

God's surprising plan to bless the world

Genesis 42-45— God changes his people and reconciles them to each other.

God can change even the wickedest person by his Spirit to be one of his, saved by Jesus.

This is a huge passage to study in one go! We're going to pick up on two big themes: **change** and **reconciliation**.

Change **Read Genesis 44: 4-34** (A little look at Judah)

Benjamin is Jacob's new favourite. When all the brothers eat with Joseph (before they know who he is, Joseph treats Benjamin as the favourite too.

Benjamin is framed for stealing Joseph's silver cup – the punishment for which is slavery in Egypt.

1. What would you expect the brothers to do, remembering what they did to Joseph (the old favourite)? _____

2. What do they all do? (v13) _____

3. What astonishing thing does Judah do? _____

4. Who does that remind you of and why? _____

Reconciliation - **Read Genesis 45: 1-11** (A little look at Joseph)

5. How might you expect Joseph to treat his brothers when he finally reveals his identity?

6. What is his attitude about everything that's happened? (especially v5 and 8)

7. How does his forgiveness of his brothers remind you of Jesus?

The wonderful news of the gospel is that God does the impossible for us. The punishment we deserve is taken by Jesus on the cross (that Judah points us to, here) and by putting our trust in that we can be forgiven our sin (as we see demonstrated by Joseph).

God doesn't require us to be perfect to trust in Jesus death – we can't be! Instead, he takes sinful people like all of us and changes them slowly over their lives to become like Jesus. In heaven, we (finally!) won't sin anymore.

1. Do you want to be changed? (Remember this isn't about changing your personality, abilities, looks, etc...God has made each one of us wonderfully and uniquely! This is about change from being sinful.) How do you think God changes his people over their lives?

2. What's good about life now if we're reconciled to God? What's good about the future if we're reconciled to God?

Genesis 42-45

f y s a e g l y u r e n d a p
t i e e o n o p e e p v n i i
l j v d g u i v n u c a a f q
l g i e n y l m a x t a s l c
c d l g t i p e a q t u p q s
u h e g s i e t n f i c i z g
p s l t g v m g a o l d e s t
t s x r i b c e c s i b s p h
v y a l h z y i s y w e w e z
d i a v b r n u u w w n c c p
n g s b e h t v l l l j g o b
b l t n a n m e r s w a p g i
j e g v k s w p p f r m s b j
h a d u j o e p i f s i k u r
h i j y j k j k w n n n w c h

famine

Judah

remnant

Canaan

youngest

save

Egypt

oldest

lives

spies

five times

God

grain

cup

alive

silver

slave

Benjamin

swap