

"Reconciliation"

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH: GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN OUR SUFFERING | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON
GENESIS 45:1-46:34 | MARCH 17/18, 2018

*He said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!"
(Genesis 45:4)*

The Story in Summary

Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers (45:1-15)

The brothers return to Jacob with good news (45:16-28)

Jacob's journey and a vision of God (46:1-27)

Joseph reunited with his father, Jacob (46:28-34)

Reconciliation Begins: Joseph and His Brothers (45:1-15)

Trust: The brother's transformation confirmed

Vulnerability: Joseph reveals his identity

Proximity: Joseph draws his brothers closer

Darkness: Joseph names the suffering he has endured

Faith: Joseph affirms God's sovereign ways

Reaching out: Joseph re-opens relationship with his brothers

Reaching back: The brothers weep and embrace one another

Begin again: Relationship takes the first trembling steps

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When have you experienced a restoration of relationship with someone in your life. What helped that to happen?
2. We continue our series "The Life of Joseph: God's Sovereignty in Our Suffering" by looking at Genesis 45-46. Ask God to speak to you through His Word, and then read chapter 45:1-15 aloud.
3. After Judah's words in chapter 44, Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers. How would you summarize Joseph's perspective on the wrongs he has endured in verses 4-7?
4. In verses 8-15 Joseph asks his brothers to go home and return with their father, Jacob, to live in Egypt. What does this tell you about Joseph's plans all along?
5. Do you think Joseph has forgiven his brothers? Why or why not?
6. Now read 45:16-28. What do Pharaoh and Joseph provide for and promise to the brothers?
7. How does their father Jacob respond to the news?
8. Next read chapter 45:1-27 aloud. As they are traveling from Hebron area to Egypt, Jacob has a vision of God at Beersheba. What is the message of that vision? [You may want to explore the significance of Beersheba for Abraham (Genesis 21:32-33) and Isaac (26:23-25), as well as the promises made to Jacob's ancestors (12:1-3; 15:1-5, 12; 17:1-2; 26:24).]
9. The naming of the children of Jacob/Israel has significance first of all because of the great number coming to Egypt. Second, it shows us that God is already fulfilling the promises he made to Abraham and Isaac.
10. Now read 46:28-34. How would you summarize the reuniting of Joseph and Jacob in this passage?
11. Jacob's long prayers for relief from his relational grief are now answered. What prayers for relational reconciliation have you been lifting to God? How might you continue to pray with faith about these relationships?
12. What is one thing God is speaking to you through this study? If you are on your own, write it down and pray about it. If you are in a small group, take time to discuss this with one another before praying together.

TAKE IT FURTHER:

- Continue the daily devotional for this series: josephdevotional.wordpress.com.
- Is there anyone you need to forgive? Take time to pray and/or journal about that relationship. Let God lead you into deeper forgiveness toward others.
- Gain broader background on the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob by viewing the video from the Bible Project on the second part of Genesis, which includes the life of Joseph: thebibleproject.com/videos/torah-genesis-2.