



## Part 6: Playing God

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The person(s) who come to mind when I dream of revenge:

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### **According to God, seeking revenge is irreverent.**

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

*Romans 12:19*

### **Review**

Joseph was his father's favorite son

Joseph had the gift of dreams and dream interpretation

Joseph used the gift immaturely and his brothers hated him for it

Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers

Joseph ran into God in the dark moments of his life

Joseph paid a high price for making a godly decision

Joseph was in prison for more than a decade

Joseph had his moment before Pharaoh and ended up in charge of everything

Joseph is managing the economy of Egypt in preparation for a famine

Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the one who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he asked.

"From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food."

Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

*- Genesis 42:6-8*

**Life Principle:** The people who have hurt you the most may one day need you.

And [Joseph] wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. *- Genesis 45:2*

**Life Principle:** The pain of betrayal is real and must be dealt with in a way that acknowledges that God is with you.

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! 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. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. – *Genesis 45:4-7*

**Life Principle:** God’s purpose is better seen with a wide-angle lens.

But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. – *Genesis 50:19-20*

**Life Principle:** None of the bad in your life can ever become good until you are first willing to acknowledge God’s presence in the bad and then refuse to “play God” when things are good.

**Life Principle:** God forgave us when we did not deserve it. When we forgive, we are simply acting in a way that shows we are confident that God is with us.

**How would my life be different if I was absolutely convinced in every moment, no matter how good or how bad, that God was with me?**

## Next Steps

**Christianity 101:** Experience five life-changing Bible lessons and memory verses for new Christians. Learn God’s promises for salvation, answered prayer, victory over sin, forgiveness and guidance. Join us Mondays, February 18–March 25 from 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 211. *Register online, at the Connection Point or contact Jayne Doll (x272 or [jayned@ctkbellingham.com](mailto:jayned@ctkbellingham.com)).*

## Small Group Questions

- 1) Share with the group the first name of the person that you wrote down as the dream target of your revenge. Without gossiping, share how they ended up in your story.
- 2) If you were Joseph, could you find it in your heart to forgive your brothers? Why is it easier to forgive in someone else’s shoes?
- 3) How have you dealt with the pain of betrayal in your own life? Is God asking you to take another step?
- 4) Can you share a season of pain from your life that has now produced godliness because you went through it?
- 5) What has been your most profound learning moment from the story of Joseph?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now?

**OUR MISSION** | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.