



Joseph

Learning To Overcome

The Evil Aimed at You

Genesis 37-50

- *What he knew=Nothing comes into our lives by accident. It is either decreed or allowed by an all-wise, sovereign God for our good (Gen 45:5-8).*
- **Application = I am never a VICTIM.** (Romans 8:28-29)
- *What he did=He blessed those who cursed him (Gen 45:9-13)*
- **Application = I will do GOOD to those who hurt me** (Romans 12:14, 21; cf. Matt 5:43-48)
- *What he refused to do = take revenge (Gen 50:15-21)*
- **Application = I will choose to FORGIVE (release) those who hurt me from the retribution they deserve because Christ has done that for me** (Romans 12:17-21; cf. Matt 6:14-15)

POINT OF APPLICATION

- ◆ Choose to FORGIVE the person(s) who has hurt you.
- ◆ Begin to PRAY daily for God to bless the person(s) who hurt you (30 days)
- ◆ Do one act of KINDNESS this week for the person(s) who hurt you (if possible and if appropriate).

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

1. Share the story of a time when you were treated with evil or injustice.
2. Forgiveness is a choice. Is there someone you have difficulty showing forgiveness. What keeps you from making that choice?
3. What do you think Jesus was saying when he talked about the reciprocal nature of forgiveness ... as you have been forgiven, forgive? What does it suggest forgiving others proves?

Have something to share about what God is doing in your life through the **r12** campaign? You can share your story by completing the "My Story" card included in this week's bulletin, or by sharing your story on the FCC Facebook **r12** discussion board.

1. Joseph's journey REVEALS how to overcome evil aimed at you.

- **God sovereignty allowed Joseph to be ...**
 - ⇒ Born in a DYSFUNCTIONAL family (Gen 37)
 - ⇒ REJECTED by his siblings (Gen 37)
 - ⇒ ABANDONED to a foreign land (Gen 37)
 - ⇒ Sold into SLAVERY (Gen 39)
 - ⇒ Falsely ACCUSED of rape (Gen 39)
 - ⇒ Sent to PRISON unjustly (Gen 39)
 - ⇒ FORGOTTEN by a "friend" (Gen 40)
- **Joseph's response to evil circumstances ...**
 - ⇒ He SURVIVED - he learned and adapted.
 - ⇒ He THRIVED- he used his gifts where he was.
 - ⇒ He RESISTED - he refused to 'bail out' on God's agenda for his life.
 - ⇒ He WAITED - on God's time and place.
 - ⇒ He GREW - he faced his issues and forgave others for theirs.

2. Joseph's secret to overcoming evil involved something he KNEW, something he DID, and something he REFUSED to do. (Gen 42-50).