

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, September 13, 2026 (Pentecost 16)

Genesis 50:15-21

Discussion Starters

1. Set this passage of Scripture in context. What has happened up to this point in the life of Joseph?
2. Is the fear of the brothers justified (understandable)? What is the cause of their fear?
3. What action did the brothers know they needed to take? What was their motivation for doing so? Do you think it was sincere?
4. Why was Joseph able to respond with such grace and generosity? What did he understand that his brothers did not?
5. What are ways in your own life that God was able to take something "meant for evil" and turn it into something "meant for good?"

Romans 14:1-12

Discussion Starters

1. Paul writes about the "grey areas" – issues over which equally committed Christians may disagree. What are such grey areas that face the church today?
2. What teachings do you see in this text that would make it possible for Christians on both sides of such issues get along?
3. What motivates a person to move to criticism or judgment in these types of areas?
4. What does Paul say we should focus on doing instead criticizing or judging? (See verse 13)
5. Where do you draw the line when it comes to pleasing others or tolerating their differences of opinion?

Matthew 18:21-35

Discussion Starters

1. What does the response of Jesus (to the question asked by Peter) tell you about forgiveness in the Kingdom of Heaven?
2. What truths about forgiveness do you see in this passage?
3. What are the consequences for the one who refuses to forgive?
4. Based on this parable, is God's forgiveness conditional or unconditional?
5. Do you forgive in order to receive God's forgiveness or does God forgive in order for you to have a forgiving attitude?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?