

## Small Group Questions: Forgiving Others

### Series: Trials to Triumph: Joseph

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#### Read

Genesis 42:8; Genesis 45:4-5; Genesis 45:14-15; Genesis 45:1-2; Genesis 45:14-15; Genesis 45:26-28; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13; Mark 11:25; Matthew 6:9-13; Genesis 41:50-52; Philippians 3:13-14; Romans 12:19

#### Reflect

Along the path of life, we pick up baggage, sometimes at the hands of others, but at times, it's our own doing that piles on the weight. Forgiveness is what allows us to drop the baggage, and take hold of what God has for us. Joseph didn't bring up the past when he settled his family in Egypt and generously provided for them. Why do we keep a record of the past and bring it up to remind others of transgressions?

Pastor Josh Walters highlights the following:

#### 1. What is forgiveness?

- a. Share your meaning of forgiveness. How does your definition relate to the Bible?
- b. How do you know when it's time to forgive someone and not just excuse their behavior?
- c. How can you trust God with your forgiveness of others?

#### 2. How do I forgive?

- a. Read and discuss Philippians 3:13-14.

*Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

- b. How can you follow Christ without forgiving those around you?
- c. Is forgiving others just the right thing to do or an action of your heart?

#### 3. Why is Matthew 6:9-13, the Lord's Prayer significant in forgiveness?

- a. Share a time you felt the blessing of forgiving someone.
- b. How can you recall the pain of the past, but still release your debtors?
- c. In what ways can you draw near to God, and trust that he will carry your pain, so you can forgive?

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?