



ENTER God's presence

Psalm 105

- ¹ Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
- ² Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.
- ⁸ He remembers his covenant forever,
the promise he made, for a thousand generations,
- ⁹ the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.
- ¹⁰ He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:
- ¹¹ "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as the portion you will inherit."
He called down famine on the land
and destroyed all their supplies of food;
- ¹⁷ and he sent a man before them—
Joseph, sold as a slave.
- ¹⁸ They bruised his feet with shackles,
his neck was put in irons,
- ¹⁹ till what he foretold came to pass,
till the word of the Lord proved him true.
- ²⁰ The king sent and released him,
the ruler of peoples set him free.
- ²¹ He made him master of his household,
ruler over all he possessed,
- ²² to instruct his princes as he pleased
and teach his elders wisdom.-

(Psalm 105, 1-2, 8-11, 16-22)

Gracious Father,
As we open Your Word today, we come with hearts that know both hurt and hope. We confess that our natural response to pain is often revenge, but You call us to be people of grace and reconciliation. Just as You worked through Joseph's story to bring healing where there was betrayal, work in our hearts today. Open our eyes to see how you can transform our deepest hurts into opportunities for your grace to shine.
We trust that you are always working, even in our pain, to bring about reconciliation and healing.
In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Week beginning:
Sunday 17th May 2020

Worship series:
Behind the Seen
#week 6 Revenge to Reconciliation



VERSE for the week

⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

Genesis 45:5



REMEMBER this week

“Like a defibrillator God's grace shocks us, not to hurt us but to restart our broken hearts.”



SHARE life together

1. **Where have you seen God's blessings this week?**
2. **Have you ever experienced unexpected kindness from someone. How did it impact you?**
3. **What would be natural human responses if someone who had deeply wronged you was suddenly at your mercy?**
4. **Who in your life is really good at making peace when there's conflict? What do they do that works?**

Revenge. We all know what it is like to be tempted to take revenge on those who have hurt us. In fact, we could say that in our culture and society seeking revenge is an expected reaction. Few people would question it. But as much as revenge may feel good and perhaps bring temporary relief, the scriptures, psychologists, and basic wisdom point to the fact revenge is destructive, as it tends to harm the one seeking it more than the one it targets. In this pivotal moment in the story of Joseph, Joseph—who had every human reason to take revenge against the brothers who sold him into slavery—instead of revenge chose forgiveness and restoration. In doing so he reveals how God works through even our most painful circumstances to accomplish his greater purposes, turning what others intend for evil not only into something good but also into an opportunity to see and experience God's transformative and amazing grace.



LISTEN attentively

Read Genesis 45:1-15 in your Bibles or find it [here](#)

5. **What verse/concept/teaching in this reading caught your attention and what was challenging/confronting/comforting about it for you?**
6. **What emotions do you hear in Joseph's voice as he reveals himself?**
7. **How do the brothers respond to Joseph's revelation, and what does this tell us about their expectations?**
8. **What reasons does Joseph give for not seeking revenge?**

Rather than revenge, which would have been the expected response, we see instead God's plan and transforming grace working through Joseph's response to his brothers. Joseph recognises God's hand, declaring three times that "God sent me" ahead of them to preserve life (verses 5, 7, 8). The grace that enables Joseph to choose reconciliation over revenge reveals God's transforming work in his heart, making him an instrument of salvation for his family and countless others. Through Joseph's forgiveness, God's plan to preserve his covenant people unfolds not through judgement, but through radical grace.



GROW deeper

9. **Joseph says "God sent me before you to preserve life" (v. 5). How does this perspective transform his view of his brothers' betrayal? How might it challenge us in our response to those who have hurt us?**
10. **How does Joseph's forgiveness reflect God's heart toward us, and how does this inspire our own practice of forgiveness and reconciliation with others?**



LIVE purposefully

God's grace transforms our deepest wounds into instruments of His purpose. Joseph's declaration that "God sent me before you to preserve life" shows us that even painful experiences can become the foundation for purposeful living when we allow God's grace to work through them. Rather than being defined by what was done to him, Joseph chose to be defined by what God was doing through him. This same grace invites us to see beyond our hurts to discover how God might use our stories for his greater purposes, becoming agents of his reconciliation in a world that desperately needs the healing power of forgiveness.

- 11. What role does recognizing God's plan play in our ability to forgive those who have wronged us?**
- 12. What would it look like to make God's grace—rather than your pain—the central story of your life?**
- 13. How can you actively pursue reconciliation rather than simply waiting for others to make the first move?**



PRAY intentionally

- Praise Jesus, who like Joseph, chose grace over revenge and made ultimate reconciliation possible
- Ask for grace to forgive those who have wronged us. Ask for the Holy Spirit to show us God's perspective on our painful circumstances, to see his purposes beyond our hurt
- For those we know who are experiencing health issues-physical or mental health; those grieving; those struggling with general life issues.
- Thank God for working all things together for good, even when we can't see his plan. Thank God for the grace he extends to us daily, enabling us to extend grace to others



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross in the air as you say...

[Name], May God transform your deepest wounds into instruments of his grace, and may you discover his grace working through every season of your life.