Living the Dream:
The Life of Joseph
Part 4

November 14, 2026

Living the Dream: The Life of Joseph

Part 4
November 15, 2026

Connsider: Someone does you wrong, but now you have the upper hand.
What you do in these moments matters.
• It's not just a test of your character.
• It's also an opportunity for growth.

> *Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So, when Joseph's brothers arrived, **they bowed down to him** with their faces to the ground. Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.*
>
> *—Genesis 42:6,8*

> *Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected."*
>
> *—Genesis 42:9*

Was Joseph testing his brothers' character?
Or was he also struggling with his own?

QUESTION
If I ever have the power to get even with someone who hurt me, what will I do?

> *"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*
>
> *—Jesus, Matthew 5:43-44*

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world."

—Paul, Romans 12:2

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

—Paul, Romans 12:17-18

CHALLENGE

1. Refuse to repay evil with evil.
2. Choose to do good and live at peace.

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

—Paul, Romans 12:21

• Pray for, and offer forgiveness to, those who've wronged you.

Forgiveness means surrendering your personal claim to revenge.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ***Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath…***

—Paul, Romans 12:17-19

"leave room for God's wrath."

- MISINTERPRETATION: God will get even with them
- TRUTH: God's wrath has already been poured out… on His Son.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: ***While we were still sinners, Christ died for us****. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall* ***we be saved from God's wrath through him!***

—Paul, Romans 5:8-9

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a

new life."

—Paul, Romans 6:4

QUESTIONS

Have I received the forgiveness that God offers me?
Is there someone who needs to experience God's forgiveness through me?

Small Group Questions

ICEBREAKERS

• Have you ever experienced a moment when someone who had mistreated you ended up needing your help? How did you respond? (If that's too personal for you to share, what's your favorite movie where someone gets revenge on a person who wronged them?)

• What's a small, everyday situation where you're tempted to get even with someone? (For example, someone cuts you off in traffic, takes credit for your work, or repeatedly does something that annoys you.) How do you typically respond?

REFLECTION/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 42:6–9. Joseph recognizes the brothers who betrayed him more than twenty years earlier, but they don't recognize him. Suddenly, he has all the power.
   • Why do you think having the upper hand over someone who has hurt us can be so tempting?
   • What does our response reveal about our character and spiritual maturity?
2. Read through Genesis 42-44. Joseph puts his brothers through several tests before revealing his identity. Some of his actions seem reasonable, while others might appear motivated by revenge.
   • How can we distinguish between establishing healthy boundaries or accountability and secretly wanting to make someone suffer for what they've done?
3. Read Romans 12:17–18. Paul says that we should not repay evil with evil and should live at peace with everyone, as far as it

depends on us.
   • Why is this so difficult when we've been genuinely wronged?
   • What does obedience look like in a current relationship or situation?
4. Read Matthew 5:43-44. Jesus commands us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.
   • How can praying for someone who has hurt us begin to change our hearts toward them?
   • What would you pray for someone you're struggling to forgive?
5. The message emphasized that forgiveness doesn't mean pretending we weren't hurt, eliminating consequences, or automatically restoring a broken relationship.
   • What's the difference between forgiveness, reconciliation, and rebuilding trust?
   • Why is understanding these differences important, especially when someone continues to behave in hurtful ways?
6. Read Romans 5:8–9, where Paul reminds us that Christ died for us while we were still sinners, and Romans 6:4, where he describes the new life we're called to live in Christ.
   • How should experiencing God's undeserved mercy change the way we respond to people who have hurt us?
   • Is there someone you need to forgive, a resentment you need to surrender, or a practical step toward peace that God may be calling you to take this week?