

Jacob's Death and Assurance of his Brothers **Genesis 49:29-50:26**

1. Which of Joseph's character traits would you like God to transform you?

2. Which of these traits has God been transforming you?

A. The ability to reinterpret past pain as under the guiding hand of God for my good

From a human point of view, Joseph's narrative reads like a nightmare, a cacophony of outrageous excesses unjustly inflicted upon him. Joseph theologizes on the spiritual implications of that doctrine in a unique way. God in sovereign grace has guided Israel's history. This truth enables him to reinterpret his narrative.

B. Being vulnerable to express your true feelings to those who once hurt you

C. A willingness to be intimate once guilt is faithfully acknowledged and repented of

Once Joseph knows the changed heart of his brothers, he is free to be authentic. He allows his true identity to reemerge and becomes intimate with his brothers. The Hebrew word for intimacy is *sôd*, and is translated as "council," "confidence," "company," "confides," "fellowship," "intimate." It denotes fundamentally an inner circle of confidants. Within that circle of like-minded people, discussion, decision making, and plans take place. The Lord himself has a confidential relationship with the upright (Prov 3:32) and those who fear him (Ps 25:14).

How would you rate your ability to be intimate with others?

Do you have friends or family that you would consider as a confidants whom you trust?

D. Being willing to reassure a guilty party, when they doubt that your forgiveness was authentic (Gen 50:15-21).

3. Which character in the story do you identify with and why?

Jacob

Joseph (as a spoiled child)

Judah

Reuben

Tamar

Pharaoh (as CEO)

Potiphar

The cupbearer

The baker

4. Look back over your life through a lens of Joseph's story to see those who may have wronged you in different ways. How could your story be reinterpreted?