

*******IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT*******

Because of the constraint of online teaching, we have determined that an hour is way too much time for any one session where the normal give and take of class discussion is missing.

So, beginning this week, our class will be 45 minutes, followed by our Zoom discussion group from 5:15 to 5:45 pm.

We think this will actually give you a better class experience.

Week 3: Joseph

Scripture Readings: Genesis 50; Matthew 18:21-35

The matter of forgiveness is very misunderstood, both in the church and in the wider culture. During this session we will look at the life of Joseph and what he learned about giving forgiveness. We will also reflect on what Jesus taught his disciples about both giving and receiving forgiveness.

Here are some questions to reflect on:

1. What do you think about the saying, “Forgive and forget?”
2. What do you think Jesus meant when he taught us to pray, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors?”
3. Describe a time when you experienced forgiveness. What did that mean to you and how did it affect your relationships with others?
4. Why do you think we sometimes prefer to hold a grudge rather than forgive?

During our lesson, we will review briefly the life of Joseph, from the time he started annoying his brothers until the time he forgave them. That story can be found in Genesis 37-50.

For Further Reading: If you are interested in reading more about the subject of forgiveness, here are three very good books.

The Art of Forgiveness, Lewis Smedes

Forgive and Forget: Healing the Hurts We Don't Deserve

Exclusion and Embrace, Miroslav Volf