

The Essentials: The Book of Genesis

Session 9: Genesis 41-45

Opening Collect

Together: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Watch Video

Read: Genesis 45:1-9 (out loud)

Discussion:

1. When Joseph sees his brothers at the very beginning of our reading the text says he couldn't control himself and wept loudly. Why do you think he wept so dramatically?
2. Think back on all Joseph has endured—the violence of his brothers, slavery, and prison. Now he is a man of immense power. How might you expect him to act toward his brothers?
3. In v. 5 Joseph realizes the purpose of his life. Have you ever had a moment that you realized God's purpose in your own life?
4. Jacob forgives his brothers in v. 5. How do you think he is able to do that after what they have done to him?
5. In the video, Colin says that God's purposes are hidden. Where do you think God might be working out his purposes in your own life?
6. The sons of Jacob eventually become the 12 tribes of Israel. From what you've learned about Genesis, how do you think this story fits into the broader movement of Genesis?

Check in and closing prayers

Genesis 45:1-9

[1] Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. [2] And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. [3] And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

[4] So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. [5] And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. [6] For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. [7] And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. [8] So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. [9] Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. (ESV)