

# 13

GENESIS 50:15-26

## GOOD FROM EVIL



### THIS WEEK'S **focus**

If you're a fan of a good television series, you're probably familiar with the feelings of sadness or grief we can experience when a show ends. Whether it's because the show was canceled or because it simply ran its course, reaching the end of a favorite story can be disappointing. And if a show ends poorly, it can be frustrating, too! In today's lesson, we will be concluding our study of Genesis—and the story ends on a good note. Throughout this book, we have seen the virus of sin plague humanity. Yet, every step of the way, we have also seen God's faithfulness to bring redemption. As Joseph's story ends, there is a refocusing on the promises of God and His commitment to His people.



### CENTRAL **truth**

God remains faithful to His promises.



EXPLORE

# scripture

GENESIS 50:15-26

## GENESIS 50:15-18

**15** When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said to one another, "If Joseph is holding a grudge against us, he will certainly repay us for all the suffering we caused him." **16** So they sent this message to Joseph, "Before he died your father gave a command: **17** 'Say this to Joseph: Please forgive your brothers'

transgression and their sin — the suffering they caused you.' Therefore, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when their message came to him. **18** His brothers also came to him, bowed down before him, and said, "We are your slaves!"

## GENESIS 50:19-21

**19** But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? **20** You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the

present result — the survival of many people. **21** Therefore don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

## GENESIS 50:22-26

**22** Joseph and his father's family remained in Egypt. Joseph lived 110 years. **23** He saw Ephraim's sons to the third generation; the sons of Manasseh's son Machir were recognized by Joseph. **24** Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will certainly come to your aid and bring you up from this land to the land he swore

to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." **25** So Joseph made the sons of Israel take an oath: "When God comes to your aid, you are to carry my bones up from here." **26** Joseph died at the age of 110. They embalmed him and placed him in a coffin in Egypt.

# 13

GENESIS 50:15-26  
CONVERSATION

## questions

▶ READ GENESIS 50:15-18.

**.01** How do the actions of Joseph's brothers point to the sincerity of their repentance?

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**.02** Why can it be difficult to believe when we are truly forgiven?

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▶ READ GENESIS 50:19-21.

**.03** What does Joseph's story teach us about God's kindness and mercy toward His people?

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### THEOLOGY

Joseph's brothers struggled to believe he had truly forgiven them for their betrayal. Yet, Joseph's forgiveness was sincere; it wasn't half-hearted. Like the brothers, there are times when we wrestle with the depth of God's forgiveness towards us. It can be a difficult reality to come to grips with. Can we really be sure? The biblical authors answer with a resounding "yes!" When we put our faith in Jesus, we can have confidence in the forgiveness we receive. Jesus affirms that those who follow Him will not be cast away—we truly belong to Him (see John 3:16; 6:37-40). God's forgiveness toward us through Jesus's death and resurrection is permanent and certain (see Col. 2:13-14; Heb. 1:10; 1 John 1:8-10; 2:12). As members of the family of God, we can have confidence that Jesus's work ensures our forgiveness and restores our relationship with God.

**.04** What do we communicate about God when we refuse to forgive? What about when we choose to forgive?

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**.05** What aspect of Joseph's story did you see as the most painful? Can you relate to his experiences? Discuss.

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**READ GENESIS 50:22-26.**

**.06** Why did Joseph want his bones to be buried in Canaan and not Egypt?

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**.07** Joseph was convinced of God's continued faithfulness to his family. How can this shape your view of God?

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**.08** How does the growth of Joseph's family emphasize God's faithfulness?

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## CONTEXT

In the final verses of Genesis, Joseph made his remaining brothers take an oath that when God brought them back into the land of Canaan, they would carry his bones with them and bury him there. While it may seem like Joseph was simply making some burial arrangements, he was actually exhibiting profound trust in God. For Joseph, his brothers, and their forefathers, the land of Canaan was extremely important because it was the God had promised to Abraham (see Gen. 12:7; 13:15; 15:7). Joseph, like his father, desired to be buried in the land promised to their family. He was confident that God would bring their family out of Egypt back into this land (see Gen. 50:24). Centuries later, Moses honored the oath that Joseph's brothers had made (see Ex. 13:19). In this way, Joseph's final words in Genesis point to God's faithfulness to carry out His promises—in His perfect timing.

# 13

GENESIS 50:15-26  
NOW  
**what?**



## CENTRAL truth

God remains faithful to His promises.

**.09** How should Joseph's perspective encourage us as we experience pain and tragedy in our lives?

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**.10** Why are we sometimes tempted to seek revenge instead of leaving justice to the Lord?

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**.11** How can we remind ourselves and one another of God's forgiveness toward us?

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**.12** How does Genesis end on a positive note? Why should the ending encourage us?

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# DAILY devotions

## MEMORIZE GENESIS 50:20

### 7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

# GENESIS 50:15-18

## DWELL

After Jacob's death, fear gripped Joseph's brothers. With their father dead, would Joseph seek vengeance for their betrayal so many years ago? They made a request to Joseph that he would forgive them on behalf of their father, and they even presented themselves as servants to him. They wanted to maximize their chances of survival, because they didn't truly believe that Joseph had forgiven them. When we understand the severity of sin, it can be difficult to embrace our status as forgiven people. However, for those of us who put our faith in Jesus, we can find confidence in the promise that those who come with repentant hearts can find true forgiveness.



What does God's commitment to forgiveness say about His character?



Do you struggle to believe your status as a forgiven child in the family of God? Why or why not?

## MEMORIZE

Write Genesis 50:20 on an index card or sticky note and attach it to your bathroom mirror. Say the verse aloud each day, emphasizing a few different words each time.

## PRAY

*Lord Jesus, help me to embrace the reality that I am truly forgiven. Through the power of Your Spirit, I have received new life and am a child in the family of God.*

day 2

# JOHN 15:14-15

## DWELL

In one of Jesus's final discourses to His disciples, He made a bold proclamation. To Him, the disciples were not merely servants—he considered them His friends. This spoke to the intimate nature of Jesus's relationship with His disciples. The disciples enjoyed friendship with the Savior of the world. When we place our trust in Jesus, we not only experience Him as Lord, but as a companion with whom we can enjoy a relationship.

↪ Jesus is both our Lord and friend. How does this shape how you pray?

← What makes Jesus's statement to His disciples so radical?

## MEMORIZE

Save Genesis 50:20 as a wallpaper or screensaver on your phone or computer. Read it aloud each time you see it.

## PRAY

*Heavenly Father, through Your beloved Son, I am considered a friend of God. Thank You for the privilege of enjoying a relationship with You.*

day 3

# GENESIS 50:19-21

## DWELL

↪ What allowed Joseph to show such kindness to his brothers?

→ How does God's power shape the way that you walk through tough times?

Joseph understood that it was not his place to enact vengeance on his brothers. Only God could rightfully do that. Joseph also could see that God had transformed the evil of his brothers into something good. Betrayal, wrongful accusations, and being forgotten did not have the final word in Joseph's story. For Joseph, his life was proof that the Lord had been kind, and he would extend that same kindness to his brothers. When we belong to Jesus, evil never has the final word. The tragedies of life will threaten to destroy us, but God is committed to drawing blessing out of pain (see Rom. 8:28-29).

## MEMORIZE

Say the book, chapter, and verse number for Genesis 50:20 out loud several times. Then read aloud just the first few words of the verse. Do this a few times a day and see if you can memorize more each time.

## PRAY

*King Jesus, Your death and resurrection are the ultimate example of God transforming evil into something good. Remind me of Your presence while I embrace the truth of Your provision in my times of trouble.*

day 4

# GENESIS 50:22-26

## DWELL

As Joseph's life ends, so does the book of Genesis. At the age of 110, he gathered his remaining brothers around him and ensured the Lord's continued faithfulness to them. Though they were in the land of Egypt, God would bring them back to Canaan, the land that had been promised to Abraham. Although human evil and sin can be found at every corner within the book of Genesis, we see in Joseph's final words that God's faithfulness towards His people will always prevail.

← How would Joseph's final words in Genesis have been an encouragement to the ancient Israelites?

→ Where have you seen the Lord's faithfulness in your own life? How did you respond?

## MEMORIZE

Write out Genesis 50:20 on a piece of paper. Circle three to five key words in the verse and consider their importance. Focus on those words and see how much of the verse you can speak from memory.

## PRAY

*Heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness despite the way I am sometimes faithless. Give me the awareness to see Your activity in my life.*

day 5

# ACTS 7:9-16

## DWELL

↻ What are the similarities between the experiences of Joseph and Jesus?

↔ How can you use Joseph and Jesus's stories to share with others about the severity of sin?

In the early days of the church, a man by the name of Stephen was accused of blaspheming God as he taught about Jesus and all that He had done. In a lengthy sermon, Stephen spotlighted the story of Joseph. Though Joseph was rejected by his brothers, God used him to save the very people who betrayed him. Similarly, Jesus's sacrifice would mean salvation and redemption for all who rejected and betrayed Him. God had leveraged evil for His purposes. In Jesus, we can experience the mercy and reconciliation that God freely offers.

## MEMORIZE

Read Genesis 50:20 several times. Then start by trying to memorize the first two or three words. Once you have those words memorized, add a few more words at a time until you can say the whole verse.

## PRAY

*Lord Jesus, You were rejected so that I could be reconciled to You. Thank You for your forgiveness and the opportunity to experience new life.*