

**The Story of God: The Bible as Narrative**  
**Act 2 Scenes 1b – Genesis Chapters 12-**  
**Community Life Group Questions**

1. Read Genesis 45:1-8. This statement by Joseph in verse 7, where have you heard this in the Narrative? Who else has God used to do this? Is this significant? What, think big Story, is God doing and saying in this verse?
  
2. Read Genesis 45:8. What does this mean? We know that God does not sin. We also know mankind has free choice as exhibited by Joseph's brothers who WERE the ones that sold him into slavery. SO reconcile the brothers choice with God's role and this verse.
  
3. Read Genesis 45:5. Why does Joseph make this first statement to his brothers? What is weird about this statement? With the surrounding verses, what is it that helps Joseph come to this conclusion? How does Joseph's sense of the GREATER STORY help him?
  
4. Abraham you could say was a liar (see the story about calling his wife his sister). Isaac was both a liar (same lie about his own wife) and a glutton. Jacob was a cheat (see Laban). Joseph was the a) firstborn of his mother Rachel, the TRUE intended of Jacob, who b) doesn't have any directly explicit sin mentioned of him and is known as c) the added one and d) who RESCUES his family. First, with all the marks against these first 3 guys, how does God CALL HIMSELF BY NAME the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? How is God's thoughts toward us defined? And with Joseph, think big Story, how is Joseph's role essential?