

Joseph the Judge: Groundwork for Reconciliation The Life of Joseph

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Key Truth:

The road to reconciliation can be long and rugged, but its destination brings life and restoration.

God steps in to bring Joseph's brothers down to Egypt, and it becomes the "golden opportunity" for them to be reconciled. Rather than embracing them immediately after he recognizes them, Joseph begins working through a long process to bring about a restored relationship that had been broken 20 years earlier. In this chapter, reconciliation does not occur completely. However, Joseph lays the groundwork for a relationship that will soon be restored.

DISCUSS

Read **Genesis 42:1-38** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on "Joseph the Judge: Groundwork for Reconciliation."

DIG IN

Groundwork for Reconciliation:

1. A Moment of Remembrance (Genesis 42:1-9a)

When the brothers come to Joseph, he immediately remembers the dreams he had 20 years earlier (vv. 7-9a). Why do you think this would have come to his mind after all these years?

Why do you suppose Joseph would have spoken "roughly" to his brothers (v. 7)?

2. A Point of Reckoning

(Genesis 42:9b-23)

Restate in your own words the conversation Joseph has with his brothers (vv. 9b-16). What is Joseph accusing them of, and how do they respond?

What might be the significance of Joseph changing his strategy from sending one brother back to Canaan to keeping one brother in Egypt (vv. 16-20)?

Why do you think this "testing" would have prompted the brothers to remember what they had done to Joseph so many years ago?

3. An Act of Kindness

(Genesis 42:24-38)

Do you agree that Joseph returning the brothers' money in their sacks was an act of kindness? Why or why not? What is stated in the Text that leads you to that conclusion?

Why do you think this act caused the brothers to fear even more?

Read Romans 2:4: In what ways does God use his kindness to bring us to repentance? What does that tell you about Christ's work on the cross?

DO

Share with the group an incident in your own life in which you either gave or experienced an Act of Kindness. What was the reaction?