

Joseph: Sacrificial Love The Life of Joseph

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Key Truth:

On the road to reconciliation, someone must initiate sacrificial love for the other.

We come to what appears to be the final step on the Road to Reconciliation in the life of Joseph. Joseph and his family are about to be reunited for the first time in 20 years. But before that can happen, one more step needs to be taken – the step of demonstrating sacrificial love. In this chapter we see Judah stepping up to demonstrate a love for his family that he had not shown before.

DISCUSS

Read **Genesis 44:1-34** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on “Joseph: Sacrificial Love.”

DIG IN

1. Joseph: A Test of Sacrificial Love (Genesis 44:1-13)

Describe the test Joseph gives his brothers. Why do you think Joseph treats his brothers like this?

What choices did the brothers have when it was found that Benjamin had Joseph’s silver cup in his sack?

How did their response demonstrate a changed heart?

2. Judah: A Demonstration of Sacrificial Love (Genesis 44:14-34)

Read Genesis 44:16: Judah was not guilty of taking Joseph’s silver cup, yet he sacrifices his innocence for the sake of Benjamin. In what ways does this demonstrate sacrificial love? In what ways does this point to Judah’s recognition of his own guilt (see Genesis 37:26-27)?

Describe how Judah willingly sacrificed his freedom for Benjamin (vv. 32-33)? What are some ways we willingly sacrifice our freedoms for the sake of those we love?

Read Genesis 44:34: In what ways has Judah proven that he is finally thinking about the welfare of his father? How does that demonstrate sacrificial love?

In what ways do Judah’s actions pre-figure the person and work of Jesus Christ?

DO

Describe for the group a situation in your life (either individually or collectively) that will require the exercise of sacrificial love. How do you plan to demonstrate that?