



WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Joseph: A Story of Redemption

The Power of Forgiveness

Genesis 45:1-15

In this sermon series, we explore how only God can mold and shape our lives so that true change can occur.

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

“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! 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.” Genesis 45:4-5

Forgiveness is an unnatural act, Thomas says, one which we are not drawn to when we have been hurt. When Joseph’s brothers arrive in Egypt, there is both power and an array of choices available to him as to how he will handle the hurt he has experienced. Through Joseph’s choice of forgiveness, the entire family experiences freedom.

Thomas offers three steps to finding freedom in our lives:

1. We need to recognize the universal human need to be forgiven.
 - How will simply tolerating the hurt without releasing it not bring freedom? How are our relationships affected when we choose not to forgive? Why is forgiving ourselves an impossible, pointless activity, and where must that forgiveness come from?
2. We need to realize and celebrate that forgiveness is a choice.
 - We have power in our hurt and we can choose what direction we take. Why is it important to choose to take power back from the person who hurt us? Why is forgiveness not ultimately dependent upon the person’s response?
3. We must find a way to embody our forgiveness.
 - What are some ways we can step into and act out forgiveness, instead of merely feeling it? Discuss what this has looked like, and can look like in your life.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the example of Joseph which is so unnatural. Give us the courage and faith to make the only choice that leads to healing and freedom. Help us to find the capacity to forgive as we have been forgiven in your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that that prisoner is you—Lewis B. Smedes

