

Destiny

SMALL GROUP STUDY | Forgiveness

One of the big lessons we can learn from the life of Joseph is that of forgiveness. This study looks at how Joseph forgave his brothers and what we can learn from his example.

READ | What does the Bible say?

Read Genesis 45, 50:15-21

REFLECT | What does the Bible mean?

- Q1. Based on what you've read, what are the signs that Joseph had genuinely forgiven his brothers? Consider things he did, things he said, and things he didn't do.
- Q2. How do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers for what they did?
- Q3. Why do you think Joseph weeps in Genesis 50:17?
- Q4. With question 1 in mind, and based on your own experience, what do you think the tell-tale signs are of unforgiveness in a person's life?
- Q5.
 - a. Read Matthew 18:21-35. According to this parable, what ought to motivate us to forgive others?
 - b. Using bible footnotes etc. investigate the difference in the amounts of money that both slaves owed. What is the message here?
 - c. The parable contains a sobering warning. What is it and what does it highlight about how God views forgiveness?

d. What does it mean to forgive someone 'from your heart' (v35)?

RESPOND | What do I need to do now?

- Q6. Forgiveness is a command of Jesus, but that doesn't make it easy. What advice would you give someone who is struggling to forgive?
 - There may be people in the group who are struggling with forgiving another person. Offer to pray with anyone who needs support in this area. Pray in smaller groups or pairs if this is easier.

Suggested memory verse(s):

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32 NIV)