**Finding Grace**

**Grace from the Patriarchs**

**Sovereign Grace to See and Rejoice in God’s Grand Salvation**

Genesis 12-50 Small Group Studies

<http://www.faithlafayette.org/west/worship/faith-groups/faith-group-studies>

Joseph, the innocent suffering servant, and his sinful brethren beheld God’s grand salvation which included…

1. The preservation of the family of blessing—in place of death

2. The protection of the family of blessing—in place of corruption

3. The repentance of the family of blessing—in place of sin

4. The reconciliation of the family of blessing—in place of division

5. The restoration of the family of blessing—in place of loss

6. The enrichment of the family of blessing—instead of destitution

7. The multiplication of the family of blessing—instead of decline

**Genesis 50:14-21** - *After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers, and all who had gone up with him to bury his father. When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!” So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father charged before he died, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph, “Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.” ’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

3 ways God’s servants can see and rejoice in God’s work without becoming bitter amidst suffering

**1) Avoid God’s Role — as Judge**

*“Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place?”*

**Romans 8:19-21** - *Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; do not be overcome by**evil, but overcome evil with good.*

**2) Take God’s View—as Sovereign**

*“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.”*

God’s sovereignty is His constant control of creation and sustained care of His people for His glory and His people’s good.

**Romans 8:28** - *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

**3) Reflect God’s Love—as an instrument of salvation**

*“So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

**1 Peter 3:21-25** - *For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.*

"Each sentence of his (Joseph’s) threefold reply is a pinnacle of Old Testament (and New Testament) faith. To leave all the righting of one's wrongs to God (19; cf. [Romans 12:19](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Romans+12:19&t1=en_nas); [1 Thessalonians 5:15](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Thessalonians+5:15&t1=en_nas); [1 Peter 4:19](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Peter+4:19&t1=en_nas)); to see His providence in man's malice (20; cf. on [Genesis 45:5](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Genesis+45:5&t1=en_nas)); and to repay evil not only with forgiveness but also with practical affection (21; cf.[Luke 6:27](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Luke+6:27&t1=en_nas) ff.), are attitudes which anticipate the adjective 'Christian' and even 'Christlike.'" [Derek Kidner, Genesis, p. 224.]