

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

Unanswered Questions
Week 8 Study

Icebreaker

If you could learn one new professional skill, what would it be?

Passage 1 Genesis 38:3-4 (NIV)

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate[a] robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him."

Reflection Joseph's brothers hated him. They sold Joseph into slavery, where he became a slave to Potiphar. He endured many trials during this time. He later became second in command to Pharaoh.

Passage 2 Genesis 45:4-5 (NIV)

"Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come close to me.' When they had done so, he said, 'I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.'"

Reflection When you first read the story of Joseph did you expect him to be so forgiving to his brothers? Why?

Message Points

Pastor Duane said that forgiveness is the foundation of the Israelite nation and also to our marriages and our friendships. Do you agree? Why?

Discuss the following points.

POINTS OF FORGIVENESS:

1. Forgiveness can be a long process.
2. Forgiveness is not dependent upon confession.
3. Forgiveness does not require an agreed version of the past.

Message Points (Cont.)

4. Forgiveness means letting go of my natural right for revenge.
5. Forgiving does not mean forgetting.
6. Forgiveness means not bringing it up again.
7. Forgiveness does not mean excusing the behavior of the other person.
8. Forgiveness is easier when we rest in God's providence.
9. Forgiveness does not always mean re-trusting.
10. Forgiveness is incomplete until love replaces anger.

Reflection Which of these sticks out to you the most? Whether it's the easiest, one you don't understand or one you struggle with the most.

Passage 3 Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV) | Luke 23:33-34 (NIV)

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

"When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'"

Reflection Why is it that we forgive?

Quote

"If someone has hurt me, and I am bitter about it, that person is in actuality still hurting me. Bitterness is a pain in itself. It is a negative attitude that steals joy and peace. However, if I am willing to press past the pain and make a decision to forgive, I will be free." – Joyce Meyer

Reflection From here how do we see that unforgiveness affects you physically?

Application

**If there is someone you have to forgive, reach out to them and make it happen.
If you need to forgive yourself of something, make it happen.**

Journal