

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## Old Testament 2

### Law/Gospel

The sin I refuse to confess troubles my conscience and separates me from others and from God. **In His mercy, God invites me to confess my sins and promises to forgive them for Jesus' sake.**

### Bible Words

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.  
Ephesians 4:32

### Why are evil and suffering in this world?

Evil and suffering are in the world because of sin. But in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has demonstrated His power over sin and death. God in His almighty power and love causes all things to work together for good for those who love Him.

Question 108, *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, Copyright © 1986, 1991 CPH.

## Joseph Forgives

Genesis 42–45; 50:15–21

Joseph and his brothers reunited after twenty-two years. Joseph revealed his identity after testing his brothers to see if they changed. They passed. He saw their love for their father and each other.

Joseph's brothers felt terrified when they realized the second most powerful man in Egypt, the man in charge of food distribution, was their brother. Guilt and shame overwhelmed them. Selling him into slavery and lying to their father about his death cost them much guilt and pain.

Joseph felt differently. He understood God sent him to Egypt to preserve life for his family and for many others. He forgave them. He loved them. And he brought them and their whole family to live in Egypt.

Later, after their father Jacob died, the brothers worried Joseph would take revenge. Instead, Joseph said, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20). God gave Joseph insight to see the big picture and to understand God's work in his life.

### Forgiveness Practice

It can be so difficult for some people to say, "I forgive you." But Christians, loved and redeemed by Jesus Christ through His sacrifice on the cross for our sins, know the sweet release of hearing those words from our pastor during worship or from another Christian.

In his letters, St. Paul teaches Christians how to live. (See Bible Words.) Forgiven, redeemed by the blood of Christ, God's love compels us to live differently from the world, to serve, love, and forgive in His name.

Home is a good place to practice new attitudes and actions. When people disagree or argue, talk about it, share sorrow for sinful actions, and commit to do better. Then, say, "I forgive you in Jesus' name." Sweet words. Loving words. God's words to us and through us to others.

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus, our Redeemer, forgive us when we sin and hurt others with our words and actions. Help us by the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive others in Your name. Amen.*

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