

Opening Reflection

1. Read Genesis 42:1-38. What did you find most helpful, challenging, or encouraging from this week's passage and message?
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1. The Pain of the Past Is Not Easily Forgotten

2. Jacob, Joseph, and Joseph's brothers each carried pain from their past in different ways. Which of their experiences do you most relate to — Jacob's fear of loss, Joseph's betrayal, or the brothers' guilt? Why?
 3. How can unresolved pain shape the way we treat others today? What might it look like to surrender that pain to God?
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2. The Sins of Our Past Must Be Dealt With

4. Joseph's brothers lived with hidden guilt for twenty years. What happens to our hearts and our relationship with God when sin remains unconfessed or unresolved?
 5. Read **1 John 1:8-9**. What does it practically look like to "confess our sins" and experience cleansing? How might confession bring freedom rather than shame?
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3. The Progress of Our Future Depends on Our Present

6. Joseph tested his brothers to see whether they had changed. How can we tell when repentance in our own lives — or in someone else's — is genuine and not just regret?
 7. In what ways does God sometimes use present circumstances to bring our past to light — not to condemn us, but to heal and transform us?
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Closing Application

8. "You can't escape your past, but you can change your future." What might that mean for your life right now? What is one area where God might be calling you to take a step toward healing, honesty, or repentance this week?