



Dgroup Discussion Guide for July 31, 2016

Who Do They Say I Am?

Scripture: Genesis 50

When Israel died, it was not only his immediate and extended family that mourned for him, but the entirety of Egypt. Genesis 50:3 says, ***Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.*** The uncharacteristically lengthy period of mourning by a people that Israel wasn't even related to demonstrates how much of an impact his son, Joseph, had made to the Egyptians. After all, he was the one who helped them through a period of famine. Israel was greatly loved because of Joseph.

This carried over to when Joseph went to bury his father in Canaan—he was accompanied by all of Pharaoh's servants and all the elders of Egypt, in addition to his own family and household. The procession was in such a deep state of mourning when the Canaanites took notice, they changed the name of the area they saw them in out of respect.

After Israel's death, Joseph's brothers became worried, and reasonably so. They thought that since their father is now dead, it was possible for Joseph to want to take revenge on them for their past treatment of him, just like how Esau once held a grudge against Israel and plotted to kill him upon their father's death. Even though Joseph could have easily done the same, he chose to forgive. Genesis 50:19-21 says, ***Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.***





We can learn a lot from Joseph's response. For one thing, even though he held a position of high power, he knew that at the end of the day, judgment is the Lord's. Romans 12:19 says, ***Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord.*** Additionally, Joseph recognized that the Lord was in control of his situation from the very beginning—from his brothers selling him to his relocating his family from Canaan to Egypt. Many times, in our present situations we do not understand why God allows things to happen. However, Romans 8:28-29 says, ***And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son.***

Genesis 50 ends with the death of Joseph, who lived 110 years and saw three generations of his family. Just like Israel and Joseph, we will all die someday. When our time comes, the people at our funeral will tell us who we are. Mark 8:29 says that Jesus ***continued by questioning them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."***

Who do we say that Jesus is in our lives? Who do YOU say Jesus is? Additionally, who does Jesus say that we are? When our time comes, it will not matter if the Father does not recognize us as His children, and the only way we can be recognized by Him can be found in John 1:12-13: ***But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor the will of man, but of God.*** To call ourselves children of God means that we not only believe that Jesus is the son of God who has paid for all of our sins and is the only way to eternal life, but also that He has been accepted into our hearts as our lord and savior.

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: Have you ever thought about what people will say about you when you are gone? What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind?</p>
	<p>Family: As a family talk about the importance of legacy. What is a legacy? What is it that you want your family to be known for? Will you be remembered because of your kindness, your generosity, your love of God or will you be remembered for something else?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Share with your discipleship group your desired legacy. What are the action steps you are planning to do in order to achieve this legacy.</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: In the light of all that is happening in the world today, how am I actively and intentionally sharing the gospel to those who are around me?</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.