

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MEANT FOR GOOD: WEEK 4

While anyone can take time to answer these questions individually, these questions are best discussed in a group! Not in a group yet? We want you in one! Head over to southeastchristian.org to join a group in person or online, wherever you are - today!

Which kind of story do you prefer more – stories of revenge or stories of forgiveness? Why? Think of some good examples of these kinds of stories – either from pop culture or current events. On a personal level, is it easier for you to respond with forgiveness or with revenge? How do you see this tendency in yourself?

Read Genesis 43:19-34. After an initial meeting with his brothers, Joseph asked them to bring Benjamin back with them to Egypt. What happened when Joseph finally saw all his brothers together? How did his favoritism towards Benjamin serve as a test for them? What are some indicators that people have truly repented and changed?

What kind of guilt do you think Joseph's brothers had carried with them for two decades? What kind of bitterness do you think Joseph had to work through in that same time period? Would you rather carry the guilt of doing something wrong or the bitterness of being wronged? How does the Gospel speak to both those emotions?

Read Genesis 45:1-15. After seeing Judah's willingness to take Benjamin's place, Joseph breaks down and reveals himself to the brothers. Imagine yourself in each person's place. How would you have felt if you were one of the brothers? How would you have felt if you were Joseph? How did this moment offer healing for all parties?

Dave talked about a simple equation: "Conviction + Repentance + Sacrifice = Grace." How are each of these qualities important for reconciliation to happen? What happens when we try to take one of these words out of the process? Which of these words is the hardest for you to practice?

As you close, read Matthew 6:14-15. What admonition does Jesus give to us here? In what ways does an unwillingness to forgive show that we haven't truly grasped how much Jesus has forgiven us? Think of someone in your life you need to forgive. Close together in prayer by asking God to give you opportunity to initiate that conversation.