



WEEK 4 DISCUSSION GUIDE: JOSEPH'S RECONCILIATION WITH HIS FAMILY

LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD:

Read GENESIS 42-45. Share any SOAP Journal Entries from this passage.

1. Jacob sent his sons, with the exception of Benjamin, to Egypt to buy grain during the famine. When his brothers came before Joseph, why do you think Joseph didn't tell them who he was? Why do you think he recognized them but they did not recognize him?
2. Why do you think Joseph responded to his brothers in the way he did?
3. How would you describe what Joseph's brothers were feeling in verses 42:21-23?
4. How would you describe Joseph's feelings in verses 43:16-34? Why do you think Joseph played a little "trickery" on them in chapter 44?
5. In Genesis 45:1-8, what was Joseph's perspective on what his brothers had done to him when he was seventeen?
6. What emotions were his brothers most likely experiencing when they realized this was indeed Joseph?

LOOKING INWARD

7. How do you view painful or hurtful events in your life? How have hurtful events molded your life?
8. How is one able to gain the type of perspective that Joseph had about his life?
9. It is easy for our emotions to get out of control when we face someone who has hurt us deeply. If you know of someone who has wounded you deeply, how have you handled it? How can you trust God's sovereign hand to help you not only to control your emotions, but also to give forgiveness?

PRAYER: To allow God to heal deep wounds and empower you to forgive those who have hurt you.

SOAP JOURNAL EXERCISE

Read: Genesis 49:29-50:26

S - Scripture - Choose one verse from the scripture above and hand write it below.

O - Observation - Describe in your own words what you think the verse is saying. Explore words and phrases and try to put down what you "see" in this verse. You can even re-write the verse in your own words.

A - Application - Write down what you should do because of what this verse says. It may be something you need to keep doing, stop doing, or start new. Make it as detailed and specific as possible.

P - Prayer - Write a prayer thanking God for speaking to you, and ask him to help you focus on what he has said and what you should do.