



Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Release or Revenge?

Introduction: Joseph was the favored son of Abraham. His brothers were jealous and sold him into slavery. This was a horrible experience for Joseph, but the hand of God was on Joseph. God's providence was in all the highs and lows of his life..

Text: Read Genesis 37, 39 through rest of Genesis

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Have you ever had a moment of disappointment? Discuss/write how you handled the situation.
2. Romans 12:17-21 & Proverbs 20:22 tells us to not repay evil for evil? Why? How does trust come in this situation?
3. When someone wrongs you, is your first reaction to release and forgive? or do you seek revenge?
4. Joseph had many instances in his life where he could have been angry and bitter towards others. How was Joseph able to live in release and not revenge? See Gen. 39:2 and Romans 8:28-31
5. How does knowing that God is with you help you live in release?
6. If you choose the path of revenge, how will that help the situation?
7. What are the dangers of living in revenge? What are the negative outcomes to your health, your family, and your relationships?
8. Does forgiving someone belittle the reality of the pain that you suffer?
9. If Joseph made a list of people who hurt him, who would he name? Would he be justified in being hurt and angry and bitter about the situation? Why is the way that Joseph handled the situation the best way to handle it?
10. When you read the story of Joseph's reunion with his family, what emotions do you feel and why is this such a beautiful story? What made it possible?
11. How have you been the brothers or one of the others who wronged Joseph?
12. According to Eph. 4:32 why are Christians to forgive others?
13. Romans 5:8—How does Jesus demonstrate his forgiveness towards us?

Think About it:

Life is filled with hurt and pain. We all have people who have hurt us or wronged us. We have also been the one to wrong others. The path of release is the path to peace and a future. If you allow bitterness, anger, strife, jealousy, etc. to fester in your heart—you will suffer. The levels of stress and emotional pain through a spirit of revenge is a rough way to live. Your relationships with others will truly suffer. Live in release and trust God to lead you in his path. Forgive those who have wronged you and allow God's hand to uphold you..

Moving Forward:

If there is anyone that you need to forgive—forgive them. If you have wronged someone—this week make it right. Thank God for his grace and walk in the release of his mercy and extend that mercy to others.