JOSEPH: WILL I CHOOSE FORGIVENESS?

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**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, is there a particular point you recall that caught your attention or you found challenging or confusing?
2. R**ead Genesis 45:1-15 and Genesis 50:15-21**. Joseph chose to forgive his brothers and renewed that forgiveness a second time. Why do you think it was so hard for them to believe that? Share some ways it’s hard for you to accept forgiveness from others or even from God.
3. Brian noted we often choose not to forgive because of power, identity, entitlement, position, or cost. Read **Philippians 2:5-11 , Mark 23:33,34, and Acts 8:58-60**. What caused Jesus and Stephen to choose forgiveness?
4. Refusing to forgive can make us slaves, damage our character, keep us from reconciling, and worst of all, Brian said, “holding fast to an unforgiving spirit proves that we do not trust Christ.” Read **Matthew 6:14 and Matthew 18:23-35** and discuss the consequences of unforgiveness.
5. Joseph shows how to forgive by: 1) avoiding God’s chair (Gen. 50:19); taking God’s view (Gen. 50:20); 3) reflecting God’s love (Gen. 50:21.) He had humility because he was shown God’s grace and assurance because God’s love sustained him through trials. What has God used to develop humility and assurance in your life? How can this make you more forgiving?
6. **Read Genesis 50:20 and Romans 8:28**. Brian said the cross is the ultimate example of God bringing good out of evil. How can knowing what Jesus did for you allow you to love and forgive in a greater manner than even Joseph could?

**Next Steps:**

1. Is there someone you need to forgive? Share and pray about this with your group
2. Revisit your “difficult question for God” and share any answers you’ve received

**Prayer Time:** Following the ACTS method, Ask the group to : A – ADORE or praise Jesus for His humility. Next : C—CONFESS unforgiveness in your life : T—THANK God for His forgiveness to you and, finally S—SAY WHAT YOU NEED and ask God to give you the humility and assurance to forgive others.