

*No Filter #5:*

## **Revenge is Sweet**

### *Word*

#### **Scripture Reference**

Genesis 42:1-45:15

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Has anyone ever treated you so unjustly that you thought about getting even with that person? How do you think would it feel if you could get even? When an opportunity for revenge comes, what would you do?
2. Read Genesis 42:1-45:15. We see that Joseph, who was treated badly by his brothers as a young boy but now holds the highest position next to the King of Egypt, was presented an opportunity to exact revenge on his brothers when they came to Egypt during a widespread famine. Discuss how their first meeting went. What did Joseph feel upon seeing them? When someone hurt you in the past, how did you react to seeing that person again? Do you think you could have handled the situation differently? Share and discuss.
3. Joseph must have been shocked and angered seeing his brothers, but what did he remember in the middle of his anger (ch. 42:9)? Why do you think he didn't introduce himself right away? How was Joseph able to see his brothers' repentant hearts towards what they did to him (v. 21-23)? Joseph would have been justified in his actions if he chose to exact revenge on his brothers, but what does the Bible tell us about his reaction? (v. 24)
4. Revenge may be sweet and satisfying for a lot of people, but forgiveness is sweeter and has great benefits to the person who forgives. First, someone who forgives benefits by seeing repentance. Describe the reaction of Joseph's brothers after seeing that the money they used to pay for the grains they bought was returned in their sacks (v.25-38)? What do you think were they feeling? How would you feel if the person who hurt you repented from what he/she did? Do you think people who seek revenge are truly satisfied? Compare how the person who wronged you would react if you chose to get even with his/her possible reaction if you chose to forgive.
5. The second benefit of forgiveness is that you get to keep a beautiful heart. Jacob's sons including Benjamin had to return to Egypt to buy more food (ch. 43). Recount what happened during this visit. When you seek revenge,

you will never see anything good in the other person, instead seeing him/her as an enemy who would never be your friend. What does revenge do to your heart and attitude? How can your heart be compared to clay? On the other hand, how does forgiveness allow you to keep the beauty of your heart?

6. The third benefit of forgiveness is witnessing life transformation. How did Judah intercede for Benjamin? What was Joseph's reaction to his brother's transformation? Describe how Joseph revealed himself to his brothers and their reaction to his revelation. How did Joseph give credit to God for everything that had happened in his life (ch. 45:5)?
7. The fourth benefit of forgiveness is that you will have the privilege of experiencing restoration. What was re-established after this incident in Joseph's life (v. 14-15)? What can you learn from his attitude? Share with the group how a bad experience in your life turned into something good.

### *Walk*

When someone has deeply hurt you, your natural reaction may be to take revenge. If you do, however, you will not experience the benefits of forgiveness such as seeing repentance, keeping a beautiful heart, witnessing life transformation, and experiencing restoration. Because of sin, God was angry with you. You deserved death because the payment of sin is death, but you had the opportunity to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ's death on the cross. You were an enemy of God, but are now called His friend. How should you react to God's forgiveness? Think about how it is possible that a repentant heart could lead to transformation and desire for reconciliation and restoration.

### *Worship & Prayer*

Pray for...

- Faith for Christians to forgive offenders and let God be their Holy Avenger.
- Wisdom and strength for the GCCP elders, deacons and pastoral team.
- Wisdom and good health for the Family Conference speaker; salvation, blessing and grace for everyone who attend.
- Healing for FS, ET, Rosa Gan, Danny Yu, LTT, IB, Conchita Sy, Nenita, Margarita; salvation for Dy- Lin, Mrs. Co and Roger.
- Peace for FHR; reconciliation of GVD.
- Humility for KC and help for his family to be released from financial debts.