**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ May 29, 2022**

**Joseph Forgives And Reconciles With His Brothers**

Genesis 42:1-11

**Key Truth:** As we submit and trust, God restores relationships and reconciles the past for His glory.

**Guess Who’s Coming To Town:**

1. Joseph is confronted with the pain of his past.

2. Joseph now had the opportunity to live out what God had

 done in his heart.

**The Brothers Have To Face Their Past Sin:**

1. The brothers recognized that they had sinned and wronged

 Joseph. Genesis 42:21-22

2. The guilt Joseph’s brothers felt influenced the way they now

 treated Benjamin.

3. The brothers wouldn’t abandon Benjamin in his time of need. Genesis 44:13

**A Surprise Family Reunion:**

1. Joseph did not blame his brothers for the hardship and

 persecution he endured.

2. Joseph interprets the horrific events through the lens of God’s

 sovereignty.

**What We Learn:**

1. God was working through Joseph’s circumstances to achieve

 His ultimate purposes. Genesis 15:12-14, Genesis 37:67

2 Forgiveness and reconciliation or not synonymous.

3. Repentance is required for there to be any hope of

 reconciliation.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God for His compassion, forgiveness, and grace, which we receive through faith in Jesus Christ. Pray He softens our hearts and grants us the ability to forgive even when it is difficult.

**Connection Group Discussion Questions**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

When someone openly admits a fault, confessing they have done wrong, how much more likely are they to receive forgiveness and understanding?

How do we judge whether someone’s apology is sincere?

Read Genesis 43:9: How does the brothers’ willingness to take personal accountability for what happened to Benjamin contrast with the way they treated Joseph? What does it indicate about the change that had taken place within them?

Read 1 Peter 4:8: In what ways does Christ’s love cover our sin? In what way did Joseph’s love cover over the sins of his brothers?

What might the brothers have felt in response to Joseph’s compassion and grace? Did they do anything to earn it? Was there any use in resisting it?

In Genesis 45:8, what do we learn about how Joseph used his faith in God’s sovereignty to overcome temptations of bitterness, resentment, or blame?

Read Colossians 3:12-13: Joseph forgave his brothers and he also reconciled with them. Through what actions described in Genesis 45:9-11 did Joseph revealed he had reconciled with his brothers?

Do you agree that the forgiveness and reconciliation go hand and hand? Why or why not?