

**Grace Church of Greenwich
Church Retreat**

**THE LONG FINALE:
*HOW GOD SLOWLY
RESOLVES OUR GUILT,
GRUDGES AND GRIEF***

Genesis 42-46

Speaker: Mark Howard

**Pastor - West Valley Presbyterian Church
Allentown, PA**

**Friday, April 26
6:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Saturday, April 27
8:30 am - 3:00 pm**

Saturday, April 27 Schedule

**8:30 am – 9:30 am Breakfast
9:30 am – 10:30 am Session 1
10:30 am – 11:00 am Coffee Break
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Session 2
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Session 3**

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1. The father's grief

2. The brothers' guilt

3. The governor's grudge

Discussion questions:

- "...and they all lived happily ever after." Why do we enjoy stories that end this way? Why isn't real life like this?
- Which do you resonate with the most: the brothers' guilt, the governor's grudge or the father's grief? If you feel comfortable, share more about why.
- The aim of the 'long ending' of God's redemption story is to show us what *God* is able to do. How might knowing this change the way you approach hardships?

In his grace, the Lord...

1. Exposes our hearts

2. Changes our hearts

Discussion questions:

- Repentance is an essential part of living together as a church family. Why is it so important?
- We often find it very hard to recognize our own sin. Why is this? What are some of the ways God exposes our own hearts to us?
- The story of Judah shows that God can change hearts. How does this give *you* hope? Why do we struggle to believe this?

True forgiveness...

1. Depends on repentance

2. Leads to reconciliation

3. Flows from recognizing God's saving purposes

Discussion questions:

- Do you agree that true forgiveness depends on repentance? What does this imply for i) our relationship with God and ii) our relationships with one another?
- How does Joseph serve as a model for the way God forgives us in Christ?
- Why does knowing the 'big picture' of God's plans help us to forgive? How can we help one another remember his big plans on a day to day basis?