July 12, 2026 **Pastor Andy McClellan**

Title: "Life Through the Son"
Series: Genesis: Beginnings
Text: Genesis 44-45

1. The **SUBSTITUTING** son offers himself for his brothers, 44:1-34 *(see also 37:26-35; 42:15; Isaiah 53:4-6; John 10:17-18; 13:34-35; 15:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-8).*

2. The **SENT** son offers forgiveness and fellowship, 45:1-15 *(see also 50:19-20; Psalm 105:16-17; Luke 15:20--24; John 3:16-17; 17:18; Romans 5:10-11; Ephesians 2:13-18; Hebrews 4:14-16).*

3. The **SOVEREIGN** son offers life in his presence, 45:9-28 *(see also 37:8; Psalm 16:11; Isaiah 55:1-3; John 10:10; 17:2-3; Colossians 1:13-14; Revelation 22:1-5).*

FOR FURTHER STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. Compare the attitude and behavior of Joseph's brothers in Gen. 37:12-36 and 44:3-34. How have the brothers changed? How does Judah's willingness to give himself up as a substitute for Benjamin reflect both true repentance and a sacrificial love for others? Why is sacrifice and love for others a fruit of repentance? How is it a reflection of Christ? When we don't see it in ourselves, what should we do? See the cross references in point 1 above for help.
2. As a result of Judah's speech in ch. 44, Joseph is brought to tears in ch. 45. Why do you think he was so emotional? When he revealed himself to his brothers, why were they so dismayed (terrified); what fears might have come to their minds? If you had been Joseph in this scenario, what might you have been tempted to do? With that in mind why is Joseph's response so notable, and how was it only possible because of Joseph's faith in the plan and power of God? In the same way, how is our ability to forgive anchored to and empowered by our faith in God? Consequently, what should we do when are resistant to forgive? While Joseph is a good model for this, why is Jesus's life an even better example?
3. In 45:4-28, how does Joseph indicate his desire to be *with* his family? What is the connection between the promises he makes and his presence with them? What does Pharaoh's generosity reveal about Joseph's standing in Egypt? How is Joseph's family the recipient of blessings that they haven't earned, but that are a result of Joseph's life? How does this point us to the blessings that we receive in the presence of Jesus, not because of our performance, but because of His?
4. In what ways do the lives of Judah and Joseph point to the life of Jesus? How does our journey through the book of Genesis help you understand texts like Luke 24:26-27 and John 5:39? Why is learning the Old Testament so important in sharing the Gospel (see also Acts 8:30-35)? If you were to share the Gospel beginning in Genesis, how would you do it? Try it with a family member or friend.

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 46, Pastor Asa Hart
© 2026 Damascus Community Church, www.damascuscc.org