

Sermon Discussion Questions

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell Topic: Genesis Scripture: Genesis 42-50

Opening:

Open your time in prayer by thanking God for His sovereign hand, asking for trust when His purposes are unclear, and praying that your group would grow in humility and grace as you study Joseph's journey and his family's restoration.

Give Background & Context:

Famine forces Joseph's brothers to Egypt—unaware that the brother they once betrayed now holds their lives in his hands. Through a long process of testing, Joseph discerns their hearts, and God brings reconciliation. The final chapters of Genesis show not only Joseph's forgiveness but also God's providence—turning evil into good, using even brokenness to bring about life and blessing.

- Read Genesis 42:1-28 & 44:14-34
 - Why do you think Joseph doesn't immediately reveal himself to his brothers? What do his tests reveal about their hearts?
 - What signs of change do we see in the brothers—especially in Judah—compared to earlier in Genesis?
 - What does it look like for God to use guilt and conviction as part of a redemptive process?
 - When have you experienced growth or restoration through a painful or uncomfortable process?
- Read Genesis 45:1-15 & 47:1-12
 - What stands out about Joseph's emotional response when he reveals his identity (45:1-3)?
 - Joseph tells his brothers, “God sent me before you... to preserve life.” How does that reshape the narrative of their sin and his suffering?
 - How do we balance acknowledging real sin while also trusting that God is sovereign over it?
- Read Genesis 50:15-21
 - Why are the brothers still afraid after Jacob dies? What does that reveal about how they understand forgiveness?
 - Joseph responds, “Am I in the place of God?” What would it look like for us to live with that same posture?
 - Joseph's famous words: “You meant evil... but God meant it for good.” How does that help us process injustice or wounds in our own lives?
 - What does it look like to truly forgive and “speak kindly” to those who've wronged us?
- Sermon Reflection Questions
 - Joseph says, “Am I in the place of God?” What does that question reveal about how we should approach judgment, justice, and forgiveness?
 - Read Romans 12:19 and Genesis 50:20. How does trusting God's justice free us from bitterness?
 - God used years of injustice, waiting, and pain to shape Joseph and bless many. How can this encourage you if you're in a season that feels unresolved?
 - Think about a person or situation that once seemed beyond repair. How does Joseph's story inspire hope for redemption?