Joseph: Am I Willing to Face My Past

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July 23, 2017

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. What was happening to Joseph’s family in the beginning of Chapter 42 that caused them to take action and put them in touch with their past?
3. With their desperate need for food and at Jacob’s direction, the brothers were forced to go to Egypt. In doing so, they had to deal with with the terrible decisions of their past. Is there something in your past that seems too scary to face? Who might you go to for help with this difficult problem?
4. Why do you think the hardship of prison reminded the brothers of what they had done to Joseph when he was a boy?
5. As readers of this story, it is clear to us that it was painful for the brothers to relive their treachery and experience the guilt of sin once again. How did the Holy Spirit connect their past sin to their present suffering?

**Next Steps:**

Take time now to pray silently. Is there a present struggle in your life that is connected to a past sin? If you identify a past sin, are you able to share it with your group, one member of your group or another trusted person? In what manner will you confess and repent for past sins? Ask God to reveal where He has been present through this specific hardship.

**Prayer Thought:**

**After reading Genesis 42 and 43, consider the following Prayer Thought:**

Lord, help us to find the courage to be honest with ourselves regarding past sin. Please give us a glimpse of the love and acceptance we will receive when you guide us in confession and repentance. Show us that the peace that transcends all understanding begins with these actions. Amen