

Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, or individuals

“JOSEPH & the Gospel of Many Colors: *When Your Sin Finds You Out*”

Genesis 42

February 15-16, 2014

For Starters

1. Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you, or raised questions?
2. What are the different ways people deal with their guilt? What are the different ways you have dealt with guilt? What has been most helpful, or hurtful?

Digging In

1. We are working through a narrative section of the Bible. Stories are made up of events more than ideas. An easy way to understand the story is to pay attention to the different scenes. Read a story like you are looking through a camera lens, when the scene changes note it. Now identify and “label” the scenes in Genesis 42. (e.g. scene 1 Jacob and sons in Canaan facing a deadly famine.)
2. The brothers were dealing with their guilt and moving toward repentance.
 - What was their struggle?
 - Read Proverbs 28:13 and note what it teaches. Why is it easier to conceal than confess?
3. Joseph was dealing with forgiveness.
 - As you read the text, what was he struggling from?
 - Read Genesis 42:21 and Psalm 105:16-19 to remember what they did to him.
 - What does Jesus teach about forgiveness? Look up Matthew 6:14-15 and Luke 17:4. See also Colossians 3:13.
4. Jacob was still dealing with favoritism and fear. See vv 37-38.
 - How does he handle it?
 - Who does he seemingly forget about back in Egypt?

Bringing it Home

1. Is there any hidden sin that God brought to your mind this week? What does it look like to repent so that reconciliation can happen with God and others? Remember what Marc taught about repentance and the 4 C’s: change of mind, confession, contrition and a commitment to obey.
2. The brothers and their dad were guilty of misinterpreting what was happening. God was both rescuing them and reconciling them but they were filled with a sense of doom and paralyzed by fear. How are you thinking/interpreting what’s hard in your life right now? What other story line is God up to in Colossians 1:19-20?
3. Read Romans 2:4. Anyone needing kindness in your life? What does that look like?

Digging Deeper- Joseph’s family had a pattern of deception that goes back to Abraham calling Sarah his sister. This sin shows up in four generations, one that Joseph is tempted to “try on.”