



## MESSAGE REVIEW

Joseph allowed the trials of his life to shape his character and grow his personal relationship with God to new levels. By keeping his heart soft and being faithful with the work in front of him, Joseph emerged on the other side of his trials with the ability to forgive his brothers and say to them, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good.”

## WARM UP QUESTION

How is faith different from optimism? What is each grounded in? Describe someone you know who is optimistic vs. someone who is faithful.

**1** **Read Genesis 45:1-8.** How does Joseph explain to his brothers the reason for being sold into slavery in Egypt and the purpose of his trials? How does he reassure them?

**2** In what similar situations have you been tempted to say that God has abandoned you or forgotten you? What would it take to get you to the place of seeing trials as Joseph saw his?

**3** **Read Genesis 45:14-15, 46:29 and 49:33-50:1.** These are just a few of the times Joseph weeps in the story. What does he weep over? How do you think it helps keep his heart soft? What do you weep over?

**4** **Read Genesis 50:15-21.** What stands out to you about the brothers’ apology (verses 15-18)? Do they justify their actions at all? Talk together as a group about any secret sin you need to confess or anyone whose forgiveness you need to seek for something you’ve done or said. Set a goal for when you plan to complete either one.

**5** How does Joseph show his brothers that he not only forgives them, but genuinely loves them (verses 19-21)? How does not forgiving someone place you in the seat of God? Who do you need to forgive and how can we come around each other in love, prayer, and support?

## RESPOND

What is God saying to you through His Word? How and when will you respond?

*Encourage group members to read Daily Bible Reading on the church app or have them delivered to their inbox daily. Subscribe at [tpcc.org/daily-bible-reading](http://tpcc.org/daily-bible-reading). Use your group chat to check in on thoughts about these throughout the week!*