

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Have you ever been hurt?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. What do you think is the most difficult thing about being hurt by someone else?
 - a. Why is it so painful?
 - b. Compare with Psalm 41:9.
3. Have you ever unfriended someone on social media?
 - a. Have you ever "cut someone out" of your life?
 - b. Was it easy or hard for you?
 - c. How do you respond when you are hurt?
4. Share your thoughts about this quote from C.S. Lewis, "Everyone says forgiveness is a good idea, until they have something to forgive."
5. Let's look at the story of Joseph. Joseph had to forgive his brothers for all they had done to him. Please read Genesis 37:1-11. Share your thoughts.
6. According to Genesis 37, what was the brothers's plan?
 - a. Who saved him?
 - b. What did they do to Joseph?
 - c. Who bought Joseph?
7. Why do you think the brothers hated Joseph?
 - a. Who or what was the real enemy?
8. According to Genesis 39, who hired Joseph?
 - a. What was his job?
 - b. What was Joseph accused of and what was the result?
9. Share your thoughts about this quote, "In the shadow of my hurt, forgiveness feels like a decision to reward my enemy. But in the shadow of the cross,

forgiveness is merely a gift from one undeserving soul to another." (Andy Stanley).

10. What happened in Genesis 42:6-7?
 - a. Why do you think Joseph pretended to be a stranger?
 - b. Compare with Genesis 43:29-30.

11. Do you trust your feelings? Share your thoughts about this quote, "Feelings are indicators, not dictators. They can indicate where your heart is in the moment, but that doesn't mean they have the right to dictate your behavior and boss you around. You are more than the sum total of your feelings and perfectly capable of that little gift...called self-control." (Lysa TerKeurst).

12. Please read Genesis 45:1-15. What do you think the brothers were thinking?
 - a. Compare with Genesis 50:15-21. What was Joseph's perspective?
 - b. Do you think Joseph truly forgave his brothers?

13. Who do you need to forgive in your life?

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message.
Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Your capacity to forgive is connected to your proximity to God.
- You can have thoughts of forgiving someone, and not actually have a moment that you forgave
- Forgiving someone is a process. The greater the hurt, the longer the healing.
- It's not too late. You've never gone too far that God can't heal you and restore you.
- The more you personally know God's grace, the easier to forgive.