

## STUDY 8 - RECONCILIATION - GENESIS 45

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### Share

Think of a time when a relationship was restored after a period of tension, distance, or misunderstanding. What made reconciliation possible?

### Observe and Reflect

#### *Read Genesis 45:1-15*

1. In Genesis 45:1-3. What stands out about Joseph's emotional response when he reveals himself to his brothers? What does this teach us about the nature of genuine reconciliation?
2. Joseph repeatedly invites his brothers to come near him (vv. 4, 13-15). Why is physical closeness and restored relationship important in this passage? How is reconciliation more than simply ending conflict?
3. In Genesis 45:4-8. Joseph clearly names the wrong that was done to him ("you sold me into Egypt"), yet he also offers grace. What can we learn from Joseph about the relationship between truth-telling and forgiveness?
4. Joseph does not pretend the past never happened. Why is that important? What are some common misunderstandings of forgiveness that this passage helps correct?
5. In verses 5-8 Joseph sees God's hand at work even through the sinful actions of his brothers. How does his view of God's sovereignty help him move toward reconciliation? What difference might this perspective make in our own conflicts and hurts?
6. Joseph says, "God sent me ahead of you to preserve life" (vv. 5-7). What does this passage teach us about God's ability to work through human evil without approving of it?

7. Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers restores a family that was central to God's promises. How does this episode fit into God's larger plan of salvation throughout Genesis?
8. In what ways does Joseph point forward to Jesus? Consider Joseph's suffering, his exaltation, his willingness to forgive, and his role in saving those who had wronged him.
9. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 alongside Genesis 45. How is the reconciliation God has achieved for us through Christ both similar to and greater than Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers?

### Next steps

10. Which aspect of God's reconciliation with you in Christ most helps you forgive others: God's forgiveness, God's grace, God's sovereignty, or God's patience? Why?
11. Are there any strained, distant, or broken relationships in your life where this passage challenges your attitude, prayers, or actions? What might be a wise and godly next step for you this week?