



Discussion Guide

Date: 9/28/2025

Sermon Title: Will the world be better because of me?

Scripture: Genesis 50:15-21

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and sovereign God, we gather with hearts open to your Spirit and minds eager to understand your Word. As we reflect on Joseph's story and our own part in your greater purpose, grant us clarity, humility, and courage. May this time together help us consider how our lives, like Joseph's, can be used to bless others, leaving a legacy of grace, compassion, and transformation. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Opening Question:

1. How has a particular story from your childhood shaped your identity or worldview? In what ways do you see parallels between that story and your spiritual journey?

Digging into the Word:

Read Genesis 50:15-21. You may want to review the entire Joseph story up to this point.

1. What emotions or thoughts do Joseph's brothers have in this passage, and how does Joseph respond? Do you perceive you would have responded the same or differently?
2. Verse 20 says, "God intended it for good." How do you interpret Joseph's ability to see God's hand in the harm done to him?
3. How might we begin to see difficult parts of our own stories in a similar redemptive light?
4. Joseph saw a bigger picture—that his story was part of God's saving work for others. How do you want your life to impact others?
5. In what ways are you intentionally leaving a spiritual legacy—at home, in church, or in your community?
6. What legacy have others left for you, and how are you building upon it? Who has been influential in your life, family, circle of friends? Why?

Connecting to other scripture:

1. Read Romans 8:28: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God..." How does this connect with Joseph's story?
2. Read Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." How does our faithful living become a light to others and part of God's redeeming plan?

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Wesleyan Insight:

John Wesley believed that holiness is not only personal but also social. He often emphasized “*doing good*” as a core Christian calling.

1. How does Wesley’s call to “do good...by every possible means” challenge or inspire you to live more purposefully? (See [Wesley’s “General Rules”](#) and [sermon 50 “The Use of Money.”](#))
2. How do acts of mercy, justice, and forgiveness shape a world better than we found it?

Sermon Questions:

1. In the online sermon Pastor Allison shares the concept of being 'stuck' like a raccoon holding onto something. What are some things in life that keep us stuck? Have you experienced this in your own life? What maybe keeping you from moving forward spiritually?
2. Joseph had the opportunity to seek revenge on his brothers but chose forgiveness instead. How does Joseph's response to his brothers challenge our typical understanding of justice and forgiveness?
3. When have you been faced with a similar choice and Joseph, and how did you handle it?
4. Pastor Allison suggests that forgiveness is primarily between an individual and God. How does this perspective change your understanding of forgiveness in your own life?
5. In what ways have you seen God bring good out of situations that were intended for harm in your own life or in the lives of others?
6. God dreams of a different world. A world of hope, forgiveness, and a world where we are not stuck but set free to love God and others into a better world. Where may God be leading you?

Applying it:

1. In what areas of your life do you need to 'open your hands' and let go of something in order to move forward in your spiritual journey?
2. How does the story of Joseph and his brothers relate to the larger narrative of God's plan for reconciliation in the world? How can we participate in this reconciliation in our daily lives?

CLOSING PRAYER

God of redemption and purpose, thank you for the story of Joseph—a story that reminds us you are always at work, even in what feels broken. Help us to trust that our lives can matter beyond today. Teach us to forgive, to bless, and to serve so that the world will be better because of what you do through us. Shape our legacy in the likeness of Christ, and send us forward as instruments of your good. Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)

1. This week spend some moments in silence with your hands open in your lap and mentally "release" something they've been holding onto (anger, guilt, fear, etc.).
2. If you could not and would like to study the life of Joseph use this [3-day reading plan each week of Joseph here](#).