



Love God



Love One Another



Do Mission Together

Home Group study: week beginning 13th March 2022

THEME: THE BLESSINGS OF JESUS – BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED

PASSAGE: Genesis 42

LAUNCH

Can you think of a trivial example perhaps in your childhood when you felt wronged? What was the situation and how did you respond?

Discuss a drama, book or film that has revenge as a central theme. What are the key features of the story?

DISCOVERY & GENERAL

Joseph would have been entitled to be extremely bitter and angry towards his brothers but he isn't. Why do you think this is? How do we guard ourselves against being bitter and angry when we are wronged?

Joseph went through year after year of trial, setback, being overlooked and general misfortune. What might his attitude towards God have been as a result of these events? How do we keep ourselves from becoming bitter towards God when bad things happen?

What mistaken things can we think about God when we experience misfortune? How does the story of Joseph help us correct this line of thinking?

UNDERSTANDING

In the 1st few verses of ch42, Jacob decides he needs to send his sons to Egypt to buy food. Have you ever needed to turn to an unusual source to meet your need?

In verse 4 Jacob sends all his sons to Egypt but not Benjamin. What does this key fact tell us about Jacob?

Have any events from your past shaped your behaviour to make it more fearful? How might you need to resist this in God?

In verse 8 Joseph recognizes his brothers but they don't recognize him. Why do you think this is?

In verse 9 we see Joseph engaging in a series of deceptions in order to test his brothers beginning with knowingly falsely accusing them of being spies. Why does Joseph do this? What is he trying to achieve? Are his methods acceptable?

'We may need to forgive but we don't necessarily need to trust' Do you agree or disagree?

Is it reasonable to test others to see if they are loyal/of good character?

Verse 21 & 22 is a fascinating exchange between the brothers about their predicament. What link do they make? Is it a correct one? In what ways can sin link us to misfortune?

The chapter ends with the brothers back in Canaan and in a real fix. The fix has been totally engineered by Joseph. What is the nature of the fix and how does Reuben show signs of reformation?

Have you ever been in a fix that has somehow by God's grace reformed you?

APPLICATION

Pray for those experiencing suffering & persecution e.g. in Ukraine

Have a time of quiet, personal prayer so that you can forgive anyone who may have sinned against you

Pray that as we experience trials and setbacks our view of God won't be distorted

Remind ourselves that what man means for evil can by God's grace be turned to good

