

For the week of February 22

Personal Spiritual Formation:

Below is a reading plan for this week. Here are some pointers: **(1) Don't speed read. Take your time. (2) Really dwell on specific words & phrases. (3) Have a "holy conversation" as you read.** Ask God these 3 questions ... "What are You showing me about Yourself? What are You showing me about myself? Is there something I must do in response?"

(If at all possible, repeat the above process more than once each day)

- **Monday: Genesis 37**
- **Tuesday: Genesis 39**
- **Wednesday: Genesis 41**
- **Thursday: Genesis 42:1-8, & Genesis 45**
- **Friday: Genesis 50:15-21, & 1 Peter 3:8-9 (memorize v.8)**
- **Saturday: 1 John 1:5-7**

Group Spiritual Formation:

If your LifeLINK group is meeting this week, consider discussing the following together. *(You can also use this as a family devotion).*

- 1. Talk about what you remember from this past Sunday. What did you find challenging, encouraging, perplexing, etc.? Look over any notes you took on Sunday and talk about them.**
- 2. Think about the life of Joseph in the Old Testament. What do you remember about his life? Why did his brothers despise him so much? After being reunited with his brothers, read his words to them in Genesis 50:15-21. Talk about Joseph's response to his brothers in light of what you heard Sunday.**
- 3. With Joseph's story in mind, read 1 Peter 3:8. As you look at the individual words/phrases in this verse, which ones do you see being played out in Joseph's life? Now, read 1 Peter 3:9 and notice how it also relates to Joseph and his brothers. What are some situations in your life where you are very tempted to repay with evil or insult, instead of blessing? According to 1 Peter 3:9, what will be lost if you do not repay with blessing? What do you think this means? Do you think this only refers to blessings in the afterlife? Compare this with Matthew 5:43-46.**
- 4. Now turn to the book of Philemon. Philemon was a wealthy man with many servants. One of them – Onesimus – left him abruptly, and not on good terms with Philemon. While gone, Onesimus came under the tutelage of the Apostle Paul, who sent him back to Philemon. Read what Paul wrote to Philemon in verses 4-21. In light of our discussion, what verses really jump off the page and overlap with Joseph's life and 1 Peter 3:8-9? How does Philemon/Onesimus overlap with what you heard and learned this past Sunday?**
- 5. Sum up what we've learned in one sentence. Conclude by learning and quoting 1 Peter 3:8 together.**

Spiritual formation sheets are available
on The Chapel's website, under the "Next Step" tab.