

Sermon: Guilt, Grace, and the Test of Faith
Series: *Joseph: Trusting the Goodness of God*

Scripture: Genesis 42
Date: April 19, 2020

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?

a) What do we learn about objective guilt (we are actually guilty) and subjective guilt (we feel guilty) from this story?

b) What makes you feel guilty? How do you tend to manage your guilt (religion, blaming others, escape)?

2) What does this passage teach us about God?

a) In Genesis 42, how did God expose the guilt of the brothers?

b) God will expose our guilt through trials, the word of God, and the cross. Where have you seen God use these in your life to expose guilt/sin?

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) How has God dealt with our guilt? Read Romans 8:1; Colossians 2:13-15.

b) Why do we, as Christians, not need to fear God's testing of our faith/faithfulness?

c) How can you use grace to test someone who has wronged you?

APPLICATION

Do you relate more to the brothers in Genesis 42 or to Joseph? What lesson will you take away from this story?

PRAYER

Praise God for removal of all objective guilt in your life by the death and resurrection of Christ.

Confess areas where you allowed guilt to keep you from God's grace?

Ask God to allow the exposure of your guilt to drive you to his love and faithfulness in Jesus.