

Small Group Material
A Journey of Faith with Joseph
...true forgiveness and God's good purposes
Genesis 50.15-21

Welcome Have you got a story from your life, possibly your childhood, when you felt wronged? Or maybe you were the bully?!

Worship Is there a verse our passage of the Bible which you go to when you need to know God's forgiveness, either in giving or receiving forgiveness? Give a minute for people to find the verse. Then ask them to share it.

Give thanks in prayer for God's love, forgiveness and grace.
You might like to play this. God is so good (You are worthy) by Pat Barrett https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mCwxqgLkog

Word Read Genesis 50.15-21

1. What do you make of the brothers' fear? Is it justified? Why or why not?
2. What do you think of the strategy they devise to save themselves? What parallels can you draw with our salvation, cf Ephesians 2.8-9?
3. Why do you think Joseph weeps when he receives their message?
4. What does Joseph's answer to his brothers reveal about his attitude towards being treated unjustly (v19-20)?
5. How does Joseph's story reveal the truth of verses 19-21?

To consider: When you look back over your life can you see how things which were hard at the time you now see God's hand in? Are there things now which you struggle to understand and wish you had God's perspective?

It would be good to have some time talking about the whole process of forgiving others and being forgiven. This may touch on some very painful things for people. Encourage openness by leaving space for people to share as much or as little as they'd like to. It might actually

help someone to share something which they are still struggling with and receive prayer and understanding.

What have you learnt about forgiveness? Is there someone who has injured you? What is your attitude towards that person? Can you see any ways in which God has used this injustice for good? But also, is God prompting you to go to someone and ask their forgiveness?

Reflection: What have you appreciated most (and learnt) from our study of Joseph's life over the past months?

Witness

Joseph was placed in a position to provide food for thousands of starving people.

Pray for the work of Chippy Larder.

The Chippy Larder is supported and obtains food from supermarkets which would otherwise go to waste from SOFEA (based in Didcot).

Anyone can sign up (www.sofea.uk.com) whatever your reason (eg environmental or food need). It is not means tested. The doors open in The Guildhall in Chippy on Friday (12-2) and Saturdays (1-3) led by Rizvana Poole.

For £3.50 Members can choose 10 store cupboard items for themselves. These will include the weekly staples such as pasta, tinned food, tea and in addition, customers will also receive a bag of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Or for £7.00 Members can select 20 store cupboard items.

Here's a longer article about it:

<https://colleaguesconnect.midcounties.coop/stories/the-chippy-larder-community-project/>

Pray for the Gift Day for the Building to Serve Project this coming Sunday. We are 'Setting a Watch' this week in prayer. Encourage your groups to join one of our special morning and evening prayer, every day 6.00 am or 6.00 pm for half an hour as we 'set a watch'... How about coming together as a Small Group to one of them? Join on:

<https://zoom.us/j/98265036092?pwd=VEZqNEl5Kot2T1NYU1koOXBkVoNIUTo9>

Meeting ID: 982 6503 6092

Passcode: SetAWatch