

Living Water Fellowship

1ST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

10TH JANUARY 2021

COME TO JESUS

WELCOME:

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Heavenly Father we will kneel in the darkness until we see your light emerge. We will wait with hope filled hearts as Christ's image grows within us and creates abundant life for all. We will listen to him speaking to us so that his word may create love deep inside & we open our hearts to be his home... In the name of your beloved Son Jesus we pray. Amen.

SONG: Joy to the World

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Genesis 50:15-21

FAITH CHAT:

SONG: New Day (AT 521)

THE MESSAGE: RE-SET PERSPECTIVE

SONG: O Breath of Life
(Offering Collected During the Song)

PRAYERS:

COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: Christmas Offering (Paul Baloche)

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

**(Name) † child of God,
May you see the world through the eyes of Christ;
and may the world see Christ in you. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: Shine Jesus Shine

SHOW HIS LOVE

GENESIS 50:15-21

But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. "Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him," they said.

¹⁶ So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us ¹⁷ to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin." When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. ¹⁸ Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you?"

²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. ²¹ No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Genesis 50:15-21. What questions immediately come to mind? Does your familiarity with these verses hinder you seeing it with fresh eyes?
2. What is harder for you to forget: guilt or shame? Which is harder for you to accept: mercy or judgment? What do you make of the brothers' fear in this situation? What do you think you would have done in Joseph's position?
3. Why would Joseph weep? How would it feel if someone you had treated well for many years cast doubt on your motives for your goodness towards them? How might you be tempted to respond?
4. How is Genesis 50:18 a fulfillment of Joseph's dream in Gen. 37:7? How many times does Joseph tell his brothers not to be afraid? Why is that command repeated so frequently in the Bible? How is fear a common human response to the circumstances of life?
5. In what circumstances do you find yourself afraid? Would you say that you are afraid often, sometimes, or never? Why?
6. Why doesn't Joseph use this as an opportunity for revenge? How could Joseph—after suffering so much injustice—actually forgive his brothers?
7. What gives Joseph confidence to declare that God can mean evil things for good? How should this aspect of God's character help us in times of suffering?
8. Note Joseph's words, "Am I God?" (v. 19) What does this imply about God's character or sovereignty? What does it say about Joseph? Read Colossians 2:13-14 and then 3:12-13. How does this insight affect how you see yourself & God?
9. Now look closely at vs 20: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good." How does seeing the hand of God in your life *AT ALL TIMES* build your confidence in the end result being a masterpiece of God's grace, even if you cannot yet see that end?
10. Take note of these truths. How does each shape how you see yourself, God, the world around you? Knowing these things...What are you going to do?
 - a. In Christ, we are each forgiven an indebtedness we cannot repay.
 - b. God's rule over all things takes even the evil of this world & transforms its final effect for His good purposes.
 - c. God's ultimate design is to bring all things to bear the glory of Christ, to unite all things in Christ's life, love, & wholeness, and to make all things new, beautiful & good.