



### **Week 3 - 'God is Greater than our Disagreements.'**

1. Has anyone ever come to you and asked for your forgiveness? Share that event/circumstance and what it did for you and your relationship with that person.
2. Read Genesis 45:1-11 For nearly 22 years, Joseph had been carrying the emotional and practical weight of his brothers' choice to sell him into slavery when he was 17 years old. Although the circumstances of his life improved, Genesis 45 gives us a window into Joseph's heart of forgiveness toward his brothers. After 2 years of famine, Joseph's brothers travel back to Egypt to ask for food for their family, not knowing that they will be standing face to face with their brother who now has the means to enact revenge and the justification to remain bitter. What we see, instead, is forgiveness at its finest. Instead of choosing the easy path of bitterness, revenge, and anger, he chose the hard, God-honouring path of forgiveness. Why do you think forgiving someone is so difficult to do? Would you say forgiveness is easy or hard for you, personally?
3. What do you think is going through Joseph's mind when he and his brothers are alone. What do you think was going through the brothers' minds when Joseph revealed himself to them?
4. What evidence in this passage points to the fact that Joseph fully forgave his brothers?
5. Read Ephesians 4:31-32. It's been said that the Christian's willingness to forgive others is directly connected to their understanding of Christ's willingness to forgive them. Do you agree or disagree with this and why?
6. Read Romans 12:17-19. What do you think it means to live at peace with everyone? In allowing God to avenge, what part might our judicial systems play?
7. In the sermon on Sunday, Pastor Ken, made a distinction between forgiveness and fellowship or reconciliation. What do you understand to be the difference?
8. What freedom have you experienced as a result of forgiving someone in your life? Share about that experience if you are willing.
9. Is there someone in your life you still need to forgive? What steps do you sense the Holy Spirit is leading you to take to forgive that person?
10. Are there circumstances when it may not be appropriate to let a person back in your life? See 2 Timothy 2:23-25 and Titus 3:9-11.