



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Love for the Undeserving February 24, 2019

(Genesis 45:3-8a, 15)

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴ 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! ⁵ 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. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸ “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

1. **Icebreaker:** The account of Joseph’s life is covered in chapters 37, 39-45 of Genesis. Either from memory of the Bible history stories, or skimming quickly through those chapters, what would you say is the most amazing thing that happened in Joseph’s life?
2. **Discuss:** Having collected some of the events of Joseph’s life in your minds, now discuss what events in Joseph’s life are examples of ways that God was working for his good, even if it didn’t seem like it at the time.

3. **Share:** If willing, share with the group an example of a time in your life where you weren’t sure what God was up to, but looking back on it, you can now see how he was making everything work out for your good.
4. **Agree/Disagree:** If Joseph had decided to kill, imprison, or enslave his brothers when they arrived in Egypt, he would have had every right to do so. (*Read Romans 12:14-21 for help.*)
5. **Agree/Disagree:** Multiple times in these verses, Joseph makes reference to God being the one who sent him to Egypt, and not the brothers. That means, God directed the brothers to sell Joseph into slavery, and therefore, the brothers were free of guilt in their actions.
6. Read Luke 6:27-30, part of the Gospel reading for this weekend’s services. Is God saying in these passages that as Christians, we ought to be pushovers, and just let everyone do whatever they want to us? Explain your answer.
7. **Discuss:** In his sermon, Pastor said that our main takeaway from this account has to be more than “Be like Joseph.” Why is that the case? And if so, what should be our main takeaway from this section of Scripture?
8. Verse 15 seems to be a pretty generic statement. Why do you think they included it with the rest of the reading? In what way does that verse speak to gracious, undeserved love as being restorative to relationships?
9. Read vs. 7 again. What purpose/plan of God is Joseph alluding to in that statement? Why was that action not just for Joseph’s good, but for the good of the whole world?