

SERIES TITLE: Living in God's Story

PART FOURTEEN: WHAT GOD INTENDS

TEXT: GENESIS 50

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. Which memory is harder to shake and why?

- Hurt over how you were wronged by someone else?
- Guilt over how you wronged someone else?

EXAMINATION.

50:1-14 What do all these funeral details tell us about Jacob's status? About Joseph? About the importance of being buried in Canaan?

50:15-21 After Jacob dies, what does the reaction of Joseph's brothers indicate?

Why do you think Joseph wept? v.17

Think of all the wrongs that Joseph has experienced in his life and list them.

How was Joseph able to respond with such graciousness and kindness? Vv.19-21

50:22-26 How is Joseph's last request tied to God's promises?

APPLICATION.

- What do you do to demonstrate your trust in the promises of God?
- Can you give an example of how you have practiced relational debt consolidation rather than cancellation? That means, times you have kept track of all wrongs done to you and expected an apology or restitution.
- Can you share an example of a time when you have cancelled a relational debt, or have received forgiveness from someone else?
- Evaluate this phrase: "That was wrong, but God is good." How could it apply in your life?

- What do passages such as Matthew 6:14-15, Luke 23:34, and Ephesians 4:32 tell us about the importance of forgiving relational debts?

Four Steps to Forgiveness:

1. Acknowledge your pain. "You intended to harm me." Don't deny the hurt and short-circuit the process. Matt. 18:15 "If another believer sins against you, go to them privately"
2. Admit your ability. According to Jesus, you have the ability to forgive those who sin against you. Mat. 6:15
3. Adjust your perspective. Empathize. As you keep in mind how God forgave you, it enables you to be kind and compassionate as you forgive others. Eph 4:32
4. Act out your decision. Cancel whatever debt you feel they owe you. Col. 3:13 "forgive whatever grievances you have."

- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?

- React: What did you feel?

- Act: What are you going to do?