



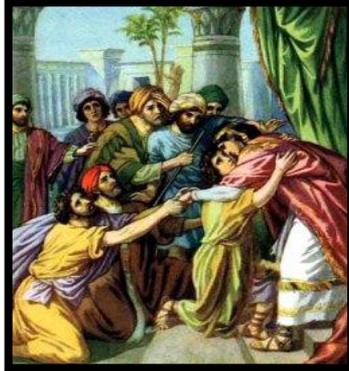
FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

Sabbath January 20, 2018

SERIES: FROM PRISON TO PRAISE 8 FORGIVENESS & GRACE (Joseph)

Genesis Chapters 43:1 – Genesis 46:32



SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

1st Reader Repeats 2x with Congregation

Ephesians 4:32 *"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."*

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU & ME

I CAN FORGIVE OTHERS WHO HAVE HURT ME
BECAUSE JESUS FORGIVES THEM & HE LIVES IN ME

1. INTRODUCTION: The famine came, because there was no rain, no food, animals were starving, and everyone was hungry, but there was food in Egypt because Joseph had listened to God and obeyed His instruction to store up corn for 7 years before the famine. Joseph now ruled over all of Egypt, and other countries were coming to buy food from him but Joseph's brothers didn't know the ruler over Egypt was their brother. Joseph had accused them of being spies, and held his brother Simeon in prison while the others, went back home to get Benjamin. Joseph wanted to keep Benjamin and they feared they would all be killed!

Objects to Bring: Remote Control Race Car/Small Race Cars, Gold Coins in Treasure Bag

ORDER OF SERVICE:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Light Candles & Pray | 4. Dismiss Kids to Noah's Ark with 'Animals Go Marching Song' | |
| 2. Children's Songs & Story | 5. Adult Fellowship Break | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

2. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS GO HOME TO GET BENJAMIN. AND BRING HIM BACK WITH THEIR GIFTS OF MONEY.



Genesis 43:1-14 *And the famine was sore in the land. And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go again, buy us a little food.* ³ *And Judah spake unto him, saying, ... the man said unto us, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you... could we certainly know that he would say, Bring your brother down?....* ¹¹ *And their father Israel said unto them, If it must be so now, do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds: and take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks...* ¹³ *take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man:* ¹⁴ *and God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin.... ”*

We keep bringing our best gifts to God forgetting that He forgives us freely – He forgives us not for our gifts but because of who He is! Judah left with many gifts for Joseph, promising his father he would bring Benjamin back safely, but what will happen to them?

Genesis 43:16-25 *And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand...* ¹⁶ *And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring these men home, and slay, and make ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon...* ¹⁸ *And the men were afraid...* ²³ *And he said, Peace be to you, fear not: your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money. And he brought Simeon out unto them... ”*



The brothers felt guilty. How so like us they are, bringing our gift to the Lord while yet we hide and forget about our unconfessed sins?

3. AFTER MANY YEARS JOSEPH SEES ALL HIS BROTHERS BOWING AND HIS HEART IS OVERCOME WITH LOVE FOR THEM.

Genesis 43:26-30 “And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth. ²⁷ And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive? ²⁸ And



they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance. ²⁹ And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spake unto me? And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son. ³⁰ And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.”

Joseph had suffered enormously because of the wickedness of his brothers. Why should he forgive them? How about in my life? Has someone else suffered because of my sin? It happens to all of us. After salvation we find we have put some sort of sin out of our mind because we don't know how to resolve a problem, so we put it on a shelf and close the door so we can move on. But we are just like Joseph's brothers. Jesus loves you so much that when you are strong enough and ready for the next step of your life, He will bring that unconfessed sin before you, so you can face it and see that God's mercy and kindness is greater than every sin. Let that sin go, because God's love is waiting to embrace you with open arms!

Psalms 78:37-39 “For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant. ³⁸ But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath. ³⁹ For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.”

4. OBJECT VISUAL: Gold Coins in Treasure Bag



Joseph's brothers thought that if they brought enough gold to the king that He would grant them favor and spare their lives! Like Joseph's brothers, sometimes we think we can win



God's approval by giving big gifts and hope our good works will get our bosses favor, or some suppose that if they earn more money, have a bigger house and better car, and more expensive clothing, others will like them better. Some kids might think if they can do perfectly at school and get a



good report card their parents will love them more. Or think maybe if I were prettier, or maybe if I can be the best at sports, then I will be popular and accepted.



Some think if they can do enough good deeds for God, then surely He will see that they are good enough to get into heaven! **Joseph's brother's gifts could not save them from certain death from the hand of the pharaoh, and your gifts to God cannot save you from the wages of sin.** God is holy and no sin can stand in the presence of God without being burned up by the brightness of His glory. There is no gift we can give to make us good enough because we all have sinned. Only Jesus is perfect and holy because He is God who became flesh, who came from heaven to shed his blood on the cross for you and me. Then He rose again from the grave and went back to heaven, and **when you ask Him to forgive you He comes to live in your heart!**



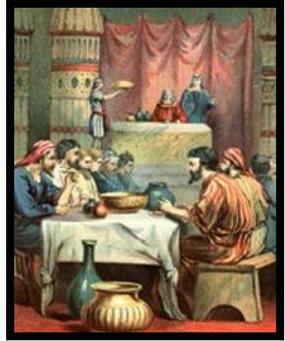
Jesus wants to wash your sins away so He can live in your heart and be with you always to help you. God wants you to receive His free gift of eternal life. Only God's free gift of eternal life through His own Holy Spirit living in you can save you and make you holy. Ask Him to forgive you and receive His

word and His Spirit to live in your heart today, Jesus loves you!

5. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS ARE SEATED FOR DINNER.

When Joseph saw Benjamin, he had gone away to weep, but now he was back and his brothers wondered what would happen next?

***Genesis 43:31-34** “And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread.³² And they set on for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews; for that is an abomination unto the Egyptians.³³ **And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one at another.**³⁴ And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: **but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of theirs.** And they drank, and were merry with him.”*



Did their gift please Joseph enough to save their lives? How have I tried to please God by my own good works? In my heart, do I believe God would love me more if I were a better person?

***Isaiah 64:6** "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags."*

***Jeremiah 31:3** "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."*

Joseph knew in his heart that God had beautifully orchestrated and preserved all their lives, but still he longed to see his father. And at this time in this sequence of events, did Joseph yet really forgive his brothers? Their sin against him and his father had been so great, how could he forgive them? When I forgive, are there strings attached? Do I want a little vengeance first or do I forgive freely?

***Matthew 6:14-15** "If you forgive men their trespasses your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

6. LIFE PARABLE - Corrie & Betsy & Me

Most of us have heard the true story of The Hiding Place that took place during the world war when the evil Hitler's Nazi's occupied Germany and other smaller countries like Holland where the ten Boom family lived. Corrie and Betsy ten Boom were betrayed by friends for hiding Jewish people, to keep them from going to the death camps. Their father



Casper had died and they were sent to the worst concentration camp of all. They were starving, with no facilities for washing, and the straw on the wooden slats of their beds was horribly infested with fleas. When Betsy was violently beaten by one of the guards, Corrie was so angry she hated him. After the beating while Betsy lay close to death in Corrie's arms, Betsy wept not for herself but for the guard who would go to hell because he didn't know Jesus. She died a few days later. Corrie could not forgive that guard. The word of the Lord came alive in Corrie on a trip back to Holland when she saw the guard at a church where she ministered. Corrie was shaking when the guard came forward, asking her to forgive him. Corrie ten Boom found there was no sin so dark that God's love was not deeper still. Her Jesus was able to give her enough love to forgive even this man.

Most of us won't ever have an experience like Corrie's. But we have experiences in our everyday lives when those we trust and love hurt us, slight us, betray us, use us dishonestly for their own promotion, or are unfair for reasons we just cannot understand. If you would experience all that God has for you, and not hinder your prayers or your ability to hear God's voice, you must forgive them all, just as God has forgiven you. Corrie felt a freedom in her heart when she allowed God's love to heal her, and to heal the man whom she had hated for so long. **What unforgiveness are you harboring that you need to let go of?** No matter how justified you may be in holding on to your pain, **you are only keeping yourself away from the joy of God's love completely washing through your whole life.** God loves you so much. **Forgive generously because Jesus has forgiven you generously.** Then, with great victory, you will be able to press on to the higher calling the Lord has waiting for you.

7. AFTER DINNER IS FINISHED, JOSEPH HAS A PLAN.

Genesis 44:1-13 “And he commanded the steward of his house, saying... put every man’s money in his sack’s mouth. ² And put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack’s mouth of the youngest, and his corn money.... ⁴ And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men.... God forbid that thy servants should do according to this thing: ⁸ behold, the money, which we found in our sacks’ mouths, we brought again unto thee out of the land of Canaan: ... ⁹ With whomsoever of thy servants it be found, both let him die, and we also will be my lord’s bondmen.... ¹² And he searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: and the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack. ¹³ Then they rent their clothes, and ... returned to the city.”



Would their father’s grief never end? At times in our lives when our grief seems unfair and more than we can bear, we can remember that God knows and He uses every tear shed for His good purpose.

Psalms 56:8-9 “Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book? ⁹ When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.”



Genesis 44:14-34 “And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph’s house; ... and they fell before him on the ground... ¹⁶ And Judah said, ... how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants: ... The lad cannot leave his father: for if he should leave his father, his father would die....”

How often are people are not really sorry until their sin affects them personally? The brothers had sinned against Joseph and against their father, keeping the lie of his death alive for all these years.

Numbers 32:23 “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.”

8. JOSEPH FINALLY FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS.

Genesis 45:1-15 “Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me...² And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard. ³ And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? ...⁴ And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. ⁵ Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life ... ⁸ So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God.... ¹⁴ And he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.”



How was Joseph able to forgive so easily? How can I forgive and forget those who have wounded me so deeply, when without even being sorry they expect me to treat them like nothing happened? Because Jesus forgives us when we do not deserve it either! It took Joseph a little time, but he saw God’s purpose, and finally he was overcome with love for his brothers and forgave them freely.

Matthew 10:8 “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

Genesis 45:16-28 “And the fame thereof was heard in Pharaoh’s house, saying, Joseph’s brethren are come: and it pleased Pharaoh well... ¹⁷ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph... take your father and your households, and come unto me: and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt, ²⁵ And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father, ²⁶ and told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt...and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived: ²⁸ and Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.”

9. WHILE WE YET DO NOT UNDERSTAND, GOD IS AT WORK FULFILLING HIS PURPOSE IN OUR LIVES.

Job 23:10 *“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”*

Like gold, we go through fires that are like a furnace to purify our hearts. If we do not learn to live for God in the small things, then God cannot trust us with the big things. First we must search our hearts like Joseph’s brothers had to do and ask for forgiveness from a fully repentant heart so that God can completely pour out His love into our lives. Have you completely given the past to God? We must allow God’s forgiving love to fill us now and always.

Genesis 46:1-32 *“And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beer-sheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac. ² And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I. ³ And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: ⁴ I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: ... and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶ And they ... came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him....and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while. ³⁰ And Israel said unto Joseph, Now let me die, since I have seen thy face, because thou art yet alive....”*



When Joseph’s family arrived, there were 70 of them in all. How good it was to be all together again, and with Joseph’s power before Pharaoh, he saw that his family had the best of the land, and he took care of them. Joseph forgave the sins of his brothers and forgot them just the same as God forgives us.

Psalms 103:12 *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”*

10. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME

1. Many times others who hurt us do not even know what they did, so we can forgive them like Jesus forgave those who nailed Him to the cross, because they know not what they do.
2. We are saved to do the good works God has prepared for us. Jesus sees that we love Him when we obey His commandments, but obedience is not a gift that earns His love.
3. It was very hard for Joseph to forgive his brothers for what they had done to him. But Joseph did forgive and God showed him that it had all been part of His plan.
4. It was even harder for Joseph's brothers to receive forgiveness from Joseph because they could not forgive themselves. But Joseph had forgiven them long ago and was sad that it still hurt them to think about it.
5. The Lord is grieved when you hold a grudge against yourself and can't forgive yourself, because He does!
6. I can forgive others freely because Jesus forgives me freely.
7. I go through trials so God can purify my heart like gold is pure.
8. God wants me to trust Him & forgive those who have hurt me.
9. When I forgive, Jesus will show me how the hard places I suffered are part of His plan for me.
10. When I ask Jesus to forgive me, He takes my sin and it's gone!

Can you think of someone you need to forgive? Can you think of someone who needs to forgive you? God is able to give you His grace to forgive them.



Let's Pray Together:

Dear Lord God, I pray for your forgiveness for the hurt and pain I hold onto in my heart. Help me to forgive completely so I can let go of it and move forward to the life You have planned for me. Jesus, I pray also that You help me to receive and understand Your complete forgiveness of my sins and failures. Help us all to let go of the past like Joseph did, and see the past as a tool to bring about Your future plan for our lives, so that nothing will hinder Your plan. Empower us to walk with You in Your blessing every day and bring glory to Your name. Thank you Lord, in Jesus name, Amen.

11. CHILDREN'S STORY: Jesse's Cars

Jesse was so proud of his car collection, he finally had enough cars to fill his collector's box! Jesse took good care of his cars and put them away each time he played. He couldn't



wait for the Race Club meetup on Sunday to race his cars. It was going to be like the real drag races with prizes for the winners!

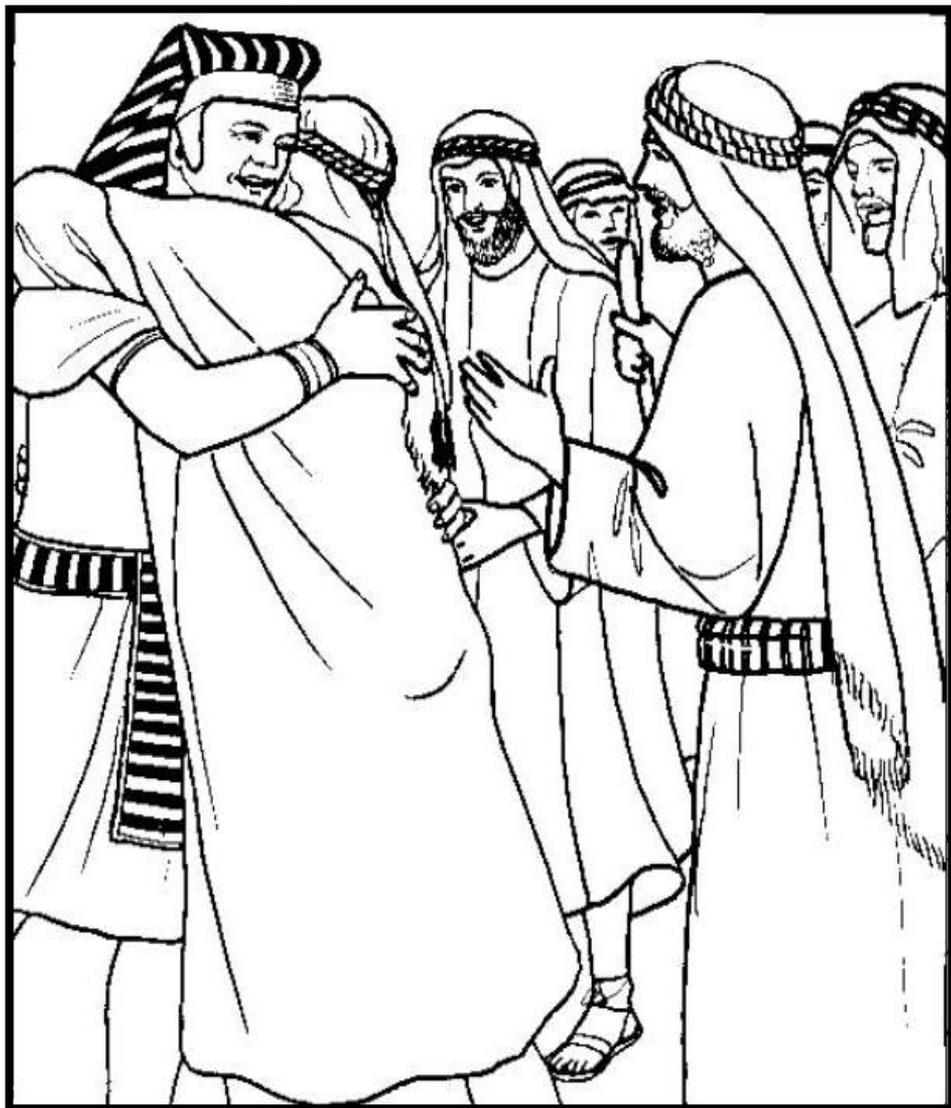
On Thursday, Jesse spent the night at his friend Bobby's so he didn't go home again until after school on Friday. First thing back home he went to his room to get his cars to practice, but they were gone! Jesse looked around thinking maybe his brother Jimmy had put them somewhere. When he looked out in the back yard, Jesse couldn't believe his eyes! Jimmy had taken his remote-control cars outside, and left them out all night in the rain! There they were, scattered around in puddles of water - ruined!

Jesse didn't even care if anyone saw the tears in his eyes, he was so mad! How could his brother do that to him? Jimmy had heard Jesse talking about the race tomorrow, how could he be so careless? Sorry wasn't going to be enough! Jimmy had ruined his cars, and he felt like he could never forgive him. Just then, Jesse heard Jimmy come home and yelled out the ugliest things he could think of, then he ran to his room and slammed the door! Jimmy knocked and said he was sorry but Jesse wouldn't let him in. While Jesse lay there on his bed just staring at the ceiling, he saw Jesus on the cross with His arms open wide. Jesus had loved him so much that He left heaven to pay the price for his sin. Jesus asked God to forgive the ones who nailed Him to that cross. Jesse cried. He decided if Jesus could do that for him, how could he not forgive Jimmy? So Jesse got up to go talk to him. Maybe Jimmy would help him see if they could save some of the cars? Jesse decided he would take Jimmy to the race tomorrow and be a better brother.

Jesus forgives me, so I can forgive others who sin against me.

12. TIMELINE COLORING PAGE

**God showed Joseph that what Satan means for evil,
He uses for our good, and gave Joseph grace to
forgive his brothers. 1678 BC**



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU & ME

**I CAN FORGIVE OTHERS WHO HAVE HURT ME
BECAUSE JESUS FORGIVES THEM & HE LIVES IN ME**

From Prison to Praise #8 Joseph Forgives His Brothers © by Diane Gordon Faithful Light Inc.