

## Joseph Wept Genesis 42-45

Open – What movie makes you cry?

### 1. Joseph Wept When His Brothers CONFESSED (42:21-24)

- *I think* J. is worried for his little bro, so he keeps his identity a secret
- He overhears them admitting guilt for how they treated him
- Think of someone who has wronged you...now imagine you overhear them feeling bad about it...you will someday...Matt. 12:36, "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak

*Since you know it WILL happen, you can let that feeling go now*

### 2. Joseph Wept When He REUNITED with Benjamin (43:28-30)

- J. is overwhelmed that he gets to see his little bro again
- How many hours has he spent worrying about Ben's life?
- So much anguish comes from not being able to control others or even circumstances like place and time
- How much value relationships have in our heart! Don't take them for granted.

*Imagine the Prodigal Father welcoming back his son. Who do you want to welcome?*

### 3. Joseph Wept When He Saw His Brothers Had CHANGED (45:1-15)

- He tested his brothers about how they might treat Ben
- Were they *worth* reconciling with?
- J. acknowledges God's sovereignty in everything (5-8, 50:20)

*If God is sovereign, you can relinquish control and release hurt*

### 4. This Story is All About FORGIVENESS

- #1 – It's hard for humans
- #2 – It's necessary for our health
- #3 – It's easier when we remember God's sovereignty
- #4 – How much greater is the way God forgives (without testing or change?)

*Are you too messy for God to save? Are you too messy for God to use?*

Questions for reflection, study, and small groups:

- 1) Tell of a time when you were forgotten or felt overlooked.
- 2) What is it about Joseph that allows him to interpret dreams?
- 3) Read Acts 2:16-18. What does this passage say about God speaking to us today?
- 4) How do you hear from the Holy Spirit? Is it through scripture, a “still small voice”, an occasional dream, pictures, or something else?
- 5) What are some ways we can measure and discern whether something is from the Holy Spirit or from another influence?
- 6) The Bible is always our authority on how to interpret what we hear. How does that give you confidence to listen to the Spirit? How does that give you pause to listen to the Spirit?
- 7) Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you recognize His voice and grow in understanding His leading.