



## THEMATIC OVERVIEW

*The stories we tell ourselves*

**Sin** is the Bible's word for putting yourself in a unique space that God is meant to occupy. Sin is often embedded in the series we tell ourselves— they place more importance on what we do or do not do than the gospel shows us is true. They deny that their story of what God has done is the most important and most true story of us.

The **gospel** in this passage can be located in the way Judah offers himself as a substitute for his youngest brother Benjamin. The significance of this is picked up in the New Testament genealogy of Jesus which names Judah, not Joseph, as a forefather of Jesus— who offered himself as a substitute for us.

## PRAYER GUIDELINES

*In prayer, we ask God to transform us and the world around us with His grace.*

*This means we avoid advice-giving and fixing one another and instead, embrace mutual dependence on our loving Father through Christ in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.*

*There is a place for advice and processing something together but wait for that invitation from the person sharing.*

## GROUP SCHEDULE - SPRING

*Next HG - wk of June 2*

*Summer social plans are due to R.J. - June 10*

## Welcome + Opening Prayer

## Genesis 42:1–9; 45:1–9

*See passage printed on the back of this page.*

## Explore + Apply

1. How does Joseph enter into the story of his family in a provocative but redemptive way?
2. How does Joseph facilitate a breakthrough in his brother Judah's story (whose idea it was to sell Joseph into slavery)?
3. What are some of the stories you tell yourself? Are they true stories? What would change for you if the gospel— *the story of what God has done for you*— became the truest story of you? What would breakthrough in your story look like?

## Pray

- ▶ Reflect on what God has done for you
- ▶ Pray and listen: What are the stories you tell yourself? Are they true? How is the gospel of what Jesus has done more true than what you have done?
- ▶ Pray "Thy Kingdom come" here in West Seattle, in the U.S. and around the world and that the story of what God has done would become more true to more of us.

*Home Groups are a vital part of shared life and growth in Christ. Here, we build community, deepen relationships, and discover and live the Christian life together.*

## Genesis 42:1–9; 45:1–9

1 When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you look at one another?” 2 And he said, “Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die.” 3 So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. 4 But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him. 5 Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

6 Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. 7 Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. “Where do you come from?” he said. They said, “From the land of Canaan, to buy food.” 8 And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. 9 And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, “You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land.”

1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, “Make everyone go out from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. 3 And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

4 So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry.