



SDG Discussion Guide

Genesis 50:15-21

September 24, 2017

For starters:

Which memory is harder for you to shake: Rejection or guilt? Why?

Which is harder for you to accept: Mercy or judgment?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective text.)

1. Describe the reaction of Joseph's brothers after their father's burial and the strategy they devise to save themselves (vv 15-18)? What stands out to you?
2. What does Joseph's answer to his brothers reveal about his attitude toward being treated unjustly (vv 19-20)?
3. How does Joseph's story reveal the truth of verses 19-21?
4. How does Joseph show his brothers that he not only forgives but genuinely loves them (v 21)?
5. What lowlights and highlights come to mind when you apply verses 19-21 to your life? Were you tempted in the last weeks to replace God in judging others? In judging yourself?
6. In the Genesis narrative, we have seen that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph (v 26) all died in faith, looking forward to promises they did not see fulfilled in their lifetime. How does their collective example provide a model for our hope as Christians?
7. How do you feel about death and dying? Have you ever talked about it with anyone else-- why or why not? Have you ever wondered how you will be remembered by those close to you or what your eulogy will read? How does a serious consideration of the end of your physical life inform and shape who you are becoming?
8. Reflect for a few moments on what God has taught you about himself through Genesis. What have you learned? How have you been challenged or encouraged?
Spend some time in prayer. Thank God for the ways you have been challenged or encouraged or both through the preaching from Genesis. Ask God to show you even more as we venture through Exodus and the rest of the Torah.

How can your group pray with you and for you both now and in the days ahead?

*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996) and *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).