

Dreamer: The Life of Joseph The Gift of Forgiveness
A Study in Genesis 37-50 Genesis 45:1-28
August 1, 2021

And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. - Genesis 45:3

I. I AM JOSEPH!

- After hearing Judah's sacrificial offer to substitute himself for his brother Benjamin, Joseph can control himself no longer (Gen. 45:1-4).
- Joseph is able to see through the pain and hardship of the past and see God's providence revealed (Gen. 45:4-8).

II. GRACE BENT OUTWARD

- Joseph's offer of forgiveness comes with no strings attached. It is there for the taking (Gen. 45:5, 7; Ps. 130; Matt. 18:21-35).
- Forgiving others is about taking the grace that has been extended to you from God vertically and bending it out horizontally to others (Matt. 6:12; Mark 11:25; Col. 3:13).
- Forgiving others is not optional for the believer in Christ, it is a commandment (Matt. 18:21-22, 34-35; Luke 17:4).

III. FORGIVING WHEN FORGIVING IS HARD

- Joseph is a great type. Jesus is the perfect anti-type (Luke 5:20, 23:34; Rom. 8:1-4, Col. 3:13).
- Broken hearts make for soft hearts. True repentance leads to a willingness to forgive others (Acts 7:59-60; 1 Tim. 1:12-17).
- Being forgiven, and forgiving others, makes us truly free (John 8:34-36).

KNOW: Offering forgiveness is not easy at times, but we are called to forgive because we have been forgiven. When we do so, we are set free.

DO: Obtain God's forgiveness in Christ, then give it away to others.

Suggested Reading:

In My Place Condemned He Stood: Celebrating the Glory of the Atonement by J.I. Packer and Mark Dever (Available in the LifePoint Library).

**Questions/Discovery Points for
Life Groups/Families**

Please Read Genesis 45:1-28

1. Why do you think Joseph is so emotional in this narrative?
2. How does Joseph view the events of the past 20+ years in his life?
3. Can you share some of the ideas that have helped you to finally forgive someone in your own life?
4. Read Luke 15:11-24. Consider this parable along with our narrative for Sunday. How does it feel to be forgiven when you do not deserve to be?
5. How can we encourage others to let go of past grievances and offer genuine forgiveness?
6. In what ways can you learn from this narrative/message?