



## INTRODUCTION

The brothers fear Joseph's anger towards them was only constrained by the presence of their father Jacob. Now that Jacob is dead they fear Joseph's wrath is coming. Joseph assures them of his forgiveness and in doing so, shows us how we can have the power to forgive.

## INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore, please use it as tool that best fits the needs of your community group.

## OPENING DISCUSSION

- What questions do you have about this passage?
- What truths/ideas do you find compelling from this passage?

## REVIEW

- Read **Gen 50:15-21**
- What do you like about the brother's confession? Why don't you like?
- What does Joseph mean when he says "am I in the place of God?"
- Put v20 in your own words?
- How can you have two "intents" in one act?

## APPLICATION

- Do you ever doubt God's forgiveness of you? Why? What help do you find from this passage?
- Joseph's life shows us that God is ever-present, ever-subtle, and ever-faithful. What does it look like to go through a trial and to believe these truths about the character of God?
- Tim Keller explains "The fastest way to become like Satan is to try to be God. The fastest way to become like God is to refuse to be God." Discuss & apply.
- Why is forgiveness hard?
- What does it mean to be spiritually poor? How does the gospel make us spiritually poor? How does spiritual poverty free us to forgive?
- What does it mean to be spiritually wealthy? How does God's providence make us spiritually wealthy? How does spiritual wealth free us to forgive?

## PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer needs?