

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

August 14-20, 2017

Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.

BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: Genesis 45:1–15 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=366786388>).

Other readings are: Psalm 133; Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32; Matthew 15:(10–20), 21–28

The theme is: Reconcile.

Last week we learned how sibling rivalry, jealousy, and anger broke a family apart. We last saw Joseph being sold into slavery. Joseph remained alienated from his family for many years, but much has happened by the time we jump ahead to this week's reading. Thanks to his ability to interpret dreams, he has risen to a position of power in Pharaoh's court. A famine has brought his brothers to Egypt in search of food. Since Joseph is now in charge of food distribution, they end up approaching him; but they do not recognize him. Joseph causes his brothers some anxiety when he toys with them a bit but eventually reveals his identity to them and makes peace with them. Joseph is able to see God's hand at work in the midst of the tragic story of his life and his brothers' despicable acts. Joseph sees that God used the events of his past – even the brokenness of his family relationships – in order to place him in a position to save others, ensuring that God's promise of blessing to come through Abraham and Sara's descendants will be fulfilled. Joseph would save his family and the nation of Israel. While there is no excuse for how the brothers mistreated Joseph, there is new life and reconciliation as Joseph responds to God's grace.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.

Where is reconciliation needed in your life? What first step could you take?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of August 13:

**What attitudes and actions fueled the sibling rivalry of the Joseph saga?
How did Joseph himself make matters worse? Where you experience division
and broken relationships, consider how all parties contribute to the division
rather than assigning responsibility solely on one person or group.**

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