

Joseph: A Forgiving Savior

"After two whole years" (Gen 41:1) in prison because he was falsely accused, Joseph is called for by Pharaoh himself. Pharaoh has had two disturbing dreams that none could interpret (41:1-8):

- Why did seven ugly and thin _____ eat up seven attractive, plump cows?
- Why did seven thin and blighted ears of _____ swallow up seven plump and good ears of grain?

"The dreams of Pharaoh are one," Joseph tells the king. "God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do" (41:25)—"seven years of great plenty...but after them...seven years of _____" (41:29-30).

Who does Pharaoh select to manage the upcoming surplus and prepare Egypt for the devastating famine?

Joseph. Who gets sent multiple times by their father to Egypt when the famine becomes "severe over all the earth"? **Joseph's brothers** (Gen 42-44). Whose help do they need in order to survive? **Joseph's.** Who has the power to do with them whatever he wants in their most desperate moment of need? **Joseph.** When he reveals his true identity to them, "they were dismayed at his presence" (45:3). Notice his response:

"...do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God _____ me before you to preserve life... it was not you who sent me here, but _____." (45:5-8)

Years later, when Joseph's brothers are afraid that he will finally take vengeance on them after their father's death, Joseph clearly chooses forgiveness (50:15-21).

What does this have to do with our search for our King? From his own cross, the Savior of the world prayed, "Father, _____ them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Joseph saved his family from a famine; Jesus is willing and able to save anyone from sin, and it was all according to the amazing plan of God (Acts 3:12-15, 17-20).



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Notice that Jacob, Joseph's father, hears from God in Genesis 46:1-4. How does this relate to our study in recent months?
- According to Genesis 46:26-27, how many of this family line go to Egypt?
- Back in Genesis 15:12-14, God had made a promise to Abram. How long will his family line stay in Egypt after the days of Joseph?
- Let's focus in on Joseph's words to his brothers in Genesis 50:19-21. What does he believe and how does it help him choose forgiveness?
- Let's revisit Peter's message in Acts 3. How does it relate to what God was doing all along through Joseph's life?
- Look also at the way the disciples prayed in Acts 4:24-28. What did they believe about God's plans?
- Joseph delivered many from a coming famine. According to 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, what does Jesus deliver us from?