

OCF Small Groups: *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

Genesis 42 – 43

(Sunday, June 6)

1. What is the longest period of time you have been separated from your family? Explain. What was memorable when you were reunited with them?

2. The last time Joseph saw his brothers was when they sold him into slavery. Several years went by since the day they sinned against him. Do long periods of time diminish the sting of sin that was committed against another? Why or why not?

3.
 - a. Across several years, God is working reconciliation between the sons of Jacob. How have you personally witnessed God change your heart toward those who have sinned against you?

 - b. How have you seen Him change the hearts of others against who you have sinned?

4.
 - a. Like Jacob's sons (42: 21-22), where are you still paying the price or reaping the effects of a mistake you made?

 - b. Do you still wrestle with guilt or shame over that mistake? Why or why not?

 - c. In what ways is God bigger than that mistake or has shown himself to be bigger than your mistakes?

5.
 - a. Like Jacob (42: 36-39), what situation in your life seems “hopeless” at the moment?
 - b. What would help you face your situation with hope?
 - c. In what way has adversity or disappointment helped you become more spiritually mature in your responsibility to forgive others or help others?

6.
 - a. Judah is very practical in this story. When have you put being practical over the best interests of someone?
 - b. When have you put someone's best interests over practicality?

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION Genesis 43: 23

He replied, “Peace to you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has put treasure in your sacks for you. I received your money.” Then he brought Simeon out to them.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank you for your forgiveness. Thank you for giving me the grace and peace to forgive others. When I am harmed or sinned against, please help me to always remember that you are my protector and defender. You work all things out for my good because I love you and I'm called according to your purpose. When I harm or sin against others, give me the courage to humble myself and seek forgiveness. Help me remember that you are bigger than my mistakes – in Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.