

## Mission Menu

### **COVID Response Fund**

Thank you to all of the generous donors who have contributed to the COVID-19 Response Fund. To date, we have raised \$30,000! This

Please consider a donation to the COVID-19 Response Fund today. Giving is easy; text COVID \$\_\_ (the amount you wish) to 73256, give online, or mail in a check with Response on the memo line to: Kirk in the Hills Attn: Finance Office 1340 W. Long Lake Road Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

### **Lighthouse Collection Drive:**

Thanks to your donations we are well on our way to provide essential items for more than 80 guests being sheltered by Lighthouse! You can continue bringing donations through the summer from the list below and drop off at the Kirk just inside the first Welcome Center door in the Lighthouse Bin between 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. weekdays.

Every donation goes a long way in supporting our Lighthouse friends during these extremely difficult times.

Our goal is to collect 80 of each item so please feel free to purchase any number of the same item:

Hand and Body lotion

Nail Clippers

Comb/brush

Hand Sanitizer

Indoor All Purpose Cleaning supplies - spray

\$4 in quarters for wash and dry

Laundry Detergent and Softener Sheets

Healthy Snacks

Drinks - can or small bottles

Bottles of Juice

Cereal

Personal games

There are a lot of different ways that you can volunteer and connect with the community. Please visit the website: <https://mycovidresponse.org> to see how you can help make a difference during this Pandemic.

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## **Small Groups – Sermon Notes Week of June 28, 2020**

### **Genesis 50:15-21 New International Version (NIV)**

#### **Joseph Reassures His Brothers**

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

<sup>18</sup> His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

### **Matthew 18:21-22**

#### **The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant**

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

### **Fill in the Blanks**

1. While their apology sounds rather contrived and \_\_\_\_\_, Joseph's forgiveness sounds real and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He can forgive because of his \_\_\_\_\_ attitude...

3. \_\_\_\_\_ attitude of forgiveness also acknowledges that forgiveness is not about \_\_\_\_\_.
4. You see, Jewish tradition limited forgiveness to \_\_\_\_\_ times. So when Peter said \_\_\_\_\_ times, he thought he was being much more generous than Jewish tradition...
5. Furthermore, \_\_\_\_\_ attitude of forgiveness is always \_\_\_\_\_."
6. The evil that has been done to you or your loved ones or certain groups of people is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Showing Up

1. Share any sibling (or friend) rivalry you experienced growing up.
2. What's your favorite forgiveness story either from the Bible, real life or anywhere else!
3. What do you think is harder? Forgiving someone or asking someone for forgiveness?

### Digging In

1. Genesis tells the story of Abraham and his descendants. Abraham and Sarah had Isaac who married Rebekah and had Jacob and Esau. Jacob married two sisters, Leah and Rachel, and had 12 sons among which Joseph was his favorite. As we saw in last week's sermon, Abraham had a pretty dysfunctional family. Jacob's family is pretty messy and disturbing as well. What kind of brothers would sell their own brother into slavery?! In fact, many of the families we see in the Bible are quite dysfunctional. Why do you think this is? Why do you think these stories are included in the Bible? What is God's response to our messiness and dysfunction?

2. Pastor Angela talks about the "But God" attitude of Joseph and asks some of our own "But God" moments. Share those moments with one another. What have you learned about forgiveness through those moments?
3. Pastor Angela says forgiveness is always life-giving and pumps life into both the victim and the wrongdoer. Has there been a time when "forgiveness" was life-giving for you? What about to our church? Our society?

### Going Out

1. Who comes to your mind when you think of the person who needs your forgiveness? Pray for that person this week and if possible, reach out to that person.
2. Are there certain groups of people in our community or society to whom we need to ask forgiveness? What does it look like for us as a church to ask for forgiveness to those we have wronged in the past? Recognize those groups of people in your discussion and start to talk about what forgiveness and reconciliation might look like.
3. Say this prayer with your small group and throughout the week:

God of all ages,  
 who from generation to generation  
 has heard the cries of your children  
 humbly seeking forgiveness,  
 and has welcomed sinners  
 back into your embrace,  
 hear the thoughts of our hearts,  
 examine our motives,  
 and forgive us our faults.  
 We ask this through your Son  
 who died and rose that we might know  
 the true cost of forgiveness.  
 AMEN