

ILLUMINATED by Holy Spirit  
SATURATED by God's Word  
COMMUNICATED by God's Teacher

# GENESIS

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

### THE BIG IDEA

**Showing Mercy,  
Not Vengeance**

Sunday, February 12, 2023

**THE BIBLE - Genesis 42**

### QUESTIONS

- Vs. 3-5 - Jacob was fearful that harm could come to Benjamin like he thought it did to Joseph. Living in fear can be paralyzing and keep us from living the life God has for us. What effect does fear have on us? How do we overcome fear? See 2 Timothy 1:7; 1 John 4:18; Joshua 1:9; Philippians 4:6-7
- Vs. 6-7 Joseph's earlier dreams are fulfilled when his brothers bow down to him. God's providence and guidance in our lives sometimes is a process that can take years. He is shaping us during this process. How has God given you a detour in life to prepare you for His calling? See Psalm 27:14; Proverbs 16:9; Psalm 32:8; Psalm 37:23-24
- Vs. 8-20 - Joseph was surprised when he saw his brothers, but did not act rashly nor take vengeance on them. He had the power to retaliate, but showed mercy. What keeps us from forgiving others and showing mercy? Why is mercy more powerful than vengeance? See Romans 12:17-21; Proverbs 20:22; 1 Peter 3:8-9
- Vs. 21-24 - The brothers felt guilty over their sin once they saw the possible consequences. Sin always comes with a price tag. How does Satan entice us to sin without seeing the possible consequences? What biblical examples show us the consequences of sin? See Numbers 32:23; Galatians 6:7-8; 1 Peter 5:8
- Vs. 25-38 - Although the brothers couldn't see it at the time, they were experiencing mercy from God and from their brother, Joseph. How does God's mercy in our lives enable us to show mercy to others? How have you been shown mercy by others? See Matthew 5:7; James 2:13; Luke 6:36; Psalm 145:8

### FURTHER STUDY NUGGETS

- A major problem can often turn into a blessing. Examine other biblical characters to see how God shaped them through pain: Moses, David, Job, Daniel
- Study Isaiah 40:31 and Proverbs 3:5-6 regarding God's timing in our lives
- Joseph could have easily justified his bitterness, yet he offers mercy instead of retaliation. Showing mercy can remove the bitterness that we store up. Study Hebrews 12:15 concerning the dangers of the root of bitterness.

**THE FIVE** 5 Verses For Discussion During Week  
(Discipleship partner, around dinner table, on way to school in car, etc)



Monday  
11 Timothy 1:7

Tuesday  
1 John 4:18

Wednesday  
1 Peter 3:9

Thursday  
Numbers 32:23

Friday  
Matthew 5:7

**MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH: Psalm 145:8 - The Lord  
is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy.**