

# COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION - 3/11-12/14

## GRACE TO ISRAEL - GENESIS 45



### SCRIPTURE

Genesis 45:1-15

### BIG IDEA

In Genesis 45, we see a vivid picture of grace when Joseph reveals himself to his brothers who had betrayed him. Grace is not simply forgiveness, though forgiveness is involved. Grace is forgiveness plus favor; forgiveness plus provision; forgiveness plus blessing and status. Grace is gentle—It is the kindness of God that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4). Grace is a refuge—Jesus doesn't say *do more, try harder*; Jesus says *it is finished, come and rest*. Grace is power—grace does what the Law can't; grace changes our hearts and makes us desire to obey. Grace is always costly to the giver. On the cross, Jesus paid the ultimate price to give us grace. Grace is always free to the receiver. To receive the grace of Jesus, all we need is need—all we need is nothing. It is free for us because it was infinitely costly for him. Have you experienced the grace of Jesus? Is your trust in Jesus? Have you celebrated grace by being baptized since trusting in Jesus? Is Jesus' grace making you celebrate by following him and giving grace to others?

### DISCUSSION

1. Was there anything from the sermon or the big idea that stood out to you or challenged you? Was there anything new? Was there anything confusing?

2. What stands out to you in Genesis 45 and why?

*Grace is gentle—It is the kindness of God that leads to repentance (Romans 2:4).*

3. How have you seen it prove true that *the kindness of God is what leads to repentance*? In your own life, in other stories from the Bible, etc.?

*Grace is a refuge—Jesus doesn't say "do more, try harder." Jesus says "it is finished, come and rest."*

4. Does the fact that "it is finished" lead us to sit back and do nothing? How do we live a life of mission in obeying and following Jesus and *rest* at the same time? Try and be specific.

*Grace is power—grace does what the Law can't. Grace changes our hearts and makes us desire to obey.*

5. Why is it that the Law—do more try harder—doesn't change us? How is the grace of Jesus changing the way you think? The way you act? Your deep desires?

6. Spend some time praying for **one another**, praying for **the lost**, praying for **your city**, and praying for God to provide for **the future church plant** in Checotah.

### GOOD WORD

Joseph didn't change simply by realizing he was sinful and had huge problems. Joseph changed when he experienced God's grace—forgiveness and favor! Why? Because the Law—*do more, try harder*—reveals we need to change but is powerless to truly change us. No one is changed deeply by merely seeing their need to change. Only the gospel—*the good news that it is finished*—is powerful enough to change your heart. Only when you realize you are more wicked than you ever feared and at the same time more loved in Jesus than you ever hoped, will we change.