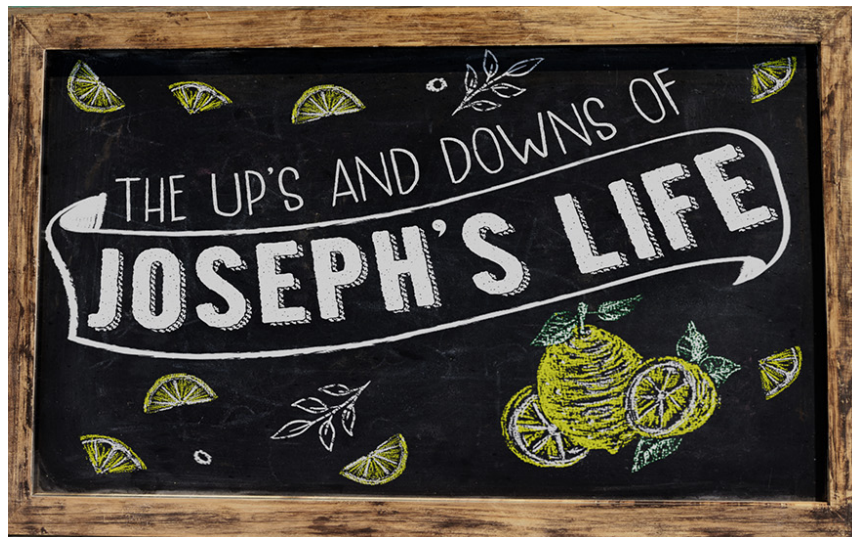


## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

MARCH 19, 2023



### LEADER

We are back in the story of Joseph. God tells Jacob to go to Egypt and promises to make him a great nation there. Joseph is reunited with his father Jacob for the first time. Joseph makes provisions for his family and saves the whole region because the famine was so severe. 17 years have passed by and Jacob is about to die. Jacob blesses the sons of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh) and Joseph is 56 years old when his father dies.

### READ

Genesis 50:15-18

### QUESTIONS

- Describe your relationship with your siblings. How do you relate to some of the feelings in Joseph's story?
- What stands out to you about the reaction of Joseph's brothers after their father's burial?

- What role did guilt and unforgiveness of themselves play in Joseph's brothers' actions? (Their guilt sparked fear and insecurity in how Joseph would treat them, they began to manipulate the situation for their benefit using the word “YOUR” father instead of our father, they responded out of fear)
- Joseph’s brothers had a tough time forgiving themselves for what they did to Joseph. Why do we struggle to forgive ourselves for past sins?

## READ

Genesis 50:19-21

- How did Joseph’s faith in God shape his attitude toward his brothers? (He wept, even with all the authority and power he had he knew God was in full control, seeing his dream played out in color he could have stepped into anger or revenge but he offered compassion and expressed empathy)
- Describe a time when you had to overcome a big obstacle in your life. What comes to mind when you apply verses 19-20 to your life?
- April Farmer asked, “What if God wants to use you to bless those who’ve harmed you?”
  - How does this question make you feel?
  - What do you find challenging about this question?

## READ

“God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust his heart.” – Charles Spurgeon

John 16:33

## QUESTION

- Joseph’s life teaches us that when life doesn’t go your way, God is still at work. When life gives you lemons, entrust them to God. He makes the best lemonade ever. How have you seen this truth in your life?

**LEADERS:** Challenge your group to serve together this semester. There are several opportunities to serve locally or internationally:

- **Let’s Get Fit 5K & Kids 5K** is Saturday, April 1. Participate in the event together by registering at [rpc.me/5K](http://rpc.me/5K) or sign up to serve together [HERE](#).

- Mission Trip to the **Dominican Republic** is June 17-24 to serve with students and families at the Makarios School. Learn more [HERE](#).
- Mission Trip to **Jamaica** is July 16-22 to serve the Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf. Learn more [HERE](#).

For packet information on the mission trips or ways to fundraise, email [melissa@rpc.me](mailto:melissa@rpc.me).

**CLOSE IN PRAYER:** How can the group pray for now and in the days ahead?