

### **Questions to Think About and Discuss:**

1. Have you ever had a splinter (or something small) that caused way more trouble than you expected? What happened? Take a moment and think if there is a 'splinter' of unforgiveness in your life that you've been avoiding, something small or deep that's been quietly affecting your peace, your joy, or your relationships? Discuss in your life group or with a friend if appropriate.

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2. What keeps you from facing certain hurts or wounds honestly before God and others? How do you think your view of God, or of others, affects your willingness to be honest about your pain?

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3. What helps you begin to see God's hand at work in painful or confusing parts of your story? Is there a situation in your life right now where you're struggling to see God's purpose? How might Joseph's story give you perspective or encouragement in that?

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4. How do you balance acknowledging someone's wrong against you without getting stuck in bitterness? What's the difference between excusing (ignoring) sin and releasing (forgiving) someone from your bitterness or resentment? How can God's sovereignty help you make that distinction?

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5. Why do you think forgiveness has the power to restore broken relationships, and what makes that so difficult? Can you think of a time when someone forgave you—or you forgave someone—and it began to heal the relationship? What changed afterward?

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6. Joseph's actions show that forgiveness doesn't erase the past, but opens the door for healing. What might that look like in your own relationships? What would it take for you to take the first step toward reconciliation with someone, even if full restoration isn't guaranteed?

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7. When has it been hardest for you to trust that God was still working in the middle of pain or confusion? Looking back, can you now see ways that God was at work even when you didn't realize it at the time?

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8. What helps you keep going when you're in a part of your story that doesn't make sense yet? Are there specific promises from God's Word or reminders from Joseph's story that encourage you to keep trusting?

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