

Genesis 45:1–15; 50:15–21



FROM THE START

A GENESIS SERIES

Big Idea:

Even though others seek to bring evil upon us, God will always use it for our good. Forgiving others is always possible because God has forgiven us.

Thought Exercise:

- What is so hard about forgiveness?
- What are some things we consider (right or wrong) before offering forgiveness?

Items for discussion:

Joseph's rise

- He interprets Pharaoh's dreams
- 2nd in command over all of Egypt

Feared revenge

- Joseph's identity is revealed. How would you feel if you were Joseph's family? If you were Joseph?
- Joseph has matured and sees the big picture (God's picture).
- How long does guilt stay with us when we have done something we know is wrong? Even after we have been forgiven?

Hurt people hurt people

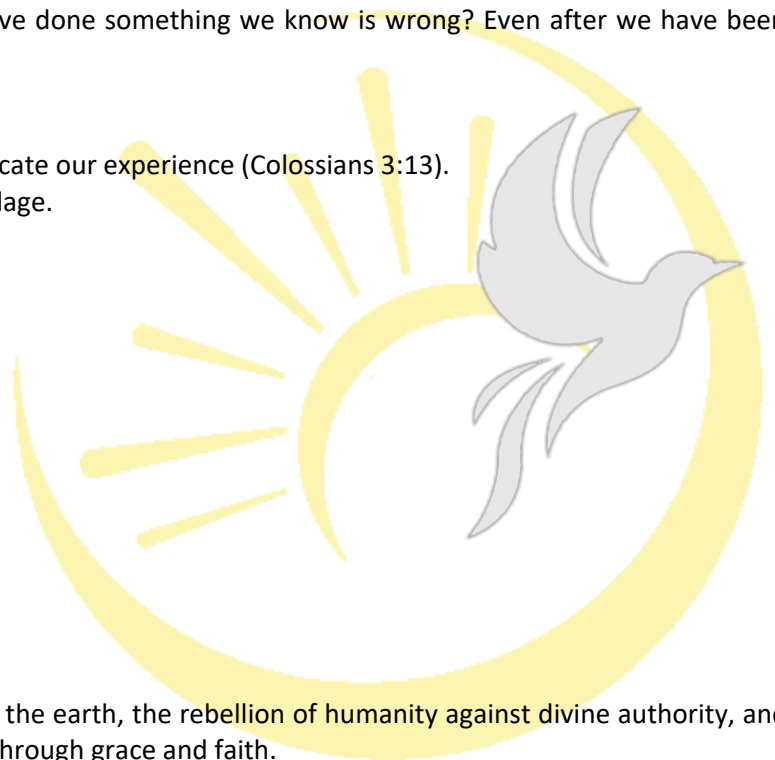
- We must combat our natural tendency to replicate our experience (Colossians 3:13).
- Refusing forgiveness is choosing to live in bondage.

What forgiveness is not...

- A feeling
- Approval
- Reconciliation

What forgiveness is...

- Decision
- Ongoing process
- Keeping no record (1 Corinthians 13:5)
- Refusing vengeance (Romans 12:17-21)



God has created and brought to order and function to the earth, the rebellion of humanity against divine authority, and God's plan to restore mankind to his original purpose through grace and faith.