

the

GENESIS

EXPERIENCE

Session 13/Genesis

44

Group Ice Breaker: Have you ever tried to cover up something, only to have it be exposed later? How did it feel when the truth was exposed?

Read Genesis 44:1-34

Discussion

1. Why do you think Joseph framed his brothers? Was Joseph demonstrating retribution or love and kindness toward his brothers with this act? Why?
2. This story is a great example of how the exposure of truth can set a person free. Ironically, God used a false accusation to bring to the surface a hidden sin. Where does God expose you to the truth most often? Share a recent instance where the truth helped set you free.
3. From Isaiah 57:15 we learn that God dwells with the broken and contrite in spirit. How would you describe the condition of the brother's hearts in this story (44:14-16)?
4. Judah could have easily repeated his actions when he sold Joseph into slavery in Genesis 37, and yet in the second half of chapter 44 he is boldly offering his own freedom for Benjamin's. What hope can we draw from Judah's heart change?
5. Judah and his brothers demonstrated brokenness in the company of Joseph and each other. What do you think is different about coming clean in private versus in the company of several people? How do you think your journey group could grow in becoming a safe place to expose our own need for healing or heart change?

Inductive Study Questions

1. Think about Joseph's brothers lives in Genesis. What lessons did they learn?
2. How would you describe their relationships with God?
3. What did you learn about yourself through the life of the brothers?

Prayer Exercise

Christians often use a simple acrostic as a guide to prayer: A.C.T.S. Each of the letters in this acrostic stands for one of the key elements of prayer:

(A) Adoration

(C) Confession

(T) Thanksgiving

(S) Supplication

But not only does this acrostic remind us of the elements of prayer, it shows us the priority we ought to give to each.

The first element of prayer should be **adoration**, or praise. The Psalms, which are inspired samples of godly prayer, are heavily weighted on the side of adoration. I've noticed over many years that as we grow in the discipline and in the delight of prayer, it seems that we naturally spend more and more of our time on this first element.

Second, prayer should include **confession** of our sin; as we remember who we are when we come into God's presence, we see that we have come short of His holiness and have need of His forgiveness.

Third, when we pray, we should always give **thanks**, remembering the grace and mercy God has shown toward us.

Fourth, prayer rightly includes **supplication** or petition, bringing our requests for the needs of others and ourselves to God.

Use this guide for group prayer this week by spending time on each of the 4 suggested aspects of prayer. The leader can offer transitional prayers or statements to move the group through each type of prayer.

<http://www.ligonier.org/blog/simple-acrostic-prayer/>