reuben. Look back to Genesis 35:22 and 37:21-30. Describe Reuben’s character. How has it changed (or not)? Why or why not?
4. What do you learn about Joseph’s other brothers in this chapter? How they interpret the unfolding events? Why? How does Jacob interpret the unfolding events? Why?

**Apply:**

5. Where in your life now are you still paying the price or reaping the effects of a mistake you made or a sin you committed? How is God speaking to you about this?
6. As you reflect on Jacob’s misunderstanding of his situation in this passage, what help do you find for your own prayer life in your current situation?

Adapted from Serendipity Bible (1988), This Morning with God (1978), Search the Scriptures (1978)