

Sept 27, 2020



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Lesson Leaders:

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Class Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

All that I am I owe to Jesus
Christ, revealed to me in His
divine Book

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

O send Thy Spirit, Lord, now
unto me That He may touch my
eyes and make me see; Show me
the truth concealed within Thy
Word, And in Thy Book
revealed I see Thee, Lord.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

*The glory of the Lord shall be
revealed, And all flesh shall see it
together; For the mouth of the
Lord has spoken*

(Isa 40:5 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", July 01, 2009)

Series: Love For One Another

UNIT: Inclusive Love

NEXT WEEK

Love that Intercedes
(1 Samuel 19:1-7)

Revealed Love Genesis 45:1-8, 10-15

Lesson Background and Introduction

Imagine yourself standing before Jesus, who has asked you to draw near, as Joseph told his brothers to draw near to him (Genesis 45:4). Jesus speaks and says, "I am Jesus, whom you crucified. Your sins are the reason I gave my life as a sacrifice on the cross. But don't be angry with yourself. I want to forgive you, not condemn you." Jesus does indeed say this, and He means it. Joseph's words about God's higher purpose being carried out can also be applied to Jesus. Men killed him because they wanted to reverse his influence, dishearten his followers, and destroy the movement he had begun. But God accomplished a great deliverance through the cross and the empty tomb. As Peter told the crowd gathered on the Day of Pentecost, "[Jesus] was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead" (Acts 2:23-24). Salvation is truly a gift of God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). It must be received as such, without our placing conditions on it that God himself has never placed. Don't be angry with yourself. Like Joseph's brothers, you need to accept forgiveness.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

God's plan - Joseph, now second in command to Pharaoh in Egypt, revealed himself to his stepbrothers. They had no idea the royal leader they bowed before asking for help was their own flesh and blood. "I am Joseph!" he finally announced to his brothers. They stood speechless, in shock. Joseph? Alive? A ruler in Egypt? The men fully expected Joseph to use his authority to retaliate for treating him horribly and selling him into slavery. They anticipated instant death. Instead, Joseph had mercy. He saw the love of God, His redemptive plan, which healed his wounds and enabled him to forgive. He consoled them to not be upset with themselves or fear him. He made clear that this was God's doing: He sent Joseph to Egypt to make sure his family, God's chosen people, survived the famine. Joseph moved on from the cruelty they did to him.

God's Purposes - Joseph sent his brothers home to get the rest of the family. He moved them to Goshen, in the Nile River delta, to provide for them throughout the remaining time of the famine. Joseph demonstrated his love and forgiveness by weeping over all his brothers.

God's Redemption - God is in the redemption business. He can take tragic past events and actions and turn them completely around. This gives individuals who have endured any adversity— abuse, abandonment, injustice—hope for God's restoration. We all can trust and rely on God's overwhelming love. He will demonstrate His compassion even in the worst situations.

God's Beauty from Ashes - Our world is fallen, tragedies happen, poor decisions are made, and consequences result. However, that does not mean that God doesn't care or is unaware. The Father does not always explain all the "why's" concerning His actions or lack of action. His ways are higher, and we may not always understand (Isa. 55:9). However, He uses every adverse situation for His glory and for an ultimate good.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Revealed Identity (Gen 45:1-8)

Identity of love (1-2)

- Love through the gift of love (1 Cor 13:2-3)
- Love through asking God to increase love for others (1 Thess 3:12)
- Love through loving as God taught us (1 Thess 4:9)
- Love through loving as a brother (Heb 13:1-3)
- Love with a sincere love (1 Peter 1:22-23)
- Love through turning a sinner from the error of their way (James 5:20)

Identity of truth (3)

- Truth because we cannot do anything against the truth (2 Cor 13:6-8)
- Truth because it protects like a belt around our waist (Eph 6:14)
- Truth because it bears fruit and grows (Col 1:4-6)
- Truth because if we obey it, God purifies us (1 Peter 1:22-23)
- Truth because through God, we are firmly established in it (2 Peter 1:12)
- Truth because of the anointing of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:20-21)
- Truth because we belong to it (1 John 3:18-19)

Identity of assurance (4-8)

- Assurance through being a loving servant of others (Gal 5:13)
- Assurance by serving wholeheartedly (Eph 6:7)
- Assurance through using the gifts that God has given (1 Peter 4:10)
- Assurance through considering others better than ourselves (Phil 2:3)
- Assurance through being a person of God clothed with humility (Col 3:12)
- Assurance through being a person who is considerate and peaceable (Titus 3:1-2)
- Assurance through being full of godly wisdom and understanding (James 3:13)

Revealed Instructions (Gen 45:10-13)

Instructions about provisions (10-11)

- Provisions for both physical and spiritual needs (Psalm 104:15)
- Provisions when we are weak (1 Kings 19:5-8)
- Provisions when we are needy (2 Kings 4:2-6)
- Provisions that are supernatural (Matthew 14:17-21)
- Provisions for good works (2 Cor. 9:8)
- Provisions through God using others (2 Cor 8:14)

Instructions witnessed (12-13)

- Witness to what has been seen (Acts 4:20)
- Witness to what has been heard (Acts 22:15)
- Witness through teaching (2 Tim 2:2)
- Witness starts at home (Luke 8:39)
- Witness about the grace of God seen (Acts 11:23)

Revealed Love (Gen 45:14-15)

Love sincerely expressed (14)

- Expressed through obedience to God (2 John 6)
- Expressed because love never fails (1 Cor 13:4-8)
- Expressed through providing the physical needs of others (Prov 25:21)
- Expressed through action not just words (1 John 3:18)
- Expressed through doing no harm to others (Rom 13:10)
- Expressed through meeting the needs of others (Luke 6:35)

Love that leads to reconciliation (15)

- A reconciliation that brings peace (Eph 2:14-16)
- A reconciliation that requires humility (2 Chron 7:14)
- A reconciliation of the mind and body (Col 1:21-22)
- A reconciliation where sins are not regarded (2 Cor 5:17-19)
- A reconciliation that brings unity (Matt 5:23-25)