



## WEEK 8

### HIS RESTORATION IS PERFECT

Joseph cannot contain his emotions any longer. After Judah's confession and willingness to stand in Benjamin's place (chapter 44), Joseph reveals himself to his brothers in dramatic fashion. Tears flood his eyes as he expresses his forgiveness to them. Even more astonishing, he reveals his belief that this entire trial has been for the Lord to place Joseph in Egypt and so rescue his family from this very famine. As this plan begins to be seen more clearly by them all, the perfect restoration of the Lord begins to shine in brilliance!

### THE SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 45:1-28

<sup>1</sup> Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup> You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup> And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

<sup>16</sup> When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. <sup>17</sup> And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, <sup>18</sup> and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.' <sup>19</sup> And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. <sup>20</sup> Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'" <sup>21</sup> The sons of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey. <sup>22</sup> To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five changes of clothes. <sup>23</sup> To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey. <sup>24</sup> Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, "Do not quarrel on the way." <sup>25</sup> So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. <sup>26</sup> And they told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them. <sup>27</sup> But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. <sup>28</sup> And Israel said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

## LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 8

Your summary of this week's passage in one memorable sentence:

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### OPENING QUESTIONS

1. If people in your past have hurt you deeply, should you forgive them even before they ask? Explain your thoughts.
2. Is there someone in your who has forgiven you greatly? What effects did that have upon you and your relationship?

### DIVING DEEPER

3. Where in the chapter do the brothers apologize?
4. Verses 4 and 5 highlight Joseph's understanding of both his brothers' actions and God's providential role. What are your thoughts on God's ability to work through the evil deeds of humanity? Refer to Acts 4:9-12 for another example of this concept. Can you think of any other examples of this in Scripture?
5. Reflecting on the entire Joseph narrative, how would you answer someone who insisted that when bad things happen to good people, it's because their suffering is out of God's control?

6. What does Joseph see as the purposes of his being sold into slavery, his imprisonment and even his separation from his family?  
Remembering that nearly 20 years has passed, when do you think Joseph began to understand this, now, or earlier?
7. Why does it take us so long to see the purposes of God in our pains? Is there something you're wrestling with right now that is confusing you like this?
8. Read Matthew 18:21-35. What key truth about forgiveness is at the center of every follower of Christ? What then, does it mean when we refuse to forgive others, or harbor bitterness towards them?
9. Now read Ephesians 4:31-32. It's been said that the Christian's willingness to forgive others is directly connected to their understanding of Christ's willingness to forgive them. Do you agree or disagree with this and why?
10. Is there someone in your life you still need to forgive? What steps do you sense the Holy Spirit is leading you to take to forgive that person?
11. Describe in your own words the scene in verse 26. What would this be like for the brothers to communicate this to Jacob? Do you think they confessed their earlier lies about Joseph? Why or why not?