

## Next week in worship: Come Closer: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

The story of Joseph is only paralleled by the story of Christ in its profound grace and forgiveness. A man who experienced the total depravity of love and human dignity by his own family extended a love so great, it was unthinkable. I've heard this saying, "Maybe God can forgive them, because I'm not capable of forgiving \_\_\_\_\_ (insert whatever the unforgivable sin is)." However, this story teaches something very different. It doesn't excuse or ignore sin or the gravity and impact of sin on the lives of others. It meets sin face to face. Joseph extended total undeserved love without expectation or repentance. How could he do that? How is it possible to love another person, or better yet-our community, so unconditionally? How do we love people who have treated us terribly? As Joseph beckoned his brothers, he beckons us to come closer— to God, to one another, to our communities.

Come closer, Feb 24, 2019!