<u>**Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, or individuals**</u>

"JOSEPH & the Gospel of Many Colors: *In Our Place*"
Genesis 43-44
February 22-23, 2014

For Starters
1. Can you think of a character from literature, television, or film who goes through a dramatic transformation? Who was the character and what was his or her transformation like?

Digging In
1. Look closely at what Judah says in Genesis 43:8-10 about taking his brother Benjamin to meet Joseph. How does this contrast with what Judah said of Joseph in Genesis 37:26-27?
2. Joseph and his brothers eat together at the end of Genesis 43. What are your thoughts on the inclusion and significance of this meal in the narrative?
3. Why does Joseph place his silver cup in Benjamin's sack? What is the meaning of his actions?
4. Judah's speech in Genesis 44:18-34 is one of the most powerful in all the Bible. What is the essence of his speech to Joseph? What does this plea before Joseph say about Judah's heart?

Bringing It Home
1. What is the biblical idea of substitution? Look to Genesis 44:33, 1 Peter 2:24-25 and 2 Corinthians 5:21 for greater understanding of substitution. Why is this a powerful doctrine?
2. 1 Peter 2:25 says that Christ's bearing our sins on the cross was for the purpose of our transformation--to move us from sin to righteousness. How does the cross empower and sustain our transformation?
3. The story of Judah and his brothers shows us the transformation that happens through repentance and other-oriented love. What type of model is their transformation for the church in our time? What values should the church be known for?
4. Jesus says in John 15:13 that "greater love has no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." How can this type of love for others take hold in your life?

Digging Deeper: Read Isaiah 53 and talk about what type of Messiah this text speaks of. What is He like? What does He achieve for His people? How does His sacrifice change our hearts and actions?