



Our Talk It Over is prepared each week by the teaching pastor and is designed to prompt insights, questions and dialogue based on the life experience of each listener. Using these in a group setting after hearing the message is similar to the practices of the early church in Israel.

Warm Up

Think of a time you reconnected with someone you hadn't seen or talked to in a long time. What was that reunion like?

Discuss

1. Joseph had every reason to get even with his brothers, but he chose a different path. Why do you think revenge is so appealing, even when we know it rarely makes things better?
2. Forgiveness doesn't erase the past, but it can change the future. Have you ever seen a relationship begin to heal because someone chose forgiveness instead of retaliation? What made the difference?
3. Joseph eventually looked at his story and saw that God had been working even through painful circumstances. Looking back on your own life, is there a difficult season that makes more sense now than it did at the time?
4. Joseph's focus shifted from "Look what happened to me" to "Look what God has done." What helps us move from being consumed by our circumstances to noticing God's work in our lives?
5. The message challenged us to extend the same grace we've received to others. Why is it often easier to accept grace for ourselves than to offer it to someone who has hurt us?
6. Joseph's brothers were afraid to approach him because they expected punishment. Why do guilt and shame make it difficult to reconnect with people we've hurt—or who have hurt us?
7. Is there a relationship in your life that could take one small step toward healing? What might that step look like this week, even if full reconciliation isn't possible right now?
8. Joseph was able to say, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." How can we acknowledge real hurt without allowing it to define our identity or determine our future? Where is the line between forgiveness and pretending something didn't happen?



Apply

This week, spend 10–15 minutes reflecting on your own story. Write down one difficult experience that God has used to shape you. End your journal entry with the phrase: **"God was really good because..."** Then consider whether there's one person you can encourage, forgive, or reconnect with this week.

Pray

God, thank you for never giving up on us. Thank you for meeting us in the hard seasons and faithfully leading us forward. Help us let go of bitterness, receive your grace, and extend that same grace to others. Give us courage to take a step toward healing where it's needed, and help our stories point to your faithfulness. Amen.



FAMILY TALK IT OVER

Talk about these questions with your kids during meal time or before bed. If you would like to rewatch the video about Joseph with them, use your phone to scan the QR code or use this YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/XSd5qljAq6E>



1. **Joseph chose to forgive his brothers instead of getting even.**

What does it mean to forgive someone? Is forgiving always easy?

2. **Joseph believed God was helping him, even after many hard years.**

Can you think of a time when something hard turned into something good?

3. **Joseph showed kindness to the people who had hurt him.**

What is one kind thing you can do for someone this week—even if they're difficult to get along with?