



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 13: Revenge?

Suggested Week of Use: May 26, 2024

Core Passage: Genesis 50:15-26

News Story Summary

Negotiations in Cairo to end the Israel-Hamas War reached an impasse earlier this month. Instead of progress, confusion reigned. Hamas initially said it would accept the terms of a cease-fire presented by Egyptian officials. After reviewing the proposal, however, Israeli officials rejected the plan because it strayed from certain key requirements. Despite the confusion and questions surrounding the process, the sides continue to work with mediators from Egypt and Qatar in hopes of ending the hostilities and freeing captives.

For more about this story, search “Israel Hamas negotiations Cairo.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, summarize the confusion surrounding negotiations in the ongoing Israel-Hamas War. Encourage adults to suggest things that are necessary for two sides in any conflict to reach an agreement. If it’s not mentioned, emphasize that such a commitment must come from a place of trust. Point out that in Genesis, Joseph trusted God to help him reconcile with family members who had mistreated him. Emphasize that he also did everything he could to assure them that they could trust him. Share that this lesson brings the study of Genesis to a close as it focuses on Joseph’s ongoing efforts to calm his brothers’ fears and to express a deep trust in God.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, review the primary points from the session. Remind adults about the difficulties faced by individuals and groups trying to resolve the current conflict in the Middle East. Note that conflict is always hard to navigate, whether on a global scale or a personal scale. Lead the group to think about a “peace plan” that they may have been a part of, whether it involved a personal relationship, something at work, or a conflict at church. Ask: **How could elements like grace and patience and humility have an impact on such disputes?** Discuss responses. Challenge the group to spend time during the week reflecting on Joseph’s example of conflict resolution and to consider how that example could help them deal with some hard situations in their lives.