

INFO Everyone Needs . . .

Holy Uprising – One Week left! Don't miss the Good Friday service @ 7pm @ the Building!

Easter Festival April 3rd! Pray for your neighbors and coworkers! Who will you invite? Who will know Jesus next?

2 Celebration Times on Easter Sunday – 9am & 11am!

<p>Objective: That we would forgive – specifically and quickly – as we are forgiven.</p>

Icebreaker: What's the most powerful example of forgiveness that you know of?

Worship: Find a fresh way for your group to worship God together – if you've gotten in a rut, change it up, ask the Holy Spirit to give you a completely different way to worship

Read: Genesis 37 [Leaders, this is the story of Joseph. Joseph's father was Jacob, the son of Issac and twin brother of Esau. Jacob carried the lineage of the Israelite. In Genesis 32 Jacob wrestled with an angel and afterwards was blessed and given the new name 'Israel.' Jacob's sons – of which Joseph was the favorite – would become the tribes of Israel.

Question: Why were Joseph's brothers jealous?

Question: Was Joseph completely wise/mature in the way he expressed his dreams to his family?

Question: What do you think that this did to Joseph emotionally? Spiritually?

Question: How bitter do you think you would be if this happened to you? How would you express your bitterness?

[Leaders . . . Explain to group . . . After being taken to Egypt Joseph became a favored servant in the house of an officer, Potiphar. But then he was falsely accused of raping Potiphar's wife and sent to prison. . .]

Read: Genesis 39:19-23

Question: Again, Joseph is unjustly punished. How do you think you would respond as a second time you went through a major injustice like this?

[Leaders . . . Explain to group . . . While in prison Joseph interprets a dream of a prisoner and through a long series of events is asked to come and interpret a dream of the Pharaoh. Because of the wisdom that God gave Joseph that the Pharaoh saw, he made Joseph Prime Minister (2nd in command) of Egypt on the spot!! Several years later – while Joseph was Prime Minister – there was a famine in all the land. Joseph's brothers were sent to Egypt by their father to buy food. This was 22 years after they had sold off Joseph and they were totally clueless of Joseph's position, they thought that he was probably dead. When they came Joseph recognized his brothers but they did not recognize him. He provided for them and then finally revealed his identity in Genesis 45.]

Read: Genesis 45:1-7

Question: Had Joseph forgiven his brothers? How do you know?

Question: What are some lessons here about how we act if we have truly forgiven someone?

[1) You don't let anyone else know what someone has said about you. (He had everyone leave the room, did not want to embarrass or condemn them in front of the Egyptians.)

2) You want them to forgive themselves and not feel guilty.

3) You let them save face (v.7-8) . . . God let's us save face by allowing all things in our past to 'work together for good.' We seek to do the same for those we have truly forgiven.

4) You protect them from their greatest fear. The brother's greatest fear was that their dad would find out what they had done. Joseph moved his family to Egypt to care for them, but NEVER told his father what had happened! This is a Life-Long commitment. Even after his father died and his brothers again became scared that he might harm them, he proved that his commitment was life-long. (See Genesis 50:15-23).

5) You can bless them and not curse them. This is tough, but if we truly have forgiven, we bless. Joseph took care of his family that had hurt him the rest of his life.

Question: Where do you struggle the most with forgiveness?

Question: Where do you need to begin with forgiveness?

Pray: Pray that we will forgive as we are forgiven.