

SERMON GUIDE

DO NOT FEAR

Genesis 50:15-26 | Pastor Tim Prince

December 18, 2022

Faith Community Church | fchudson.com

Conversation Questions

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- Scripture that stands out to you while you read
- Observations you are making about a passage
- Applications that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- Prayer that invites God to participate in all that you do

Notes About the Passage: This story takes place after the death and burial of Jacob, the father of Joseph and his brothers. Joseph is now a very old man. 80 years have passed since he was reunited with his family.

Read Genesis 50:15-26

- S:** What verses, phrases, words, or feelings stand out to you as you read this text? Is anything "illuminated," surprising, or jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?
- O:** Why do you think that Joseph's brothers are afraid that he will retaliate against them after all of the kindness that Joseph has shown to them over the years (v.15)?
Why do you think Joseph weeps in response (v.17)?
- O:** Christians often struggle with a sense of assurance with regard to God's forgiveness. Take a moment to read 1 John 3:19-24. This is a passage written to Christians who are struggling like Joseph's brothers were. What can we learn in this passage about our hearts and how to reassure them?
- O:** What do you notice about Joseph's response to the brothers in verse 19-21? What does Joseph believe about God and how do you think those beliefs inspired him to continue loving and forgiving his brothers?
- O:** As Genesis comes to a close, Joseph has been walking with God for nearly a hundred years. Most of that time has been spent leading the nation of Egypt.
-After all of that time, what do we learn about his relationship with God in this scripture reading?

-What kinds of challenges do you think his faith faced over such a long period of time?

-What can we learn about walking faithfully with God in good times and in bad times throughout our lives from Joseph's story?
- A:** If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?
- A:** Do you struggle to believe that God has really forgiven you for what you've done in the past? Are there specific things that feel like they are "just too much to forgive"? Spend some time reflecting on Joseph's response to his brothers and on the blood of Jesus that he shed for the forgiveness of your sins. What do you think God wants to say to you about this?
- A:** Is there a specific relationship or situation in your life where you are tempted to dig up the past and hold it against someone that you had preciousy forgiven? What truths about God and your relationship with him do you need to remember right now to respond the way Joseph did?
- P:** Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide the direction that you need.