

- 1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.
  - How will we live out our family identity in the coming weeks?
  - What needs or opportunities to serve is God is asking us to lean into?
  - Who do we know that needs to hear about the love of Jesus?

2) What did you find most helpful, encouraging, or challenging in this message?

3) Share of a time when *you* treated someone else unfairly. When reflecting on Joseph's story, why is it important to ourselves firstly as the brothers, and not as Joseph?

4) Compare the stories of Jesus and Joseph. In what ways is Jesus the true and better Joseph?

- 5) Read Matthew 5:43-47 and Romans 12:14-21.
  - How difficult do you find these instructions of Jesus and Paul?
  - What reasons are given for moving beyond forgiveness to love?
  - What questions remain as you consider applying these passages to how you treat your past, present, or future offenders?

6) Read Matthew 5:9 and James 3:17-18, What does it mean to be a "peacemaker"? What would it look like for a community of people to be "peacemakers"?

7) How can/will you as an IC help each other live out the way of Jesus with regards to the "enemies" that we have or that will surface during our lives?

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## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message

#### Turning Evil into Good - Joseph

With Aaron Richert  
Multiply Team Leader  
August 6, 2017



**Big Idea: FORGIVING our offenders is the first, but not last, step in the pursuit of PEACE in our world.**

#### Genesis 50:14-21

<sup>14</sup> After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father's burial. <sup>15</sup> But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. "Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him," they said. <sup>16</sup> So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us <sup>17</sup> to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin." When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said.

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you?"

<sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. <sup>21</sup> No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

#### Joseph responds to his brother's cruelty...

With **HUMILITY**: "Am I God?"

"Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord." (Romans 12:19)

With **ASSURANCE**. "God intended it all for good."

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28, NIV)

#### Jesus is the **TRUE** and **BETTER** Joseph

Whereas Joseph offered forgiveness and used his power to save **HIS FAMILY**, Jesus offered forgiveness and used his power to save **EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON HIM**.

"For Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13)

#### The Way of Jesus:

"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! (Matthew 5:43-44)