

SERIES TITLE: Living in God's Story

PART TEN: FORWARD PROGRESS

TEXT: GENESIS 45

INTRODUCTION.

This series focuses on the life of Joseph and his brothers. It includes incidents of failure and success, jealousy and integrity, sin and righteousness. Through it all, God's plan prevails. These stories should increase our confidence in God, and our willingness to follow him in all situations.

DISCUSSION. Has another person ever forgiven you for something big? Describe how you felt.

EXAMINATION.

vv.1-2 How do you explain why Joseph handles his emotions this way?

Vv.3-8 What surprises you most about Joseph's shocking revelation? Why?

What does it mean for Joseph to say "God sent me"?

Vv.9-24 What evidence is there that Joseph has truly forgiven his brothers?

Why does Pharaoh take such an interest?

What do you think of the continued preferential treatment given to Benjamin?

vv.25-28 What stands out to you about Jacob's reaction to the news?

APPLICATION.

- What are the biggest obstacles that keep you from believing that God is at work even through the evil that happens to us?
- How does Romans 8:28 apply to this question?
- What does this passage teach about holding a grudge?
- What does it teach about blessing those who curse you?
- If God is at work in the evil done to us, why doesn't that make God evil?
- If God is at work in the evil done to us, why doesn't that excuse the evil-doer?

- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?