

LifeGroup Study Sheet**Nov 3rd – Living the Dream – Genesis 45 and 46**

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Have you ever seen two parties be reconciled before? Why is reconciliation so difficult for people to accomplish? Have you had to go through a reconciliation process before with a relationship? What had to happen for you to get to that place? How is reconciliation more than just forgiveness?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Genesis 45:1-4. We see at the beginning of this chapter that Joseph is finally revealing to his brothers who he was, and what they had done to him. Notice Joseph is the one approaching them. He is the party that has been offended and wronged, and he is the one approaching the offenders! How often when reconciliation needs to happen, do we wait for the person who offended us to approach us? How does this story change that idea? How does Joseph address his brothers? Does he gloss over the offense?

Question 2: Read Genesis 45:4-15. In this part of the story, Joseph does not seek to get back at his brothers but allows them to see God's hand throughout the whole process and to reconcile with them. Joseph invites them to hear God's story through their sinful decisions and welcomes them back into a relationship with him! How do you guard your heart towards feelings of revenge instead of reconciliation? How do you consider God's sovereignty and His plan when you have been wronged? **Focus on and read verse 8** – How is it possible to have this perspective when you've been wronged that Joseph has here with his brothers?

Question 3: Read Genesis 45:18-28; 46:-1-4. Joseph tells his brothers that he is going to give them all that the land of Egypt has to offer to them. He tells his brothers to bring his father and their families to receive the blessings of Joseph's household. Why do you think Joseph tells his brothers not to fight on the way back to Canaan? Jacob and the entire family make it to Egypt. God comes to Jacob in visions and dreams to remind him of God's ultimate plan to use his family. God promises to go down with Jacob and promises to bring Jacob up again. How do remind yourself of God's promises? How do you refocus on the plan the Lord has for your life?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?

“We are called to reconcile” (Genesis 45-46)

What does it mean to reconcile?

- To restore a strained relationship
- To fix a broken relationship
- To rejoin two who have been torn apart

“We are called to reconcile” (Genesis 45-46)

Reconciliation & Forgiveness are similar but not the same!

- Forgiveness takes 1 person
- Reconciliation takes 2 people

“We are called to reconcile” (4 keys to achieve reconciliation)

1. Be real & take responsibility

- “I am Joseph” (45:1 & 4a)
- “...the one you sold into Egypt” (45:4b)

“We are called to reconcile” (4 keys to achieve reconciliation)

1. Be real & take responsibility

2. Seek restoration & not revenge

- The brothers were “terrified” (45:3) and “distressed” (45:5)
- Joseph invited them to “come close” (45:4)
- Joseph “embraced them and wept” (45:14-15)

**“We are called to reconcile”
(4 keys to achieve reconciliation)**

1. Be real & take responsibility
2. Seek restoration & not revenge
3. Respond graciously & show respect
 - The brothers were blessed & provided with only the “best” (45:18-23)
 - “Don’t quarrel on the way” (45:24)

**“We are called to reconcile”
(4 keys to achieve reconciliation)**

1. Be real & take responsibility
2. Seek restoration & not revenge
3. Respond graciously & show respect
4. Refocus on God & remember His plan
 - Joseph did this (45:5-8)
 - Jacob did this (46:1-4)

