



Week of Oct 18
Genesis 50:15-21 | Forgiveness & Reconciliation
Pastor Mike Barnhart

This weekly tool is designed to help you process and apply God's truth with other brothers and sisters who want to grow in Christ. You might use this in your Life Group, one-on-one over coffee, around the family dinner table, or in a casual small group of friends. The aim is to take God's Word from Sunday morning and bring it into the corners of our lives throughout the week, so that together we might be transformed into people who treasure God and love others.

beyondsunday Reflection & Discussion

Getting Started

- 1) Ever had to tell a child, "say you're sorry"? What were you trying to make happen? What actually happened?
- 2) Is there someone who you've found hard to forgive?

Receive the Word

- 3) Read: Genesis 50:15-21
 - a) Joseph and his brothers had a rough history (full context Genesis chapters 37-50), especially along the lines of trust, justice, and envy. This specific passage describes a critical moment between them. What all happened?
 - b) What are the brothers "owning up to"? What are they not?

c) c) If forgiveness could be thought of in terms of money... How much is Joseph asking his brothers to "pay back" before forgiving them? How much of "the debt" is Joseph incurring (taking responsibility for) in forgiving his brothers?

d) What is the unexpected reaction from Joseph that he gives beyond forgiving them? What is that reaction called? (Hint: it's in the sermon title)

Make the Connection

4) In the sermon, Pastor Mike said this phrase:

"Because God remains sovereign over evil done to us & Christ has forgiven us, we are free to FORGIVE those who sin against us."

a) Why do we need God's help to forgive?

5) Think through these main points:

1. Forgiveness refuses REVENGE.
2. Forgiveness entrusts JUSTICE to God.
3. Forgiveness responds with GRACE.

6) Earlier you were asked: *"Is there someone who you've found hard to forgive?"*

Where are you at in the process of forgiveness?

7) If you are seeking reconciliation with someone today, what "can" you say yes to?