



Owasso First Assembly

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# The power of forgiveness breaks the chains of offense

**Vault verse for February: Colossians 3:13 (NLT)** *Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*

1. Offense can happen accidentally or intentionally.
2. How you respond to an offense will impact your life greatly. You can become bitter or better.
3. How you respond to an offense reveals your trust in God.
4. Developing an attitude of forgiveness and blessing will keep you from becoming bitter.

## 1. Joseph was betrayed by his brothers. Gen 37

1. Joseph reported his half-brothers' bad behavior to his father. Gen 37:2
2. Jacob, the father, loved Joseph more than any of his other children and showed it by giving him a highly visible gift. 37:3,4a
3. Joseph's brothers hated him and could not speak peacefully with him. 37:4b
4. Joseph had some dreams that infuriated his brothers. 37:5-11
5. Joseph was oblivious to their feelings. 37:12-17
6. When his brothers saw him—they made plans to kill him. 37: 18-24
7. A caravan of Ishmaelite traders from Midian came by and the brothers sold him as a slave for 8 ounces of silver. 37:25-30
8. The brothers deceived their father into thinking Joseph had been killed by a wild animal causing him to grieve deeply. 31-35

## 2. Joseph was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife. Gen 39

1. Joseph was sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, who was captain of the palace guards. 37:36
2. The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did. 39:2
3. Joseph was promoted and became Potiphar's personal attendant. 39:3
4. Joseph was blessed, and Potiphar was the recipient of this blessing. 39:5
5. Potiphar's wife desires Joseph but he is unyielding toward her advances. 39:7-12
6. She accuses Joseph of attempting to rape her. 39:11-18

## 3. Joseph was forgotten in prison. Gen 40-41

1. Joseph was thrown into prison. 39:20

2. Joseph was given the assignment of being over all the prisoners. 39:21-23
3. Joseph interprets the dreams of the chief cup bearer and the chief baker. 40:1-22
4. The chief cup bearer is asked to remember Joseph. 40:12-15
5. The cup bearer forgot all about Joseph. 40:23
6. Two years later, Pharaoh has a dream and that is when the cup bearer remembers Joseph. 41:1, 2-8, 9-13
7. Pharaoh sent for Joseph immediately. 41:14
8. Joseph interprets the dreams and gives a plan of action. 41:15-37
9. Joseph is placed in charge as second in command under Pharaoh. 41:38-44
10. He is given a new name which is believed to mean, "God speaks and lives."

#### **4. Joseph is given the opportunity for vengeance. Gen 42-50**

1. When the famine occurs, Joseph's brothers go to Egypt to buy grain. 41:54-42:2
2. Joseph recognized them, but they don't recognize him. 42:8
3. The brothers had been strongly affected by what they did to Joseph many years earlier. 42:21
4. Joseph puts them through a series of challenging situations. 43-44
5. Joseph reveals himself and assures them of his intentions to provide for them. 45:15

### **5 Keys to forgiving others**

1. Trust God and focus on His blessings not the offense of man.

**Genesis 41:50–52 (NLT)** <sup>50</sup> *During this time, before the first of the famine years, two sons were born to Joseph . . .* <sup>51</sup> *Joseph named his older son **Manasseh**, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family."* <sup>52</sup> *Joseph named his second son **Ephraim**, for he said, "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief."*

2. Forgive quickly. Matt 5:23-24; Eph 4:26-27
3. Forgive frequently. Matt 18:21-22
4. Forgive completely. Matt 6:14-15
5. Forgive in the same way you have been forgiven.

☞ **Ephesians 4:32:** *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

☞ **Colossians 3:13:** *"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."*