

Parish Church of **St. Barnabas, Swanland** *Sharing Christ through friendship.*
 Cell Group notes, w/beg. Sunday **11/10/15** (Trinity 19). Readings: Genesis 42
By the grace of God (Joseph): 4 – Joseph’s dealings with his brothers – and God’s with us

Welcome	Can you give a personal example of being reconciled to someone? How did it happen?
Worship	<i>Suggested songs: Songs of Fellowship: 19 Amazing Grace; 419 O let the Son of God enfold you; 475 Purify my heart; 1177 Who is there like you? 1188 Befriended (NB: 20 files containing about 30 newer songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)</i>
	<i>The sermon from Sunday’s service is available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the ‘Downloads’ tab)</i>
Read Genesis 42:1-28	<p><i>We continue with the Joseph story, following on from the end of ch. 41. If time, read the whole of chapter 42 (about 7 minutes - different people could read the words of Jacob/ Joseph/ the brothers/ Reuben) and look quickly through ch. 43.</i></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 0;"/> <p>vv.1-6 – With famine in Canaan (see 41:56-57), Jacob urges his sons to go to Egypt to buy grain. Why might they not have been so keen to journey to Egypt (see 37:28)?</p> <p>vv.6-17 - ‘God here is awakening the brother’s consciences to their wrongdoing of 22 years ago’. Do you agree? Or is simply Joseph manipulating the situation to get revenge? Joseph had been betrayed by his brothers, and seems to want to see that they are made to face up to the wrong they have done. Was he right to do this? If he was truly seeking their welfare, how did this course of action achieve that aim?</p> <p>If someone has wronged you, do agree that sometimes ‘you have to be cruel to be kind’? What prior steps might be needed when you want to be reconciled to them? Do you sometimes need to take action yourself, or is it best just to leave it all to God?</p> <p>vv.18-28 – Joseph has accused the brothers of being ‘spies’, and they claim they are ‘honest’ (two key words here). Why do think he had their money put back in their sacks? To bless them? To test their integrity? Both? Some other reason? What effect did finding the money have on their consciences?</p> <p>Note Joseph’s compassion for his brothers (v.24) and his relatively gentle treatment of them. How does this reflect God’s dealings with us in the face of our sins? (cf. Psalm 103:8-10 and Romans 2:4).</p>
Read Genesis 42:29-38	Back in Canaan, the brothers recount to their father what has happened. How does their earlier mistreatment of Joseph make it even more difficult for them to do what they have promised him (v.38)? How would they be feeling now? Would they be experiencing the truth that ‘your sins will find you out’?
Witness	<p>Pray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project ❖ for situations where reconciliation is needed (in your own lives or others you know of) ❖ for opportunities to invite people to forthcoming events – e.g. Remembrance Day services – and perhaps a social around the coming half term.