

THE TEST OF TEN BROTHERS

12 NOVEMBER 2023



“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

— Genesis 50:20 (NIV)



EVERY NATION
SINGAPORE

HOOK



Start the conversation by saying...

“Enemies can be easier to handle than friends turned enemies because with enemies, you can expect their hostility. But the actions of a friend turned enemy can devastate.” — Anonymous

ENGAGE



Go deeper with this...

Have you ever had a friend who turned into an enemy?

LINK



Connect to God's truth by sharing...

- When we are offended by a friend, we can develop unforgiveness and bitterness.
- When we are unforgiving and bitter, it's easier for us to sin and even spread this poison to others.
- But when faced with his brothers, who had sold him into Egypt, Joseph did not abuse his position of power.
- Instead, he acknowledged the wrong they had done to him, and showed them how God had sovereignly turned a bad situation to His purpose.
- We can pass the test of offense if we see God's purpose behind it.
- Jesus is our ultimate example of forgiveness and reconciliation, showing us how to love our enemies and forgive as God forgave us.

PAUSE

 Pick a question and pray together...

Discuss Together (*pick one*)

- Think of someone who offended you. How might you see God's purpose behind it?
- Think of someone you might have offended. How can you begin the process of reconciliation?

Pray Together (*pick one*)

- Pray to be ministers of reconciliation, and pray to be healed from any unforgiveness or bitterness that may linger from offense.
- Pray for any particular situation where you may be experiencing offense. Pray for all those involved, and pray to see God's sovereign purpose behind the situation.

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³⁵“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back.

Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

— Luke 6:35–36 (NIV)

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation . . .

— 2 Corinthians 5:18 (NIV)