



## The Chisel of Grace

### Community Group Study Guide: Genesis 45 – Week of July 16, 2023

#### 1. Grace that Guts Guilt

One of the purposes of the story of Joseph is to give us picture of God, and how He interacts with us. As humans, we have an innate shame that is in response to our sin. We desire to hide ourselves out of guilt when confronted with a holy God. We do this, in part, because we do not wish to stand before the righteous justice of the Lord. Like the brothers in this story, we find ourselves helplessly guilty and deserving of punishment. But praise be to God, because He is gracious toward us in our depravity. God provides for us the forgiveness of our trespass through the work of Jesus. His blood pays the penalty for our sin, and instead of punishment we receive restoration. Joseph models this process in our story. While in total control of the fate of his brothers, he chooses not to pour out righteous punishment on his siblings. Instead, he forgives their sins against him, and offers them grace. This repayment of grace for sin guts the guilt in our hearts. Part of the beauty of God's grace is that it cleanses us from the guilt and shame that we are under. Before God lavishes grace on us, we stand under the full weight of our condemnation. But, through the loving sacrifice of Jesus, that shame and condemnation are removed. They are remembered no more. This should convict us to come to Christ, freely confessing the sin that He has already forgiven us for.

#### 2. Grace that Corrects

The grace of God is not simply to remove the guilt and shame from our shoulders. The same grace that comes to remove our burdens also comes with instruction. We are repent from our previous conduct. We are called to obedience in all that God has commanded. We are to allow the grace of God to transform our minds to conform to His will. Grace that guts the guilt of our heart is designed to lead us to a grace the corrects us. One is tied to the other.

#### DISCUSSION GOALS

##### Head

We have been given abundant grace. We have had the weight of sin and guilt removed from us by the loving act of God through Christ Jesus, removing from us our due condemnation.

##### Heart

Now that guilt and shame have been removed, we should turn to God, confessing our sins and repenting of our trespass. God is faithful, and His grace is sufficient.

##### Hands

In response to God's grace and forgiveness, we should also submit ourselves fully to His correction. Our lives are to no longer be in the same patterns as before, but are to be transformed to God's standard. The grace of God leads His children to obedience.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership 101  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 1 pm

## Read Genesis 44

1. How does the grace of God gut guilt?
2. In what ways has the grace of God changed your perspective on justice? On vengeance against those who have wronged you? How has the Gospel transformed your thinking in this area?
3. What challenges keep us from confessing our sins to God? In what ways do we resist His grace?
4. How have you struggle with trusting in Jesus' sacrifice for your sins? How does Jesus's sacrifice give us proof of God's forgiveness?
5. **Read Verse 5** How is it that God sent Joseph? What part did brothers play in this action? What does this teach us about our actions in our own lives?
6. How does grace correct? Why must correction come with the gutting of guilt?
7. How/where can you see God's correction in your own life as an act of grace?