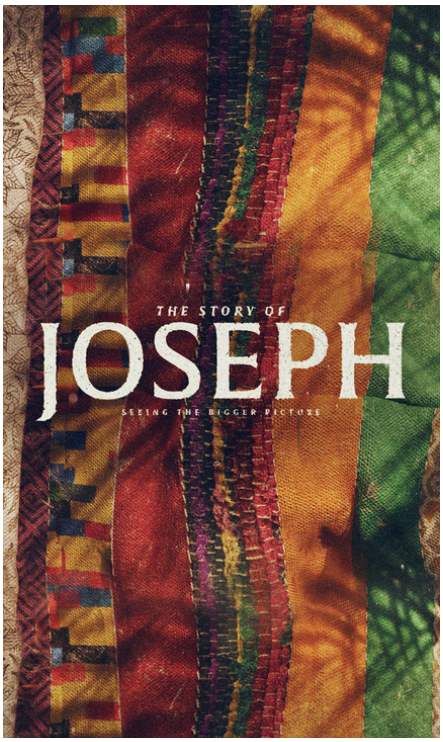
SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Part 9 // Good Father



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Sunday/Lunch: On Sunday, October 18, we're welcoming missionary, author, and speaker Bryan Webb, Area Director for Pacific Oceania, for a special Missions Sunday across all three Newbreak campuses. Whether you're a student dreaming about your future, in the middle of your career, stepping into retirement, or simply wondering how God might use you, your next chapter could be an opportunity to make an impact for His Kingdom.

Following services, we'll gather for a Missions Lunch hosted at the Tierrasanta Campus at 12:45pm. The lunch is open to anyone interested in learning more about missions and ways to serve. Childcare is available for kids through 5th grade.

Care Team Presents Building a Marriage That Lasts: Join us on Sunday, November 8th at 12:30pm as Mike and Theresa Quinn share practical tools, honest stories, and biblical encouragement for building a strong and lasting marriage. Together, we'll explore how to prioritize your marriage, stay connected in everyday moments, and protect your friendship when conflict arises.

ICE BREAKERS

- Pass a bag of M&Ms around and tell everyone to take a 2-3 but not to eat them. Have them share something about themselves that corresponds to the color of M&Ms. For example, for red M&Ms they'll share their favorite movie, for every yellow M&M they'll share their favorite book, for every green M&M they'll share their favorite song etc.
- Was there a time in your life when you sensed a change in your relationship with God? What was happening in your life during that season, and what do you think contributed to that change?

WARM UP:

READ IT:

Genesis 45:1-15 (NLT)

Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, “Out, all of you!” So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. 2 Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh’s palace.

3 “I am Joseph!” he said to his brothers. “Is my father still alive?” But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them. 4 “Please, come closer,” he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. 5 But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. 6 This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors.[a] 8 So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser[b] to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.

9 “Now hurry back to my father and tell him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. So come down to me immediately! 10 You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you own. 11 I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, and all your animals will starve.’“

12 Then Joseph added, “Look! You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that I really am Joseph! 13 Go tell my father of my honored position here in Egypt. Describe for him everything you have seen, and then bring my father here quickly.” 14 Weeping with joy, he embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin did the same. 15 Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and after that they began talking freely with him.

DISCUSS IT:

- In Genesis 45:1–4, Joseph finally reveals himself to the brothers who betrayed him, and he weeps so loudly that people outside the room hear him. Joseph does not pretend that what happened to him was insignificant. His tears acknowledge the real weight of betrayal, loss, and years of separation. Yet his suffering is not the whole story of who he is. Joseph refuses to let the pain others caused define his identity more than God's faithfulness and purpose do. In your experience, does healing usually come before forgiveness, after forgiveness, or alongside it? Why? What helps a person acknowledge real pain without allowing that pain to become their identity?
  - **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE**: Read **Luke 7:11-17 (NLT)**: Focus especially on vs. 13: "When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said."
  - **ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** This striking encounter between Jesus and the widow uses the Greek word splagchnizomai to describe His compassion (vs.13). The term comes from a word associated with a person's inward parts and was used in the ancient world to describe one's deepest feelings and emotions. It does not describe a passing feeling of sadness or distant concern; it shows that Jesus was deeply moved by this woman's grief. Her pain touched Him, leading Him to stop, care for her, and ultimately restore her son. Jesus does not stand at a distance from our sorrow—He sees it, is moved by it, and draws near with compassion.
  - **ADDITIONAL QUESTION*:*** In a world where tragedy is constantly available through our phones, televisions, and computers, how do we remain compassionate without becoming emotionally overwhelmed or numb (compassion fatigue)? What rhythms, boundaries, or practices help you carry others' burdens to Jesus rather than trying to carry them alone?

- Joseph repeatedly tells his brothers that God sent him to Egypt, even though it was his brothers who sold him into slavery. Both of these statements are true. His brothers made sinful choices that caused tremendous suffering, yet God was still working through those circumstances to accomplish something Joseph couldn't have imagined. God's sovereignty didn't excuse his brothers' actions, and their actions didn't prevent God's purposes. How do we make sense of God being in control while still allowing people to make choices that hurt others? What difference does that understanding make in how we respond to suffering, injustice, or circumstances beyond our control?
  - **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE: Read Acts 2:22-24 (NLT)**
  - **ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** When Peter addresses the crowd at Pentecost, he makes two seemingly contradictory statements about Jesus' crucifixion. He explains that Jesus was handed over according to God's predetermined plan, but he also holds those responsible for His death accountable. The cross is the greatest example of God's sovereignty and human responsibility existing together. What humanity intended for evil, God used to accomplish the greatest act of redemption in history. And yet, the evil itself was never excused or called good. God's sovereignty doesn't make human choices meaningless; it means even our worst choices cannot ultimately overthrow His purposes.

- **ADDITIONAL QUESTION:** Have you ever heard someone say, “Everything happens for a reason”? Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not? How does that challenge the way we think about God's involvement in the painful things we experience?

- Joseph recognizes that God had been working through his circumstances to save his family from famine. But what Joseph couldn't see was that God's plan was much bigger than that. God was keeping His promise to Abraham to bless the world through his family, a promise that would eventually lead to Jesus. Joseph was part of something God had started long before him and would continue long after him. How does knowing that God's plans are bigger than our own lives change the way we think about His faithfulness? Can you share an example of learning or seeing this work out in your own life (or in someone you know’s life)?
  - **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE: Psalm 78:4–7 (NLT)** *We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders. For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them- even the children not yet born- and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands.*
  - **ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** In this passage, God's people are reminded of their responsibility to tell the next generation about His power, faithfulness, and the things He has done. The goal wasn't simply to preserve stories from the past, but to help future generations put their trust in God. It's a reminder that our faithfulness doesn't just impact us. The way we live, the things we prioritize, and the faith we demonstrate today can influence people we'll never meet and generations we'll never see.
  - **ADDITIONAL QUESTION:** What are we intentionally passing on to the next generation through the way we live? How might our everyday choices be shaping someone's understanding of God, even when we don't realize it?

APPLY IT:

Genesis 50:20 (NLT)
You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

SAY: Joseph spent years experiencing circumstances he didn't understand, yet God was working in ways he couldn't see, and even when Joseph finally began to recognize what God had been doing, he still couldn't see the full picture. The same is true for us. We may never fully understand why certain things happen or see the impact of our faithfulness, but we can trust that God's plans are bigger than what we see right now. Our job isn't to figure out everything God is doing, it's to remain faithful to Him in whatever season we're in.

ASK: This week, think about an area of your life where you've been waiting for answers, struggling to see progress, or questioning what God is doing. Instead of focusing on the outcome, ask yourself: "What does faithfulness look like for me right now?" Identify one practical step you can take to remain faithful to God, even without knowing what comes next.

PRAY:

- How can we be praying for you this week?