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Groups Sermon Study Questions

#### The Pardon Test

July 1, 2018

## **Message Summary**

Nearly, if not all, of us have been wronged at some point in our lives. Whether the harm done to us was large or small, each of us can choose to let go and forgive. This week we examined the Pardon Test. This shows us how to forgive and release those that have wronged us even when they have not yet asked for forgiveness.

# **Consider This**

How would you describe your perfect day?

How would you feel if someone ruined that perfect day?

What does it mean to pardon, or forgive, someone?

### **Study Questions**

Read Genesis 50:19-21; Leviticus 19:18; Romans 12:19

1. After the death of Joseph's father, his brothers were afraid that Joseph would take vengeance against them for selling him into slavery, decades earlier. What do you think it took for Joseph to forgive his brothers?

- 2. Looking back, Joseph could see God's presence, protection, and provision through his life in Egypt. How does the perspective gained through time help us to release those that may have wronged us in the past?
- 3. Why do you think people often fixate on vengeance and gaining revenge when they've been wronged?
- 4. Is this the way God desires his people to interact with those who have wronged them? Why do you say that?
- 5. Why is it important for us to leave vengeance to the LORD?
- 6. How does trusting God with the pain, help us to release those who've wronged us?

### Read Matthew 6:12-15; Romans 5:8

- 7. Why is it important to recognize that we've received forgiveness?
- 8. When we receive God's love, not as something to be earned, but something that was freely given, how does that free us to extend forgiveness to others?
- 9. Is there an area of your life where you need to receive God's love and forgiveness?

Read Job 36:7; Psalm 103:12; Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:12

- 10. What do these verses say about how God sees us?
- 11. How is God able to see us as righteous?
- 12. How does believing we are saved/washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ, allow us extend forgiveness to others?

### **Moving Forward**

- 1. Take a few minutes to tell God how much you have needed Him to pardon you and thank Him that He has forgiven you fully and freely.
- 2. Because of the forgiveness God has given me, I choose to forgive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Fill in the blank with the name, relationship or circumstance that He brings to mind.) Ask Him to help you release it fully and freely, leaving justice to Him in this relationship or situation.