



GOD INTENDED IT FOR GOOD.

A summer series through
the life of Joseph

Week #6: Free From What They Did

Bottom line: _____ changes who holds the _____.

Joseph couldn't hold himself in any longer, keeping up a front before all his attendants. He cried out, "Leave! Clear out—everyone leave!" So there was no one with Joseph when he identified himself to his brothers. But his sobbing was so violent that the Egyptians couldn't help but hear him. The news was soon reported to Pharaoh's palace.

Joseph spoke to his brothers: "I am Joseph. Is my father really still alive?" But his brothers couldn't say a word. They were speechless—they couldn't believe what they were hearing and seeing.

"Come closer to me," Joseph said to his brothers. They came closer. "I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into Egypt. But don't feel badly, don't blame yourselves for selling me."

Genesis 45:1–5 (MSG)

Three beliefs to free you from what they did:

- My _____ does not have the power to _____ me.

"God was behind it. God sent me here ahead of you to save lives. There has been a famine in the land now for two years; the famine will continue for five more years—neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me on ahead to pave the way and make sure there was a remnant in the land, to save your lives in an amazing act of deliverance. So you see, it wasn't you who sent me here but God. He set me in place as a father to Pharaoh, put me in charge of his personal affairs, and made me ruler of all Egypt."

Genesis 45:5–8 (MSG)

- My _____ does not have the power to _____ my _____.

Then Joseph threw himself on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. He then kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Only then were his brothers able to talk with him.

Genesis 45:14–15 (MSG)

- _____ does not have the power to _____ my _____.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Luke 23:34 (NIV)

Discussion questions:

1. Where has a wound had the power to define how you see yourself or relate to others?
2. How does believing that God—not your offender—writes your ending change the way you view your story?
3. Where might revenge still be directing your response, even in a subtle way?
4. What is one next step Jesus may be inviting you to take toward forgiveness—naming the wound, releasing revenge, establishing a healthy boundary, apologizing, or receiving forgiveness yourself?

Recommended resources:

[*Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?*](#), by Timothy Keller

[*Forgiving What You Can't Forget: Discover How to Move On, Make Peace with Painful Memories, and Create a Life That's Beautiful Again*](#), by Lysa TerKeurst

[*Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No to Take Control of Your Life*](#), by Henry Cloud and John Townsend

(MSG) The Message | (NIV) New International Version

[FILL COPY]

Week #6: Free From What They Did

Bottom line: Forgiveness changes who holds the power.

Joseph couldn't hold himself in any longer, keeping up a front before all his attendants. He cried out, "Leave! Clear out—everyone leave!" So there was no one with Joseph when he identified himself to his brothers. But his sobbing was so violent that the Egyptians couldn't help but hear him. The news was soon reported to Pharaoh's palace.

Joseph spoke to his brothers: "I am Joseph. Is my father really still alive?" But his brothers couldn't say a word. They were speechless—they couldn't believe what they were hearing and seeing.

"Come closer to me," Joseph said to his brothers. They came closer. "I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into Egypt. But don't feel badly, don't blame yourselves for selling me."

Genesis 45:1–5 (MSG)

Three beliefs to free you from what they did:

- **My wound does not have the power to define me.**

"God was behind it. God sent me here ahead of you to save lives. There has been a famine in the land now for two years; the famine will continue for five more years—neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me on ahead to pave the way and make sure there was a remnant in the land, to save your lives in an amazing act of deliverance. So you see, it wasn't you who sent me here but God. He set me in place as a father to Pharaoh, put me in charge of his personal affairs, and made me ruler of all Egypt."

Genesis 45:5–8 (MSG)

- **My offender does not have the power to write my ending.**

Then Joseph threw himself on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. He then kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Only then were his brothers able to talk with him.

Genesis 45:14–15 (MSG)

- **Revenge does not have the power to direct my response.**

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Luke 23:34 (NIV)

Discussion questions:

1. Where has a wound had the power to define how you see yourself or relate to others?
2. How does believing that God—not your offender—writes your ending change the way you view your story?
3. Where might revenge still be directing your response, even in a subtle way?
4. What is one next step Jesus may be inviting you to take toward forgiveness—naming the wound, releasing revenge, establishing a healthy boundary, apologizing, or receiving forgiveness yourself?

Recommended resources:

[*Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?*](#), by Timothy Keller

[*Forgiving What You Can't Forget: Discover How to Move On, Make Peace with Painful Memories, and Create a Life That's Beautiful Again*](#), by Lysa TerKeurst

[*Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No to Take Control of Your Life*](#), by Henry Cloud and John Townsend

(MSG) The Message | (NIV) New International Version