

**Discussion Starter** – Is there an incident in your life that appeared to be destructive, but God sent for good? How does a recognition of God's sovereign will in the affairs and details of your life free you from placing blame and prepare you to be an agent of reconciliation?

## Read Genesis 43:1-15

- 1) How did Joseph's wisdom in concealing his identity to his brothers force them to examine their own past actions and recognize their utter helplessness in the famine?
- 2) How does Judah demonstrate growth?
- 3) What is revealed about Jacob's change of heart in verse 14? Is this an easy concession for Jacob?
  - a) Do you rejoice when God uses life's circumstances to drive you to full dependence on Him?

## Read Genesis 43:16-34

- 4) What is revealed about Joseph as we see his immediate order to prepare a feast for his brothers?
- 5) What is revealed about the brother's conscience by their confession to the steward of the house?
- 6) What is revealed about Joseph's relationship with his household in verse 22?
- 7) What is Joseph seeking to learn about his brothers as he questions them before they eat?
- 8) Describe the wisdom in Joseph's approach to reconciling with his brothers? Where did Joseph learn this wisdom?
  - b) Where can you gain wisdom to have a godly response to situations we face in our daily life?
  - c) Read Joshua 1:8-9. What is the difference between reading God's word and meditating on it day and night?

## **Read Genesis 44:1-45:15**

- 9) How does Joseph continue to put pressure on the brothers? What is he seeking to learn about them?
- 10) What is the heart of Judah's confession that causes Joseph to reveal his identity to the brothers?
- 11) What do we learn about Joseph as we see him weep in verse 24 and his provision of grain in verse 25?
  - d) Is there a past issue in your life that you have not fully confessed to God and acknowledged to others in your life?
  - e) Why is full transparency necessary for full reconciliation?
  - f) Why are realistic expectations necessary for a meaningful restoration of a relationship?