

Behind the Scenes

Week 5. The Terrifying Twist
Genesis 45:1-10

1. Joseph tests his brothers to see whether they have changed. How does God use pressure or crisis in your life to reveal what is truly in your heart?
2. The brothers bow before Joseph, fulfilling the dream they once tried to destroy. Where have you seen God fulfill His purposes in your life despite human opposition or failure?
3. Joseph weeps privately even while acting sternly in public. What does this tension teach you about the complexity of forgiveness and reconciliation?
4. Judah, once the instigator of Joseph's betrayal, now offers his life for Benjamin. What does genuine repentance look like, and how have you seen it transform a person or relationship?
5. Jacob cries, "Everything is against me!" When have you felt that way, and how did God later show you He was working behind the scenes?
6. Joseph says three times, "God sent me." How does recognizing God's hand in painful experiences reshape the way you interpret your past?
7. The brothers expect judgment, but Joseph responds with tears and embrace. Why is it sometimes hard to accept grace when we feel guilty or ashamed?
8. Joseph tells his brothers not to be distressed or angry with themselves. How do you balance acknowledging past sin with refusing to live in self-condemnation?
9. The sermon emphasizes that God works *through*, *with*, and sometimes *against* human actions. Where in your life do you see God accomplishing His will in ways you didn't expect—or didn't want at the time?
10. Martin Rinkart wrote a hymn of thanksgiving during the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. What helps you give thanks and trust God even when your circumstances feel dark or overwhelming?

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Simple Bible Discovery Questions

Check In with Each Other: Have each person share:

- Love God: Where did you see God working this week? What makes you grateful?
 - Joys, struggles, breakthroughs with God
- Grow in Grace: What challenges did you face this week? How did you respond?
 - Positive or negative; good, bad or indifferent
- Share with Others: How did you share Jesus' love and truth this week?
 - By your actions; By your words

Apply God's Word:

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What does this passage tell us about God, Jesus or His plan?
- What does this passage tell us about people?
- How can you specifically live out what you learned in this passage? Fill in this blank:
 - "I WILL _____"
- Who will you tell about what you discovered?