



God Keeps His Promises

Growth Group Opener:

Have you ever looked back at a hard season and been able to see, in retrospect, something God was doing that you couldn't see at the time?

Read Genesis 37:17-36; Genesis 45:1-9

Joseph's brothers throw him into a pit, then have a family meal, perhaps while listening to Joseph's cries and pleading. What does this show us about the depth of human sin?

What does it reveal about how God works that his promises to Abraham, then Jacob, and then Joseph were carried forward through this kind of betrayal and cruelty?

Have you ever experienced a move of God in your life in spite of, or in the midst of, circumstances that were truly wrong? How do you hold both of these truths at once?

Jacob believed his son was dead for 20 years. What does it mean that God was still faithful that entire time in ways Jacob could not see?

What difference does it make that God was with Joseph during all of his troubles, but God was also fulfilling his promise during all of it?

What are Joseph's first words upon revealing his identity to his brothers in 45:3-4?

How does Joseph reframe his story in the verses that follow?

What is the difference between saying "God sent me" vs. saying "You didn't really hurt me?" Why is it important that Joseph does the first without doing the second?

What does this reveal about how God had shaped him in the years he had been away?

How might you trust God with your story in a different way, stewarding your part with faithfulness even when you can't see the whole picture?

What can we learn about God from this passage?

Is there anything you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to look at more closely?

Prayer:

Father, thank you that you are faithful to keep your promises. We can trust that you are at work when our circumstances may be hard or painful, even when others are actively sinning against us. Help us to believe that you are always working for our good and your glory. In the name of Jesus, amen.