

**ChristChurch London Life Group Discussion Outline – 17/08/08**  
**“Joseph: A lesson in forgiveness” – Rhys Scott**

**Read Genesis 41v41-42v29**

*Consider...*

*Joseph is, in many ways, the model believer. When he is put in a distressing situation he trusts God and gradually rises above it. He shows great skill and hard work, quickly taking on significant responsibility in every situation he finds himself in. When he is tempted he runs! When he is sold into slavery, falsely accused and imprisoned and forgotten he doesn't think of getting even. He walks with God, seeking to forgive and forget.*

1. Spend some time discussing the qualities of Joseph that made him so obviously the man for the job when Pharaoh needed someone to administrate food for the famine years.
2. Ask yourselves, "How can we develop these same attributes so that we could become people who carry righteousness, integrity, and a witness for Jesus into significant responsibility within our city in the years to come?"
3. In the story we see that Joseph begins to walk a path of forgiveness with the naming of his sons. He makes a decision to leave the past behind. Have there been times when you've made a decision to forgive someone? What did that feel like, and how has it worked out?
4. Having made the decision, when Joseph is confronted with his brothers, he finds that he really has to embrace the forgiveness which he has decided to give. Corrie Ten Boom had the same experience when she met one of her captors from the Ravensbruck concentration camp. How can we walk through moments like this? Have any of the group had experiences like this that they feel happy to share?
5. It may be that people would like to have the opportunity to pray about people they have yet to forgive. Maybe break up into twos and threes for this and encourage people to make a start on the journey of forgiveness by making a decision to forgive.