

TAKEAWAY



Joseph and the Triumph of Grace: Part 6

Genesis 43v1-45v15

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- To think about the contours of grace that are evident in the story of Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers.
- To consider the grace of God in our own lives; to appreciate it and respond to it.

INTRODUCTION

In this week's passage, we see how Joseph met and reconciled with his brothers after many years apart. Initially, they don't recognise him, but 45:1-15 tells us the emotional story of Joseph's revelation to them.

SHARE

Do you know of any great stories of forgiveness and reconciliation? Share with the group if so. Feel free to include stories from fiction!

Why is forgiveness SO hard?

READ

Genesis 43:1-45:15

It's a long passage, but a great story. It might be worth having several readers.

DISCUSS

Joseph shows remarkable forgiveness in the way he treats his brothers. It's clear that he sees their treatment of him as, ultimately, part of God's plan. Does this mean we should embrace poor treatment from others as part of God's plan too? Assuming the answer is 'no' – how do we acknowledge that God is in control and yet healthily deal with bad things done to us? How will this benefit us and our relationships?

God uses human evil (e.g. Joseph being sold into slavery) to bring about a greater good (e.g. Joseph saving millions of lives). Why is this hard to get our heads round? What does it tell us about God?

Has any evil ever been done to you that you can see God using for good, somehow?

Joseph forgave his brothers before they had apologised to him. Is this always appropriate? Why or why not?

What features of the story between Joseph and his brothers parallel the story between God and us?

Why is God's forgiveness for us much greater than the forgiveness Joseph extended to his brothers?

How often are you moved emotionally – like the people in this passage – by God's forgiveness? Why do you think this is the case? Should we expect to be moved emotionally by it?

PRAY

TRY OUT

Take 15 minutes at some point this week purely to think about God's forgiveness for you. Consider all the ways in which you fail Him that you are aware of. Consider also the cost to God – the crucifixion of His own son – and what this communicates to you.