



INTENDED FOR GOOD

When the Tables Turn

Dr. Jeff Bucknam | Genesis 42:1–43:34

Ice Breaker

(Asking the group) What is your favorite memory from a family gathering or family holiday?

Understand their story

In Joseph's situation, he has every reason to expose the truth about his brothers and their betrayal. How does Joseph's choice to wait and test them show the difficult balance between justice, mercy, and discerning the truth?

Read Exodus 34:6-7 and Romans 8:28. How does God's justice, mercy, and providence work together, and how does this help us when people or circumstances harm us?

Connect to His story

Read 1 Peter 2:20-24. What does this passage reveal about Jesus' response to suffering and injustice, and what does it teach us about being a follower of Jesus?

How do the themes of guilt, repentance, and undeserved grace in Genesis 42-43 reflect the Gospel's message of our need for reconciliation with God through Christ?

Apply to our story

When facing broken relationships or situations of past hurt, what does it look like to honestly address the pain? Like Joseph, how can we make space for God's justice and mercy?

How can you choose grace over retaliation in situations you face this week?

Accountability

In what specific relationships or situations do we feel called to pursue forgiveness? Who can you trust to hold you accountable in this journey?

Parenting Moment

Retell some of the ups and downs of your life for your kids in an age-appropriate way that incorporates some themes from Joseph's story and passes on some family history. Encourage them to trust God, who is good (Psalm 119:68), and walk them through forgiving someone in their life.