



## WEEK 9

### HIS REDEMPTION IS PERFECT

Time has moved on, and the Israelites are now settled in Egypt, in the land of Goshen. Jacob, under Pharaoh's protection, witnesses his family's security and Joseph's rise to power. But when Jacob finally dies, his sons fear that Joseph's vengeance will finally fall upon them. In a picture of grace, Joseph reminds them that it is the Lord who has orchestrated all their journeys to Egypt, ultimately to redeem His people from starvation.

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

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup> So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." ' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father."<sup>11</sup> Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup> His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup> So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. <sup>22</sup> So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years. <sup>23</sup> And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own. <sup>24</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." <sup>25</sup> Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." <sup>26</sup> So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

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<sup>11</sup> Human deception plays a prominent role throughout the Joseph narrative. Here again in verses 15-16 we encounter the brothers lying once again, claiming to deliver a dying wish of their father.

## LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 9

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

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### OPENING QUESTIONS

1. What's an unexpected turn your life has taken that you're ultimately grateful for?
2. Have you ever held onto an unreasonable fear for far too long?

### DIVING DEEPER

3. What's going on in verse 15? Why after all these years do the brothers still believe this is a possibility? Why do the brothers send a message, and choose to not speak to Joseph face to face?
4. What is the strategy behind the brothers concocting the 'dying wish' of Jacob in verses 16-17? According to the message, Jacob asks Joseph to forgive the brothers, but what is so ironic about this?
5. How do verse 16-18 demonstrate that Joseph's brothers have not comprehended the forgiveness given to them? Keenly aware of their past sin they are struggling to find forgiveness. Do you have a past sin that continues to haunt you?

6. Do you find yourself tempted to deceive others when you are afraid?
7. What might have caused Joseph's tears in verse 17? How might God experience similar grief when we act in a comparable way?
8. Put verse 19 into your own words.
9. How do verses 19–20 encapsulate the entire story of Joseph? How does the reality of God's bringing about Joseph's advance into Egypt to preserve Israel directly affect us as Christians?
10. Examining verses 24–25, why does Joseph feel so strongly about his request?
11. With the Joseph narrative concluded, what has his story taught you about the trials you are presently facing?
12. As this series wraps up, take some time to jot down the biggest truths that God has shown you.