

## Scripture Reading

Genesis 50:19–21 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Genesis 45:3–7 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

### 1) Unveiling Forgiveness

Genesis 45:5 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

### 2) The Impact of Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

<sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Hebrews 12:15 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

### 3) Practical forgiveness

#### a) God’s place

Genesis 50:19 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God?”

b) God’s view

Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

<sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

c) God’s love

Genesis 50:21 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.