

- I. God's family is broken, today and in the past
  - A. Where do we see family-brokenness in the stories we have studied thus far, and why would the Bible tell us about so much of this brokenness? (Why not focus on the positive?)
  - B. What does God reveal about himself through our natural family and through our church family? What do we learn about God, as we interact with our families and with our church, that we wouldn't know otherwise?
  - C. Where do we see family-brokenness in our church today, or in the global Church? What is God doing to heal this brokenness, and what can we do?
- II. The story of the brothers
  - A. What does God do in response to the sin of the brothers? How does God work in similar ways in our lives?
  - B. We see how sinful the brothers are in this passage, and yet they are sons of the promise. What is the effect of God's promise on our lives? Does it make us better people? How does being a son or daughter of the promise change us (how did it change the brothers)?
  - C. In this passage, we see God rescue the brothers from starvation because of his promise to them. What promise has he made to us? When can we be sure of his rescue?
- III. God redeems the sins of our families
  - A. How does God redeem the sins of Joseph's family? How is he redeeming the sins of our own families, and of our church?
  - B. Forgiveness, many times, is the only way to move forward in the face of family-brokenness. How do we define forgiveness in biblical terms (even in terms of this story), and how does our Christian faith uniquely allow us to forgive our families?
  - C. What do we see Joseph doing in response to the redemption of God, and what should we do in response to God's redemption?