

Living Water Fellowship

13th Sunday after Pentecost – 7th September 2025

Happy Father's Day!

COME TO JESUS

SONG: Holy Holy Holy! Lord God Almighty (LH 140)
Come Praise & Glorify

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

SONG: Sing

CHILDREN'S TIME:

BIBLE READING: Genesis 45:1-15

¹ Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, & he said to his attendants, "Out, all of you!" So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. ² Then he broke down & wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, & word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace.

³ "I am Joseph!" he said to his brothers. "Is my father still alive?" But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them.

⁴ "Please, come closer," he said to them. So they came closer. He said again, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. ⁵ But don't be upset, & don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. ⁶ This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, & there will be neither ploughing nor harvesting. ⁷ God has sent me ahead of you to keep you & your families alive & to preserve many survivors. ⁸ So it was God who sent me here, not you! He is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace & the governor of all Egypt.

⁹ "Now hurry back to my father & tell him, 'Your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. So come down to me immediately! ¹⁰ You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me with all your children & grandchildren, your flocks & herds, & everything you own. ¹¹ I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, & all your animals will starve.'" ¹² Then Joseph added, "Look! You can see for yourselves, & so can my brother Benjamin, that I really am Joseph! ¹³ Go tell my father of my honoured position here in Egypt. Describe for him everything you have seen, & then bring my father here quickly." ¹⁴ Weeping with joy, he embraced Benjamin, & Benjamin did the same. ¹⁵ Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers & wept over them, & after that they began talking freely with him.

FAITH CHAT:

1. What "sin" against you would you find hard to forgive
2. Is forgiveness common among people you know?
Does it seem uncommon in the world as you see it? Why do you think that is?

THE MESSAGE: *BEHIND THE SEEN: REVENGE TO RECONCILIATION*

OFFERING SONG: *No Other Name*

PRAYERS:

THE 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: COME AS YOU ARE (DAVID CROWDER)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
The Father loves you with shocking grace!
-- Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *Ancient of Days*

SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Genesis 45:1-15. What strikes you as you read? What questions come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why?
2. Why do you think Joseph waited so long to reveal his identity to his brothers? What was the point of the "cat-n-mouse game" leading up to this moment? (Gen 42-44)
3. How quick are you to forgive someone who has hurt you? Does your answer depend upon the severity of the "hurt" or the intent of the guilty? Why do you think forgiving someone seems so difficult in many cases? Share a time you had to forgive or were forgiven. Have you ever sought forgiveness but it was withheld? What was that like?
4. When we refuse to forgive, we are choosing to carry the weight of the hurt & the added weight of our own grudge. Which of those would grow heavier over time? What's the only solution? (Read Ephesians 4:1-2 & 30-32 to help your discussion)
5. Why do you think Joseph was overcome with emotion as he interacted with the very brothers who had plotted his death & sold him into slavery without a second thought?
6. Read Genesis 45:21-24. Why do you think Joseph commanded them to "not quarrel" as they travelled back & forth from Egypt to their homeland to retrieve their father?
7. How does Joseph interpret the events that led to his rise in Egypt? Why is that a critical part of this narrative? What does that teach you about how you interpret the events of your life; both favourable ones & painful ones?
8. Notice that Joseph's understanding of God is, "God has used my sorrow & painful years to equip me to save many." Think about your seasons of trouble. How have they equipped you to be able to bless others?
9. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. How does this text link closely with Joseph's experience? Has this proven true in your life, that you can comfort someone who is experiencing a trial similar to one you experienced?
10. Is there someone in your life you still need to forgive? What do you sense the Holy Spirit leading you to do to forgive that person?
11. What might God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, or pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

Remember:

*Like a defibrillator, God's grace shocks us;
not to hurt us, but to restart our broken dead hearts.*

Continue praying through the week:

**Father prepare me for whatever you require today
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.**

In Jesus' Name...Amen.

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