

Revenge
Next Steps
June 7, 2020
Genesis 42:6-24

OPENING PRAYER:

Almighty God, sometimes the difficulties and burdens of our lives cause us to doubt your goodness. We are an anxious people, often grasping to trust in your promise to work all things for good. Increase our faith and grant us your peace, that our lives will demonstrate our trust in you. We ask this with confidence, knowing that we are your beloved children.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the sermon this week?
- What's the longest you've been away from someone you love? What helps you get through?
- What was your most memorable reunion?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Joseph's story began with jealousy and anger from his brothers; they sold him into slavery and Joseph's journey began. After nearly twenty years, Joseph finally sees his family again. Read Genesis 42:1-38.

- What do you make of the brothers' response in vs. 21-22?
- What do you think is Joseph's motivation for the way he treats his brothers? (revenge, repentance, retaliation, etc.) Why?
- What do you learn from Joseph about how to respond to those who hurt you?
- How would you define repentance? What do you learn from Joseph and his brothers about repentance? Describe a time when you have experienced true repentance?
- When someone has harmed you, are you most likely to seek revenge or reconciliation? What does this tell you about yourself? About your trust in God? What different action steps could you take in the future?

Read Genesis 43:19-34.

- Why do you think Joseph again chooses not to reveal himself?
- Is there a relationship in your life that you are missing? What steps will you take to reconnect?
- Why do you think God gives us such strong feelings for others?

Read Genesis 44:18-34.

- What do you hear in this passage?
- Judah was the older brother who was complacent when Joseph was sold into slavery, yet here Judah is the one to act. What do you make of Judah's actions?
- How would you respond if you were one of the brothers? How would you want to respond?

NEXT STEPS:

- At some points in Joseph's life it seemed hopeless. What hopeless situation are you facing in your life right now? Write it down and post it in your house to pray about every day.
- With whom in your life are you harboring anger and resentment? How can you embody the lessons from Joseph? Take steps to forgive this relationship via prayer, writing a letter, having a conversation, etc.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

-Alternative Lord's Prayer,
(U.K.: W. Collins Publishers, 1989)