



Joseph Reveals Himself

Genesis 44:18-34; 45:1-15, 25-28

Level C

Ages 11-14

Life Focus: I can be compassionate and forgiving.

Story Summary: Judah came forward and begged Joseph to make him a slave so that Benjamin could return home to his father. On hearing this Joseph sent the Egyptians out and revealed his true identity. Dismayed, the brothers were speechless as he asked after their father. Joseph acknowledged how they had treated him, but told them not to be angry with themselves. He said that *God* had sent him to Egypt to save lives during the famine. He sent word to his father to hurry and come to Egypt. He promised to care for the family in the land of Goshen. He kissed Benjamin and his other brothers, and they talked. Pharaoh was pleased and offered Joseph's family the best of the land. He sent them away with carts and food for their journey. Joseph gave them clothing, and to Benjamin he gave five changes of clothing and silver. Jacob's heart stood still in disbelief at the news that Joseph was alive, and he determined that he would go and see him.

Lesson 6

Materials Needed

		<i>Supplied with Lesson</i>	<i>Additional Materials</i>
1. Getting Started (2-3 min)	Welcome Warm-up Activity	Welcome Warm-up Activity directions p. 54	large piece of paper, scissors <i>optional:</i> red paper
2. Focus on the Word use all activities (5-7 min)	Read the Word Talk About It story discussion	Talk About It discussion guide p. 54	Bible or copy of Genesis 44:18-34; 45:1-15, 25-28
3. Engage with the Word choose 1 or 2 activities (15-20 min)	Video watch a video about the impact that the quality represented by Benjamin can make in your life; discuss	It Doesn't Work Without Benjamin online at www.bitly.com/It_DoesntWorkWithoutBenjamin discussion questions p. 55	computer or other viewing device - watch online or download; see p. 4 for downloading directions
	Read and Discuss read news headlines and decide whether forgiveness or consequences are best	Forgiveness Headlines directions pp. 55-56 <i>Painesville Pardoners</i> p. 58 <i>Painesville Pardoners Questions</i> p. 59	pens or pencils
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 min)	Take the Message Home a door hanger with a summary of the lesson and activities	Joseph Reveals Himself Door Hanger p. 60	color version available at www.newchurch.org/youth-journey-programs

1. Getting Started

Welcome Warm-up Activity

The Wrinkled Heart

Materials needed: scissors, large piece of paper

Seat children on the floor in a circle. Start talking about how the different ways in which we talk to others can leave them feeling good or can hurt their feelings. As you talk cut a heart out of a large piece of paper. Ask children to give examples of things that may hurt. As each child says something hurtful, fold or wrinkle part of the heart. Eventually the heart will be quite wrinkled. Say, “Each time we say something hurtful to another person, we can provide the hearts with an opportunity to put a wrinkle in that person’s heart.”

Now, invite the children to say things that might make someone feel good. Unfold the heart with each response. Once the heart is completely unfolded point out that you cannot get all the wrinkles out. Our hearts can have wrinkles from the reactions that the hearts bring to things people say to us. It is hard to remove them. We want to be careful about how we treat others so we don’t put wrinkles in their hearts!

2. Focus on the Word

Read Genesis 44:32-34, 45:1-15, 25-28 (choose selections)

Talk About It

Judah, Joseph’s brother, spoke out about what the brothers had done and how it had affected their family for many years. He said he was worried about how his father would react if Benjamin did not return home safely, and he offered to become Joseph’s slave.

What does the expression “lay down your life” mean? In what way did Judah offer to lay down his life? Have you experienced someone doing this for you—or have you offered to do this for someone else? E.g. parents, military, friends. Look for an opportunity to introduce the idea of Jesus laying down His life for us.

How did Judah’s words affect Joseph? What did he do? He sent the Egyptian servants away and revealed himself to his brothers.

How did Joseph’s brothers react? They did not know what to say. They had not recognized Joseph despite meeting him several times. They were probably totally surprised!

Compare the way Joseph felt with the way his brothers felt at this point. Why might the brothers have been afraid?

Why didn’t Joseph reveal himself sooner? Because Benjamin had not arrived.

What part did Judah’s confession play in Joseph’s choice to reveal himself?

The Lord is always with us—but like the brothers—we do not always recognize him. How does the Lord reveal Himself to us? What might prevent us from seeing Him?

God prepared Joseph to help Him save people. He permitted Joseph to experience slavery and imprisonment so he could be there to help Pharaoh when he would be needed. Was God with him equally during good and difficult times? Is He with you equally during good and hard times?

Joseph forgave his brothers despite their hatred and cruel treatment. What message does this story tell us about the Lord’s forgiveness?

3. Engage with the Word

Choose one or two activities



It Doesn't Work Without Benjamin

Discover how the quality represented by Benjamin can impact your life by watching this video and discussing it, using the questions below.

1. A key New Church idea is that what happens around us is less important than how we react to what is happening. This is part of the spiritual freedom the Lord offers us. Can you think of an example of a person who seems to have many reasons to be happy, but is not? Can you think of an example of a person who appears to have good cause to be unhappy, but is not?
2. Our minds constantly receive inflowing thoughts from both good and evil spirits. The evil spirits are constantly on the look-out for opportunities to influence us to react to our experiences in hurtful and destructive ways. They want us to be angry, hateful and impatient; to feel discouraged or inadequate. They want us to be overwhelmed by responsibilities, to feel de-motivated, stuck or apathetic. How do the effects of their efforts show up in the video? (Interpreting the facts about the girl to make fun of her or interpreting the facts about his own life to think he was a loser.)
3. One of the points the video makes is that facts need a direction or goal to organize them into a particular meaning or lead to a particular action. A boy sees a girl in his class and the facts he notices initially lead him to think of making fun of her. Since the facts didn't change, why did he then choose to befriend her?
4. Could *feeling* happier help the person who feels like a loser have a happier life if he continues making similar choices and doing similar actions, such as those that led him to not getting a date and to getting a D?
5. How would you put the idea behind *It Doesn't Work Without Benjamin* into your own words?



Forgiveness Headlines

Joseph's father was given Joseph's bloodied coat and concluded that he had been killed by a wild beast. The brothers did not tell their father what had really happened, and their deed appeared to go unnoticed. But they could not get the incident out of their minds. Each time something bad happened, they blamed it on what they did to Joseph. When they finally confessed, and Joseph revealed himself, his forgiveness was met by stunned silence. This activity presents students with a variety of situations in newspaper headline format and prompts them to consider whether a situation warrants forgiveness or whether another response is more appropriate.

1. As young men, Joseph's brothers hated him and wanted to kill him. Away from the protection of their father, they threw him into a pit while they debated what to do next. But they never had the opportunity to follow through with their intentions. Joseph was taken from the pit by passing traders and when his brothers returned to get him, he had gone. When they met many years later, Joseph completely forgave them. How hard would it be for you to forgive what happened to Joseph if it had happened to you?

Video Directions

View video at www.bitly.com/ItDoesntWorkWithoutBenjamin

OR

Download video to your computer or other device. See downloading directions on p. 4.

New Church Concept: Benjamin

Benjamin represents the intermediate between... internal good, which is "Joseph," and truths in the natural, which are the "ten sons of Jacob," and he also represents new truth. The case is this. In order to be an intermediate, something must derive from both the internal and from the external.... This is a secret which cannot be more clearly set forth; and it cannot be understood except by those who are in the thought that each person has an internal and an external distinct from each other; and who are also in the affection of knowing truths (*Secrets of Heaven* 5822).

Materials for Each Student

Painesville Pardoner p. 58 and *Painesville Pardoner Questions* p. 59, pen or pencil

Forgiveness Headlines Continued

2. We are going to look at a variety of situations in which people could be punished or forgiven.
3. Distribute copies of the *Painesville Pardoner*. Ask students to read each scenario.
4. Distribute the *Painesville Pardoner Questions* and pencils. Ask students to check the boxes next to any statements they agree with. They can agree with more than one statement in each section.
5. Share and discuss responses.
6. What does the Word teach about forgiveness? Choose a passage or two to read to the students:

But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared (Psalm 130:4).

To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him (Daniel 9:9).

Peter came to Jesus and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:21-22).

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses” (Mark 11:25-26).

7. When is holding someone accountable for what he have done an important part of being able to forgive that person? (When harm has been done, e.g. stolen money or property that needs to be restored; if there is loss of life, etc.) Choose a passage from the Heavenly Doctrine to read aloud:

A person who exercises justice and judgment by punishing the evil and rewarding the good is in charity and mercy. There is charity in punishing the evil, because we are motivated by zeal to reform them, and at the same time to protect good people, so that they are not hurt by the evil. In this way a person consults the welfare of a person who is in evil, and expresses good feeling toward him, as well as to others, and to the good of all. The good of life is never possible unless it comes from charity toward the neighbor, because it looks to this, and involves it. (see *Arcana Coelestia* 2417.7)

The judgments of a just judge are all judgments of charity, even when he inflicts a fine or a penalty on the guilty evil; for in this way he is amending them, and guarding against their doing harm to other guiltless people, who are the neighbor. For he is like a father who, if he loves his children, corrects them when they do wrong. (*Charity* 163)

8. Do these teachings change your responses to any of the situations in the *Painesville Pardoner*?

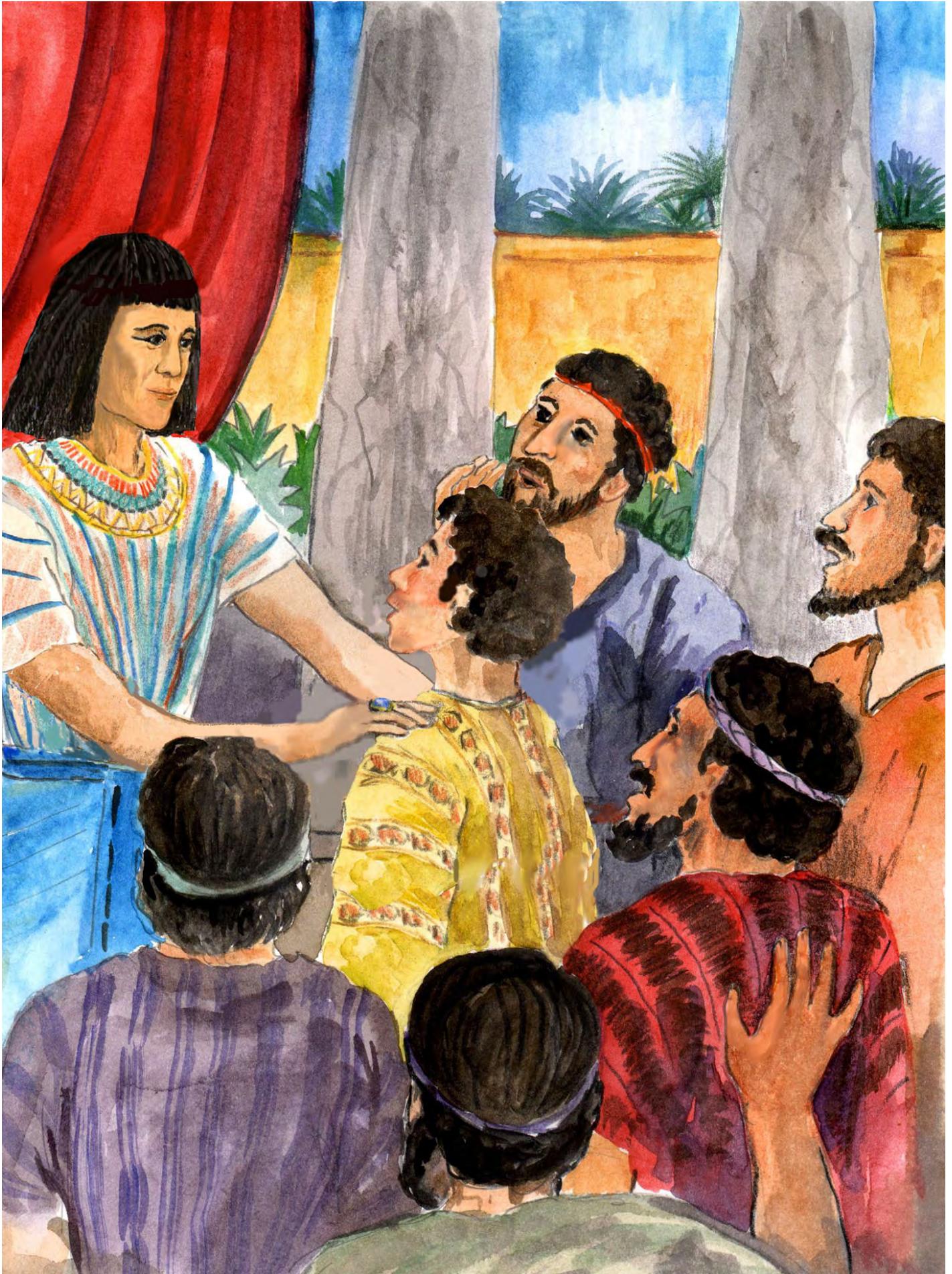
4. Wrap It Up

Closing

It is easy to feel angry and hurt when we are treated badly. It is difficult to imagine yourself in someone else’s shoes. As we practice trying to do this, our hearts can be opened up with compassion. With the Lord’s help we can try to forgive and make a fresh start.

Hand each student a copy of the *Joseph Reveals Himself Door Hanger* (p. 60). Read the “You can forgive” section at the top of the hanger with the students. Look at “Focus on the good.” Encourage the students to do one or more of the activities this week.

Note: a color version of the door hanger can be printed from www.newchurch.org/youth-journey-programs.



Painesville Pardoners

Outrage at Graffiti Strike Against Teacher

Last week, a teacher Beaconsfield School was the target of an ink bombing attack by ‘Slammer’, a local graffiti artist. Slammer is widely known for using graffiti to address social justice issues. The work comes amid mounting rumors that a student was slapped by a staff member and shows a bearded figure with glasses striking a student. There is speculation that the subject is drama teacher Tim Waters, a two-time recipient of the district’s Teacher of the Year award. “This is outrageous. Tim is the kind of teacher every parent dreams their child



will have!” says Chelsea Jones, whose son is a student at the school. Lynn Knowles, a Beaconsfield graduate said, “He’s the most positive person I’ve ever known. He would never hit a student!” Parents have started a Facebook page in support of the teacher. More than 800 have joined the campaign, and the number is climbing daily. School officials confirmed rumors that Mr. Waters has been asked to take a leave of absence pending the outcome of further police investigations. School Superintendent Frank Rogers says the allegations are being taken seriously to protect students. Slammer is being sought for questioning by the police.

Teen in Critical Condition

Police are appealing for witnesses after a fight in a parking lot at Albion High School yesterday left a teen hospitalized in critical condition. Police are reviewing video footage taken by an eyewitness. It appears that a male student lashed out after being provoked by racist comments. He is being held in police custody and will be released later today pending bail. If the case goes to court he may face charges of assault and battery, which carry a minimum six month prison sentence.

Legal Battle Pits Parents Against School District

Parents of a student who was expelled for posting hateful comments on a classmate’s Facebook page are suing the school. The case tests Washington school district’s cyber bullying policy that went into effect two months ago. The student says she meant no harm and that the comments have been taken out of context and blown out of proportion.

Sobbing Woman Apologizes After Public outrage

A tearful Shanon Biggs apologized and promised to repay the \$1400 she took after it fell from Alan Bruce’s pocket and landed by her feet in a local store. The incident, captured by surveillance cameras, showed Biggs abandoning purchases at the register and hurrying to an exit. Police showed the footage on TV, and tips led to her speedy arrest. Police say she confessed and has admitted that she spent the money on her children and overdue bills. Biggs waived a trial and agreed to pay Bruce back. “It meant a lot to me that she apologized,” said Bruce. “She was crying, and I told her she would be all right.” Biggs faces charges of theft of lost property.

Teen Caught Selling Stolen Calculators

A local youth was caught selling stolen calculators. He denied charges of selling stolen goods when questioned saying, “I had no idea they were stolen. I bought them from another student.” The teen was released after two hours of questioning by police. The investigation continues.

Sleepy Students vs. District

School bus drivers will no longer stop for students who miss their official pick-up time. This change has angered students. James Siesta, whose 6:15 a.m. stop is one of the district’s earliest says, “This is stupid! The bus passes my stop twice! There’s no reason the bus can’t pick me up when it passes a second time at 6:40.” Sleep studies indicate that getting up early is hard for teens. Administrators are defending the policy change, saying it cuts district costs.

Swimmer Facing Steroid Accusation

World swimming champion Jon Brown was stripped of his title when trace amounts of steroids were detected in a urine sample taken on the day of a recent race. His doctor confirmed that he had prescribed oral steroids as a standard measure for treating severe poison ivy within the last month. Richard Higgs, who placed second, said he would sue officials if the judges ruled in Brown’s favor. An investigation is underway.

Painesville Questions

Outrage at Graffiti Strike Against Teacher

- If caught, the artist should be punished for committing a hate crime, regardless of whether or not there is any truth to the accusations.
- If the artist's accusations are true, the artist should be forgiven.
- The teacher has a right to be angry and seek damages from 'Slammer', whether or not there is any truth to the accusations.

Teen in Critical Condition

- The student acted in self-defense and should be forgiven.
- Hateful comments cause more harm than hitting; people making hateful comments should be punished.
- Injuries are more serious than stupid words; the student who struck out should pay for his actions.

Legal Battle Pits Parents Against School District

- Believe the student's statement; let her return to school.
- Suspend the student. Does she genuinely feel bad about what she did? Allow her to return to school after counseling.
- This is a hate crime; expel the student.

Sobbing Woman Apologizes After Public outrage

- Shanon Biggs has admitted her mistake and apologized; she should be forgiven.
- Shanon Biggs was caught on camera deliberately taking something she knew was not hers; she should face the consequences.
- Bruce has forgiven Biggs so the law should forgive her too.

Teen Caught Selling Stolen Calculators

- A first time offender, he should do community service.
- Since he had no idea the calculators were stolen he should be forgiven.
- He knew what was going on; he should pay for what he did.

Sleepy Students vs. District

- Making an exception would be wrong; James should get up earlier.
- The driver should ignore the rules and forgive him; this is too early to have to get on a bus.
- James should find a different way to get to school, as the current bus policy cuts district fuel costs.

Swimmer Facing Steroid Accusation

- Everyone knows the rules; Jon should not have raced.
- Jon had no idea the steroids would still be in his system; his doctor's word should clear him.
- Jon had no idea the steroids would still be in his system, but he should receive no special treatment and should accept the penalty.

Do not therefore be grieved
or angry...

Joseph Reveals Himself

Cut out the shaded door-hanger. Fold it in half and hang it over a door.

You can forgive

"People who are in charity scarcely see the evil of another, but see all his goods and truths, and put a good interpretation on what is evil and false. The angels are all like this, and they have this quality from the Lord who bends all evil into good." *Secrets of Heaven* 1079

We do need to be able recognize evil so that we can protect ourselves from it. But, at the same time, we will be happier if we focus on the good aspects of the people around us and of the situations in which we find ourselves.

Focusing on what is good helps us to get along with others and to make the best of wherever we are. It allows us to forgive people who have hurt us and to respond with true charity even when we may have felt attacked.

Focus on the good

I appreciate...

If you are upset or angry with someone, think of at least one good quality of that person or one kind or useful thing he or she has done.

I can recognize that...

When people do things that make you feel hurt or angry, try putting yourself in their shoes—that is, imagine how they may be thinking and feeling at that moment.

Looking back, I realize that...

Think of an event in the past that was troubling or painful at the time. Did anything good come out of it?

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.

Amen

Prayer of Saint Francis