

Booklet ~Cross Reference – Jesus, the Forgiving King

Message Outline

Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21 (NIV)

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. **2** And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! **5** And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. **6** For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. **7** But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. **9** Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. **10** You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. **11** I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.' **12** "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. **13** Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. **15** And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" **16** So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: **17** 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? **20** You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. **21** So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Theme & Goal: Joseph's **F** _____ changed a family. Jesus' forgiveness changed **H** _____

1. Joseph's forgiveness changed a **F** _____

Forgiveness requires one to:

- a. Acknowledge the wrong **A** _____ from the wrongdoer

Genesis 45:2 “And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it.”

b. Acknowledge the **G** _____ of God

Genesis 50: 20-21 “But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.”

Romans 8:28

²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Forgiveness is really a two-way release. It means releasing others from the debts and sins they have committed against us, and at the same time releasing ourselves as judge, jury and prison guard over them because that’s God’s position.

~ Leslie Leyland Field

True forgiveness is not **M** _____ for our own freedom from bitterness. Rather it is a **G** _____ to the other person for their good so that they can **F** _____ .

2. Jesus’ forgiveness changed **H** _____

Joseph bore the **S** _____ of his family, Jesus bore the sins of all **H** _____ .

Miroslav Volf: “Christ is not just outside of us modelling forgiveness and urging us to forgive. Christ lives inside us and is himself, as Luther wrote, the basis, the cause, and the source of all our own actual righteous...from Christ we receive the power and the willingness to forgive. Christ forgives through us and that is why we can forgive”

APPLICATION:

- a. **R** _____ in Jesus’ Forgiveness
- b. **F** _____ others
 - a. **T** _____ to Jesus
 - b. **N** _____ the sin and how it made you feel
 - c. **A** _____ Jesus to help you to forgive
 - d. **C** _____ if you allowed unforgiveness to hurt you or others

Further Applications

1. What did you hear?
2. What do you think and feel?
3. What will you do?
4. Now, talk to Jesus Christ...

Q & A

Soul Food Day 1

Scripture

Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

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The Wonderful Similarities Between Joseph and Jesus

My favorite part of the book is the story of Joseph ([Gen. 37-50](#)). I love this portion because it demonstrates God's loving and all-wise providence. Even though Joseph went through the ringer, he was able to look back through the lenses of providence and say, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today" ([Gen. 50:20](#)). God's sovereignty shines forth as his providence unfolds.

But it's not just the big picture of Joseph's life that serves to underscore sovereignty. It's also the various components of his life. When we collect the details of Joseph's life we see a glorious reflection that closely mirrors another life we are so intimately familiar with. In fact, when you look at a list of the details, sometimes it's hard to discern whether we are talking about Joseph or Jesus. This is not because Joseph was Jesus's favorite Bible hero he wanted to emulate. It is because God is sovereign, and he has been laying the tracks for the glory of Christ throughout redemptive history. Here is a list of similarities that should cause you to marvel at sovereignty.

1. He is the object of his father's special love.
2. He had promises of divine exaltation.
3. He was mocked by his family.
4. He was sold for pieces of silver.
5. He was stripped of his robe.
6. He was delivered up to the Gentiles.
7. He was falsely accused.
8. He was faithful amid temptation.
9. He was thrown into prison.
10. He stood before rulers.

11. His power was acknowledged by those in authority.
12. He saves his rebellious brothers from death when they realize who he is.
13. He is exalted after and through humiliation.
14. He embraces God's purpose even though it brings him intense physical harm.
15. He is the instrument God uses at the hands of the Gentiles to bless his people.
16. He welcomes Gentiles to be part of his family.
17. He gives hungry people bread.
18. People must bow their knee before him.

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It is because God is sovereign and he has been laying the tracks for the glory of Christ throughout redemptive history.

Application

1. What did you hear? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?
2. What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said? How do you feel comforted, convicted and challenged?
3. What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?

Now talk to Jesus.

Adapted from: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/erik-raymond/wonderful-similarities-joseph-jesus/>

Soul Food Day 2

Genesis 45:1-11; 50:15-21 (NIV)

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸ "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

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¹⁸His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

3 Lessons from Joseph on Forgiveness

After all the things the brothers did, many would expect Joseph to hate them, inflict harm on them or at least cast them aside. However, he doesn't respond this way. He sees their change of heart and shows them forgiveness. In fact, he even tells them not to be angry with themselves for what they'd done to him and saying that God had sent him to Egypt in order to preserve them (Genesis 45:4-8). Pretty incredible, right? Here are three powerful lessons from Joseph on [forgiveness](#).

There is a purpose behind our sufferings.

Often, we don't know why we experience some of the hardships we do until we go through them. It isn't until we're on the other side of our suffering that we see the true purpose behind it. This is exactly what happened to Joseph. It wasn't until he was toward the end of his life that he was able to see that God used his suffering so that he could help many others. When we take the time to trust that God is using the pain we're experiencing for good, we know that God is working for the better in our lives and we can learn to forgive those who have hurt us.

Forgiveness is a big part of God's plan.

When Joseph finally saw his brothers again, much had changed in his life, so much so that they didn't even recognize him. He was second in command in Egypt and they were in need of food. We see his dreams becoming a reality when his brothers bowed down to him in respect. Many would have chosen revenge in this situation but Joseph chose the opposite. He did this because God planted forgiveness in his heart. His brothers plotted to kill him, put him in slavery and what did Joseph do? He forgave them. On top of choosing forgiveness, he received his entire family with love. This was always part of God's plan. His brothers likely couldn't have predicted this outcome. This just shows how incredible God is and how impactful choosing forgiveness can be.

It's never too late to forgive.

Again, Joseph encounters his brothers again later in his life. At this point in his life, he is truly able to see God at work, especially in his family's life. When he reveals his identity to his brothers, Joseph spoke of their sin like this, "Do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you...It was not you who sent me here, but God" (Genesis 45:5, 8). After this, Joseph reassures his brothers, offering them forgiveness saying, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good" (Genesis 50:20). God's plan was in place. Joseph and his brothers had all aged and been through many of their own physical and emotional hardships, but it still wasn't too late for Joseph to offer them forgiveness.

Forgiveness is difficult, especially when we've been hurt deeply by those who you love deeply. Joseph loved his family but jealousy, hate and envy initially got in the way for his brothers. Even through all of that he went through, he still forgave them. We all struggle with forgiveness at some point in our lives, but holding on to anger, resentment and thoughts of revenge only cause suffering. When we do this, we become both the prisoner and the jailer. The truth is forgiveness is for our own growth and happiness.

Forgiveness helps us to remove pain from our hearts. Forgiveness also allows us to move on without anger, contempt or to seek revenge. There are times when we don't feel like forgiving but the truth is, we can't move forward in our own lives, particularly as Christians, if we are unwilling to forgive.

If we call on God to forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, we know that forgiveness is key.

Application

1. What did you hear? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?
2. What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said? How do you feel comforted, convicted and challenged?
3. What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?

Now talk to Jesus.

Adapted from: <https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/3-lessons-from-joseph-on-forgiveness.aspx>

Soul Food Day 3

Scripture

Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21 (NIV)

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. **2** And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

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8 "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. **9** Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. **10** You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. **11** I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.' **12** "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. **13** Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. **15** And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

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forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.

¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

The Living Word

The Bible is a book of knowledge but it is also a living word. This means that the Bible not only enriches our minds, but it also penetrates our hearts (see Hebrews 4:12). Sometimes when we focus so much on what the Bible says we sometimes miss what God is trying to say to us right now. That is why sometimes we just need to carve our space, often in silence, to mediate on scripture. That is what we will do today: mediate and rest in scripture. We will be there to guide you. Read the scripture slowly and then sit in still silence for one-minute resting in God. We will give you questions you can ask to God, however, allow the Holy Spirit to work on your heart what he wants in this time. Let’s pray, *Father God guide as we find you in your word.*

Read Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21

Picture yourself in the story. Who do you identify most with?

Sit and listen in silence for 1 minute

Read Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21

Is there anyone you need to ask forgiveness from? Is there anyone you need to forgive?

Sit and listen in silence for 1 minute

Read Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21

Through Jesus, God has forgiven you. Rest in this promise.

Sit and listen in silence for 1 minute

Pray to God

Application

1. What did you hear? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?
2. What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said? How do you feel comforted, convicted and challenged?
3. What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?

Soul Food Day 4

Scripture

Genesis 45:1-11

***45** Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it.*

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with

yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

Joseph’s Brothers: Terrified

Of all the things Joseph’s brothers have encountered lately—from the terrible famine and being without food, to their father’s dread, to the harshness and strange demands of the ruler in Egypt, to a weird but wonderful banquet, and then to being accused of stealing a silver cup—all these are mild compared to the bomb that now drops on them all. The ruler who has been questioning them and watching their movements so carefully now breaks down in uncontrollable weeping. And bursting out of him comes the shock of their lives: “I AM JOSEPH!”

The brothers are frozen in terror. The one they once hated now stands before them, clothed with power, their judge. The proof of their sin is right in front of them, inescapable, undeniable. There is nowhere to run, nowhere to hide. The face of Joseph, which for years has haunted them in their secret guilt, is now eyeball to eyeball with them. Having their sin exposed this way before them is terrifying, horrifying.

But notice! Those eyes are weeping. Though the brothers may now be terrified, the love of God, through their brother Joseph, will offer forgiveness and mercy.

Have you received God’s forgiveness and mercy for the wrongs you have done? Take comfort, though you may be broken; he wants to make you whole.

Prayer: Loving God, pour your mercy on me. Grant me forgiveness through Jesus, who paid the price for my sin, and make me whole. In his name, Amen.

Application

1. What did you hear? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?
2. What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said? How do you feel comforted, convicted and challenged?
3. What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?

Adapted from: <https://today.reframedia.com/devotions/josephs-brothers-terrified-2014-09-27>

Soul Food Day 5

Scripture

Genesis 50:15-21 (NIV)

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

¹⁵ When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?” ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

5 Reflections on the Forgiveness from Joseph

Do you struggle to forgive? The life of Joseph as told in the book of Genesis is one of my favorite parts of Scripture. God used Joseph mightily, [but as often is the case](#), that comes with great suffering. Joseph was mistreated, slandered, and betrayed by his own family. As a result, he had to learn how to forgive others. And if you follow Christ, you'll have to do the same.

Joseph and Forgiveness: 5 Reflections on Forgiveness from the Life of Joseph

Let's recap a few verses from Genesis chapter 50 and allow me to point you to five observations on forgiveness:

"When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, 'It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.' So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, 'Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.'" ([Genesis 50:16-17](#))

1. Put yourself in the shoes of others.

Joseph's brothers failed him big time. And they knew it. They sold him into slavery out of jealousy, and they wondered if Joseph would seek revenge. His brothers were so afraid that they sent a messenger ahead to beg for forgiveness before any actual face-to-face contact ([Genesis 50: 17](#)). It must be an uncomfortable reality to fear your own family member.

No, it's not okay for someone to sin against you. That sin is an affront to God and painful to you. But if someone who commits wrong against you genuinely asks for forgiveness, at least consider their boldness and vulnerability in doing so. That's exactly what Joseph did: "Joseph wept when they spoke to him (v. 17b)." Which brings us to our next point.

2. Weep with those who weep.

The Apostle Paul says to "weep with those who weep" ([Romans. 12:15](#)). Of course, you can't manufacture tears. You shouldn't try to fake it or act like someone you're not. But there is a sense in the Christian life that we should feel such a love, such a care for our brothers and sisters in Christ that even when they're in the wrong, we weep with them when they're hurting. That's what Joseph did.

We move on in the story: "His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, 'Behold, we are your servants.'" But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?" ([Genesis 50:18-19](#))

3. Those who refuse to forgive are saying, "I'm above God."

"Ignorance of our own faults is the only cause that renders us unwilling to forgive our brethren," says John Calvin. It's difficult to withhold forgiveness to others when we ponder how much we've been forgiven in Christ.

But these sorts of situations aren't always that easy, are they? There are various means that can help: [prayer](#), Bible reading, Christian community, counseling, etc. We should never overlook the simple means of grace that can bring transformation. And if you belong to Christ, I'm confident that the Holy Spirit will help you as you cry out to him for help.

Perhaps the most famous verse in this text is verse 20: "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today" ([Genesis 50:20](#)).

4. God has a purpose behind your hardships.

Notice Joseph says this toward the end of his life and not the beginning. Why? Usually, the purpose of your hardships are only partly understood *after* you've gone through them. During a hard season you may ask, "God, why am I going through this?" But later when it passes, you might get to see God's intention. Painful providences are often best observed in hindsight.

Nevertheless, this is not always the case. [Some questions to your sufferings](#) will not be answered in this life. But for Joseph — toward the end of his life — he was able to see that God used his suffering to provide for others. There was a purpose in it. And when you trust that God is using the evil in your life for good even if you don't presently understand it, you won't grow bitter toward God and others.

Let's look at one more verse from this section: "So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." 'Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.'" ([Genesis 50:21](#))

5. Speak kindly to others.

Words matter. Life and death are in the power of the tongue ([Proverbs 18:21](#)). You are not entitled to verbally abuse, mistreat, and lash out at others because they've caused you harm. Like Joseph, you're called to speak kindly to everyone —even those who hurt you.

It doesn't mean that you have to be their best friend, respond to their text messages, or even see them regularly. They don't have to be in your inner circle. But if they cross your paths, the Apostle Paul will remind you to let "your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." ([Colossians 4:6](#))

Forgiveness is not easy. I know from first-hand experience that it can be tough and tricky. But we must never lose sight of the gospel, a story that we have more knowledge of than Joseph. The more you reflect on the canceling of your sins, the more readily you'll be able to forgive others for their sins against you.

As C.S. Lewis once said, "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

Application

1. What did you hear? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?
2. What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said? How do you feel comforted, convicted and challenged?
3. What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?

Now talk to Jesus.

Adapted from: <https://www.gospelrelevance.com/2017/04/17/5-reflections-on-forgiveness-from-the-life-of-joseph/>

houseChurch Material

**Have different readers share the verse from 2 or more translations
Reflect between each reading**

Genesis 45:1-11; 50:15-21

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⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸ "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.' ¹² "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

¹⁴ Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Application

1. What did you hear during the reading? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?
2. What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said? How do you feel comforted, convicted and challenged from the reading?
3. What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?
4. Share any of the above discoveries with your houseChurch. Ask each other, "What is your nugget?"

Discussion Questions

1. If you were Joseph would you be willing to forgive your brothers? How, do you think, he was able to?
2. Joseph is considered one who foreshadows or anticipates Jesus. How is Joseph like Jesus? How is Joseph unlike Jesus?
3. Miroslav Volf says, "Christ is not just outside of us modelling forgiveness and urging us to forgive. Christ lives inside us and is himself, as Luther wrote, the basis, the cause, and the source of all our own actual righteous...from Christ we receive the power and the willingness to forgive. Christ

forgives through us and that is why we can forgive". What do you think about these words? How can Christ help you forgive?

Now talk to Jesus