



Communities Questions and Discussion

For the week of: **April 17, 2011**

1. Can you think of a time in your life that you experienced the kind of grace that Joseph extended to his brothers (Genesis 45:1-20)? Would you be willing to share your experiences? Were these life-changing events?
2. What is the primary difference between mercy and grace? Which of these options do you think that God desires us to show our enemies (Romans 12:14)? Do you find extending grace to be easy or difficult; why?
3. Joseph had a "kingdom mindset." That means that he was focused on God's purpose for his affliction, not his own pain (Gen 45:5). How does a Christian worldview help us choose grace rather than revenge when someone causes us pain? Feel free to give an example from your own life.
4. Read the parable of the unforgiving debtor in Matthew 18:21-35. How many times should we forgive a person? Do these verses indicate that we should tolerate all offenses against us?
5. Discuss the meaning of the parable of the unforgiving debtor in Matthew 18. How is this a picture of what Jesus has done for each of his followers?