



## Harvester Groups

### **JOSEPH: *Staying Faithful in the Unexpected* | Group Questions for Genesis 42,43**

**Prepare:** Read Genesis 42-43 several times before your group meeting. Write down any questions or observations you want to discuss.

#### **Discuss\***

- As you listened to the sermon, read the chapters, or heard the lesson, what verses or thought stuck out for you?
- Define "repentance." Should true repentance be judged on its intention, its emotion or on its result? Another way of asking this is, "can repentance without any feeling of remorse be genuine?"
- When someone has deeply wronged you, are you most likely to seek revenge, reconciliation, or avoid it?
- How does chapter 43 continue the action in chapter 42? What plot twist is added?
- Compare Judah's words in 43:8-9 with 37:26-27. How do you think he has changed?
- Why do you think Joseph takes his brothers to his own house and has a meal with them (43:16)?
- How will the fear engendered in the brothers help Joseph complete his plan?
- As you read this story in chapters 42 and 43, what character do you most identify at this time in your life? Why?
- Many Bible scholars see Joseph as a type of Jesus. What characteristics of Jesus do you see displayed by Joseph in chapters 42 and 43?

#### **Apply**

- What advice would you give a Christian friend who asks you how to reconcile with an estranged family member or friend? Would your advice be different if the friend were non-Christian?
- Although Joseph could have exercised power over his brothers in the form of retribution, he chose the power of grace and forgiveness. Which is harder for you, to extend grace, or accept it?
- As you face the challenge of forgiving and releasing others, what do you find most challenging about the example of Joseph?

*When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace.*

*--Jimi Hendrix*

*\*Use these questions to guide your discussion. Don't feel like you have to go through all of them and make sure you take time to talk through any questions and observations from the group.*