

"KEEP IT SHUT": QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 2 (PGS. 21-41)

To be discussed Wednesday Class, Oct. 21 OR Sunday Class, Oct. 25

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR US TO DISCUSS THIS CHAPTER AS A CLASS.

CHAPTER 2: SQUABBLES, SPATS, & SUCH: How to Communicate with Family, Friends, and Other Necessary People

1. FROM PG. 21-22: **PROVERBS 10:12-13a** "HATRED STIRS UP CONFLICT, BUT LOVE COVERS OVER ALL WRONGS. WISDOM IS FOUND ON THE LIPS OF THE DISCERNING..."
 - 1A. Explain the differences between the author's personality and her husband's.
 - 1B. FROM PG. 23: Do you live or work with someone who either has a polar opposite personality or does things in a way you never would? Does this ever make you use your words in a wrong way? If so, how?
 - 1C. FROM PG. 23-25: Do you ever find yourself able to keep your composure & not say something you will regret when dealing with a frustrating non-family member but with members of your own family you say unkind things all the time? Why do you think this is?
 - 1D. FROM PG. 25: **GALATIANS 5:16** "SO I SAY, LET THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDE YOUR LIVES. THEN YOU WON'T BE DOING WHAT YOUR SINFUL NATURE CRAVES." Why do we REALLY struggle with the words we speak to those closest to us?
2. FROM PG. 26-30: Read Genesis 37-50 for the entire story. EXCERPTS FROM GENESIS 37-50: **GENESIS 37** "THIS IS THE ACCOUNT OF JACOB & HIS FAMILY. WHEN JOSEPH WAS SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD, HE OFTEN TENDED HIS FATHER'S FLOCKS. HE WORKED FOR HIS HALF BROTHERS, BUT JOSEPH REPORTED TO HIS FATHER SOME OF THE BAD THINGS HIS BROTHERS WERE DOING. JACOB LOVED JOSEPH MORE THAN ANY OF HIS OTHER CHILDREN BECAUSE JOSEPH HAD BEEN BORN TO HIM IN HIS OLD AGE. SO ONE DAY JACOB HAD A SPECIAL GIFT MADE FOR JOSEPH—A BEAUTIFUL ROBE. BUT HIS BROTHERS HATED JOSEPH BECAUSE THEIR FATHER LOVED HIM MORE THAN THE REST OF THEM. THEY COULDN'T SAY A KIND WORD TO HIM. ONE NIGHT JOSEPH HAD A DREAM, & WHEN HE TOLD HIS BROTHERS ABOUT IT, THEY HATED HIM MORE THAN EVER. "GO & SEE HOW YOUR BROTHERS & THE FLOCKS ARE GETTING ALONG," JACOB SAID. "THEN COME BACK & BRING ME A REPORT." SO JACOB SENT HIM ON HIS WAY. WHEN JOSEPH'S BROTHERS SAW HIM COMING, THEY MADE PLANS TO KILL HIM. JUDAH SAID TO HIS BROTHERS, "WHAT WILL WE GAIN BY KILLING OUR BROTHER? WE'D HAVE TO COVER UP THE CRIME. INSTEAD OF HURTING HIM, LET'S SELL HIM TO THOSE ISHMAELITE TRADERS. AFTER ALL, HE IS OUR BROTHER—OUR OWN FLESH & BLOOD!" AND HIS BROTHERS AGREED. SO WHEN THE ISHMAELITES, WHO WERE MIDIANITE TRADERS, CAME BY, JOSEPH'S BROTHERS PULLED HIM OUT OF THE CISTERN & SOLD HIM TO THEM FOR TWENTY PIECES OF SILVER. **GENESIS 39** "WHEN JOSEPH WAS TAKEN TO EGYPT BY THE ISHMAELITE TRADERS, HE WAS PURCHASED BY POTIPHAR, AN EGYPTIAN OFFICER. POTIPHAR WAS CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD FOR PHARAOH, THE KING OF EGYPT. THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH, SO HE SUCCEEDED IN EVERYTHING HE DID AS HE SERVED IN THE HOME OF HIS EGYPTIAN MASTER. JOSEPH WAS A VERY HANDSOME & WELL-BUILT YOUNG MAN, & POTIPHAR'S WIFE SOON BEGAN TO LOOK AT HIM LUSTFULLY. "COME & SLEEP WITH ME," SHE DEMANDED. BUT JOSEPH REFUSED. "LOOK," HE TOLD HER, "MY MASTER TRUSTS ME WITH EVERYTHING IN HIS ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD. HOW COULD I DO SUCH A WICKED THING? IT WOULD BE A GREAT SIN AGAINST GOD." SHE CAME & GRABBED HIM BY HIS CLOAK, JOSEPH TORE HIMSELF AWAY, BUT HE LEFT HIS CLOAK IN HER HAND AS HE RAN FROM THE HOUSE. SHE CALLED OUT TO HER SERVANTS. SOON ALL THE MEN CAME RUNNING. "LOOK!" SHE SAID. "HE CAME INTO MY ROOM TO RAPE ME, BUT I SCREAMED. POTIPHAR WAS FURIOUS WHEN HE HEARD HIS WIFE'S STORY ABOUT HOW JOSEPH HAD TREATED HER. SO HE TOOK JOSEPH & THREW HIM INTO THE PRISON WHERE THE KING'S PRISONERS WERE HELD, & THERE HE REMAINED. AND THE LORD MADE JOSEPH A FAVORITE WITH THE PRISON WARDEN. BEFORE LONG, THE WARDEN PUT JOSEPH IN CHARGE OF ALL THE OTHER PRISONERS & OVER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN THE PRISON. THE LORD WAS WITH HIM & CAUSED EVERYTHING HE DID TO SUCCEED." **GENESIS 41** "TWO FULL YEARS LATER, PHARAOH DREAMED. PHARAOH SENT FOR JOSEPH AT ONCE, & HE WAS QUICKLY BROUGHT FROM THE PRISON. THEN PHARAOH SAID TO JOSEPH, "I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT, & NO ONE HERE CAN TELL ME WHAT IT MEANS. BUT I HAVE HEARD THAT WHEN YOU HEAR ABOUT A DREAM YOU CAN INTERPRET IT." "IT IS BEYOND MY POWER TO DO THIS," JOSEPH REPLIED. "BUT GOD CAN TELL YOU WHAT IT MEANS & SET YOU AT EASE." SO PHARAOH TOLD JOSEPH HIS DREAM. JOSEPH RESPONDED, "BOTH OF PHARAOH'S DREAMS MEAN THE SAME THING. GOD IS TELLING PHARAOH IN ADVANCE WHAT HE IS ABOUT TO DO. THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS WILL BE A PERIOD OF GREAT PROSPERITY THROUGHOUT THE LAND OF EGYPT. BUT AFTERWARD THERE WILL BE SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE SO GREAT THAT ALL THE PROSPERITY WILL BE FORGOTTEN IN EGYPT. FAMINE WILL DESTROY THE LAND. "THEREFORE, PHARAOH SHOULD FIND AN INTELLIGENT & WISE MAN & PUT HIM IN CHARGE OF THE ENTIRE LAND OF EGYPT. THEN PHARAOH SHOULD APPOINT SUPERVISORS OVER THE LAND & LET THEM COLLECT ONE-FIFTH OF ALL THE CROPS DURING THE SEVEN GOOD YEARS. STORE IT AWAY, & GUARD IT SO THERE WILL BE FOOD IN THE CITIES. THAT WAY THERE WILL BE ENOUGH TO EAT WHEN THE SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE COME TO THE

LAND OF EGYPT. OTHERWISE THIS FAMINE WILL DESTROY THE LAND." THEN PHARAOH SAID TO JOSEPH, "SINCE GOD HAS REVEALED THE MEANING OF THE DREAMS TO YOU, CLEARLY NO ONE ELSE IS AS INTELLIGENT OR WISE AS YOU ARE. YOU WILL BE IN CHARGE OF MY COURT, & ALL MY PEOPLE WILL TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU. ONLY I, SITTING ON MY THRONE, WILL HAVE A RANK HIGHER THAN YOURS." PHARAOH SAID TO JOSEPH, "I HEREBY PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE ENTIRE LAND OF EGYPT." THEN THE SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE BEGAN, JUST AS JOSEPH HAD PREDICTED. THE FAMINE ALSO STRUCK ALL THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES, BUT THROUGHOUT EGYPT THERE WAS PLENTY OF FOOD. AND PEOPLE FROM ALL AROUND CAME TO EGYPT TO BUY GRAIN FROM JOSEPH BECAUSE THE FAMINE WAS SEVERE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD." GENESIS 42 "WHEN JACOB HEARD THAT GRAIN WAS AVAILABLE IN EGYPT, HE SAID TO HIS SONS, "I HAVE HEARD THERE IS GRAIN IN EGYPT. GO DOWN THERE, & BUY ENOUGH GRAIN TO KEEP US ALIVE. OTHERWISE WE'LL DIE." SO JOSEPH'S TEN OLDER BROTHERS WENT DOWN TO EGYPT TO BUY GRAIN. SINCE JOSEPH WAS GOVERNOR OF ALL EGYPT & IN CHARGE OF SELLING GRAIN TO ALL THE PEOPLE, IT WAS TO HIM THAT HIS BROTHERS CAME. WHEN THEY ARRIVED, THEY BOWED BEFORE HIM WITH THEIR FACES TO THE GROUND. ALTHOUGH JOSEPH RECOGNIZED HIS BROTHERS, THEY DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM. HE SAID TO THEM, "YOU ARE SPIES! YOU HAVE COME TO SEE HOW VULNERABLE OUR LAND HAS BECOME." SO JOSEPH PUT THEM ALL IN PRISON FOR THREE DAYS. SPEAKING AMONG THEMSELVES, THEY SAID, "CLEARLY WE ARE BEING PUNISHED BECAUSE OF WHAT WE DID TO JOSEPH LONG AGO. OF COURSE, THEY DIDN'T KNOW THAT JOSEPH UNDERSTOOD THEM, FOR HE HAD BEEN SPEAKING TO THEM THROUGH AN INTERPRETER. NOW HE TURNED AWAY FROM THEM & BEGAN TO WEEP." GENESIS 45 "JOSEPH COULD STAND IT NO LONGER. THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE IN THE ROOM, & HE SAID TO HIS ATTENDANTS, "OUT, ALL OF YOU!" SO HE WAS ALONE WITH HIS BROTHERS WHEN HE TOLD THEM WHO HE WAS. THEN HE BROKE DOWN & WEPT. HE WEPT SO LOUDLY THE EGYPTIANS COULD HEAR HIM, & WORD OF IT QUICKLY CARRIED TO PHARAOH'S PALACE. "I AM JOSEPH!" HE SAID TO HIS BROTHERS. "IS MY FATHER STILL ALIVE?" BUT HIS BROTHERS WERE SPEECHLESS! THEY WERE STUNNED TO REALIZE THAT JOSEPH WAS STANDING THERE IN FRONT OF THEM. AND HE SAID AGAIN, "I AM JOSEPH, YOUR BROTHER, WHOM YOU SOLD INTO SLAVERY IN EGYPT. BUT DON'T BE UPSET, & DON'T BE ANGRY WITH YOURSELVES FOR SELLING ME TO THIS PLACE. IT WAS GOD WHO SENT ME HERE AHEAD OF YOU TO PRESERVE YOUR LIVES. THIS FAMINE THAT HAS RAVAGED THE LAND FOR TWO YEARS WILL LAST FIVE MORE YEARS, & THERE WILL BE NEITHER PLOWING NOR HARVESTING. GOD HAS SENT ME AHEAD OF YOU TO KEEP YOU & YOUR FAMILIES ALIVE & TO PRESERVE MANY SURVIVORS. SO IT WAS GOD WHO SENT ME HERE, NOT YOU! AND HE IS THE ONE WHO MADE ME AN ADVISER TO PHARAOH—THE MANAGER OF HIS ENTIRE PALACE & THE GOVERNOR OF ALL EGYPT. THEN JOSEPH KISSED EACH OF HIS BROTHERS & WEPT OVER THEM, & AFTER THAT THEY BEGAN TALKING FREELY WITH HIM." GENESIS 50 "BUT JOSEPH REPLIED, "DON'T BE AFRAID OF ME. AM I GOD, THAT I CAN PUNISH YOU? YOU INTENDED TO HARM ME, BUT GOD INTENDED IT ALL FOR GOOD. HE BROUGHT ME TO THIS POSITION SO I COULD SAVE THE LIVES OF MANY PEOPLE. NO, DON'T BE AFRAID. I WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU & YOUR CHILDREN." SO HE REASSURED THEM BY SPEAKING KINDLY TO THEM."

FILL IN THE BLANKS below on lessons we can learn from Joseph about our words.

2A. FROM PG. 31, LESSON #1: BEWARE OF **B** _____ & THE IMPACT YOUR **G** _____
N _____ COULD HAVE ON OTHERS.

What new thought did you learn about your words from Joseph?

1 CORINTHIANS 1:31 "SO THAT, AS IT IS WRITTEN, 'LET THE ONE WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.' "

2B. FROM PG. 31-32, LESSON #2: SAY WHAT **H** _____ GOD, NOT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE WANT TO HEAR.

What new thought did you learn about your words from Joseph?

PROVERBS 15:28 "THE HEART OF THE RIGHTEOUS WEIGHS ITS ANSWERS, BUT THE MOUTH OF THE WICKED GUSHES EVIL."

2C. FROM PG. 32-33, LESSON #3: REALIZE THAT **L** _____ ARE THE MINUSCULE SNOWFLAKES IN A MONUMENTAL SNOWBALL.

What new thought did you learn about your words from Joseph?

JOHN 8:44 "YOU BELONG TO YOUR FATHER, THE DEVIL, & YOU WANT TO CARRY OUT YOUR FATHER'S DESIRES. HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, NOT HOLDING TO THE TRUTH, FOR THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM. WHEN HE LIES, HE SPEAKS HIS NATIVE LANGUAGE, FOR HE IS A LIAR & THE FATHER OF LIES."

2D. FROM PG. 33-34, LESSON #4: GIVE GOD **C** _____ WHERE CREDIT IS DUE.

What new thought did you learn about your words from Joseph?

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7 "WE NOW HAVE THIS LIGHT SHINING IN OUR HEARTS, BUT WE OURSELVES ARE LIKE FRAGILE CLAY JARS CONTAINING THIS GREAT TREASURE. THIS MAKES IT CLEAR THAT OUR GREAT POWER IS FROM GOD, NOT FROM OURSELVES."

2E. FROM PG. 34-35, LESSON #5: WATCH YOUR WORDS IN THE **W**_____.

What new thought did you learn about your words from Joseph?

PSALM 141:3 "SET A GUARD OVER MY MOUTH, LORD; KEEP WATCH OVER THE DOOR OF MY LIPS."

2F. FROM PG. 34-35, LESSON #6: JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE A **R**_____ TO RETALIATE DOES NOT MEAN YOU'RE **J**_____ IN DOING SO.

What new thought did you learn about your words from Joseph?

1 PETER 3:9-10 "DO NOT REPAY EVIL WITH EVIL OR INSULT WITH INSULT. ON THE CONTRARY, REPAY EVIL WITH BLESSING, BECAUSE TO THIS YOU WERE CALLED SO THAT YOU MAY INHERIT A BLESSING. FOR, "WHOEVER WOULD LOVE LIFE & SEE GOOD DAYS MUST KEEP THEIR TONGUE FROM EVIL & THEIR LIPS FROM DECEITFUL SPEECH."

2G. FROM PG. 35-36, LESSON #7: DON'T BE **G**_____!

What new thought did you learn about your words from Joseph?

GENESIS 50:19a "AM I IN THE PLACE OF GOD?"

2H. FROM PG. 36-37, LESSON #8: DO BE **N**_____.

What new thought did you learn about your words from Joseph?

GENESIS 50:21 "HE REASSURED THEM & SPOKE KINDLY TO THEM."

3. FROM PG. 38: We are commanded to speak words laced with GRACE. Define GRACE as the author does.

4. FROM PG. 38-41: Read the Scriptures below and answer the questions.

4A. **EPHESIANS 2:8-9** "GOD SAVED YOU BY HIS GRACE WHEN YOU BELIEVED. AND YOU CAN'T TAKE CREDIT FOR THIS; IT IS A GIFT FROM GOD. SALVATION IS NOT A REWARD FOR THE GOOD THINGS WE HAVE DONE, SO NONE OF US CAN BOAST ABOUT IT." How do we get this grace that is supposed to lace all our words?

4B. **PSALM 86:15** "BUT YOU, LORD, ARE A COMPASSIONATE & GRACIOUS GOD, SLOW TO ANGER, ABOUNDING IN LOVE & FAITHFULNESS."

Describe our wonderful God using this verse.

How did you mirror God with your words today like this? Give an example.

4C. **COLOSSIANS 4:6** "LET YOUR CONVERSATION BE ALWAYS FULL OF GRACE, SEASONED WITH SALT, SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW HOW TO ANSWER EVERYONE."

What does salt have the ability to do?

How can seasoning our words with salt be effective in our daily conversations?

4D. **PROVERBS 15:26** "THE LORD DETESTS THE THOUGHTS OF THE WICKED, BUT GRACIOUS WORDS ARE PURE IN HIS SIGHT."

What should be the motive of our hearts as we talk to others and to ourselves?

4E. FROM PG. 39: **PROVERBS 16:24** "GRACIOUS WORDS ARE A HONEYCOMB, SWEET TO THE SOUL & HEALING TO THE BONES."

What happens to our struggling relationships when we choose to lace our words with grace & favor? What person is the Holy Spirit asking you to specifically begin speaking graciously to?

4F. **PROVERBS 10:12-13** "HATRED STIRS UP CONFLICT, BUT LOVE COVERS OVER ALL WRONGS. WISDOM IS FOUND ON THE LIPS OF THE DISCERNING..."

Give the two practical day to day illustrations on page 40 that show us how to put this verse into practice.

5. Which Lesson about Joseph (from question 4) is the Holy Spirit speaking most to your heart about? Explain why.

6. FROM PG. 40, BOOK QUOTE: "**DON'T SAY SOMETHING PERMANENTLY PAINFUL JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE TEMPORARILY TICKED OFF.**" How could putting this into practice change some of your interactions with people today?

7. FROM PG. 40-41: What does the author mean when she says that all the humans you encounter throughout the course of the day are "ON PURPOSE" PEOPLE?

8. FROM PG. 41, BOOK QUOTE: "OTHERS CAN CATCH A QUICK GLIMPSE OF JESUS WHEN THEY SEE US SPEAK & ACT IN WAYS THAT HONOR HIM & LINE UP WITH GOD'S WORD. OTHERS ARE WATCHING, SIZING UP HOW WE BEHAVE. WHAT WILL THEY SEE? STIRRED UP STRIFE -- OR LOVINGLY COVERED OFFENSES? SPEECH THAT INCITES SPATS & SQUABBLES? OR SPEECH THAT SOOTHES & HEALS? YOU CHOOSE. (PSSST... THE CORRECT ANSWER IS "G." "GRACE.")

What adjustments is the Holy Spirit asking you to make to your language to enable your words to be more grace-laced?