

Discussion Guide

A Heart of Forgiveness
August 9, 2026

PART 1: RECAP. HAVE SOMEONE READ THIS OUT LOUD.

We have a few more weeks of reading through the life of Joseph. In our passage for this week, we see what a heart of forgiveness really looks like - and it begins with giving up the seat that was never yours. As the story of Joseph and his brothers continues, we also learn that forgiveness will not always erase negative feelings but we can still choose to love our enemies well.

- Share a high and a low from your week with the group.
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PART 2: HAVE SOMEONE READ GENESIS 42 OUT LOUD... IT'S A LONGER CHAPTER. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AS A GROUP.

- Why do you think Jacob kept Benjamin at home when he sent his brothers to Egypt?
 - What did Joseph need to know about his brothers before he could offer them grain from the Egyptian storehouses? What was his strategy for finding out?
 - In verses 21-22, do you think the brothers experience true repentance, or merely sorrow for their situation? Explain your response.
 - Why do you think Joseph reacts as he does in verse 24? Why doesn't he reveal himself yet?
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Flip for more. —————>



PART 3: REFLECT. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS TOGETHER.

- Do you tend to hold grudges towards others? How easy or difficult is it for you to forgive and move forward?
- When have you found yourself trying to take God's seat? How might your life and actions look different if you were to give him his rightful place back?
- How might God be using difficult circumstances in your life to bring about reconciliation or healing in relationships?
- What specific fears or desires for control prevent you from letting go of past grievances?

KEY VERSE:

Matthew 5:43-45

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

NEXT STEPS:

- I will surrender control to God rather than trying to take his seat.
- I will ask God to help me release my bitterness towards _____.
- I will choose to love my enemies this week by _____.
- I will seek reconciliation with _____.

