



Life Group  
Sermon Guide Questions  
12 JULY 2026

# PATHWAYS TO FORGIVENESS



**Questions for Further Discussion: Read Genesis 45:1-15, 50:15-19**

**1) Read Genesis 45:4–5.**

Joseph begins by saying, “You sold me into Egypt,” before he speaks of God’s purposes. Why do you think Joseph names the sin instead of pretending it never happened? How does this challenge common misunderstandings about forgiveness?

**2) Read Matthew 18:15 together.**

Jesus teaches believers to lovingly address sin when possible. Why is honest conversation often so difficult? Have you ever experienced a relationship that became healthier because someone lovingly confronted an offense?

**3) Read Genesis 45:5–8 and Genesis 50:20.**

Joseph acknowledges both human responsibility (“You meant evil”) and God’s sovereignty (“God meant it for good”). How does trusting God’s sovereign purposes make forgiveness easier - even when it doesn’t remove the pain?

**4) Read Romans 8:28 alongside Genesis 50:20.**

Can you think of a difficult experience where you later saw God bring good out of something painful? What does this passage teach us when we cannot yet see God’s purposes?

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## **5) Read Genesis 50:19 and Romans 12:17–21 (especially verse 19).**

Joseph says, “Am I in the place of God?” Why do you think he says this? What does it practically look like to leave justice in God’s hands? What makes surrendering personal revenge so difficult?

## **6) Read Matthew 18:21–35.**

In Jesus’ parable of the unforgiving servant, what is the connection between receiving God’s forgiveness and extending forgiveness to others? Why is remembering the gospel essential when someone has deeply hurt us?

## **7) Read Ephesians 4:31–32 and Colossians 3:12–14.**

Paul calls believers to forgive “as God in Christ forgave you.” What attitudes or practices help cultivate a forgiving heart? Which of these qualities do you find most challenging?

## **8) Personal Reflection and Prayer**

Without sharing details that should remain private, is there a relationship where God may be calling you toward forgiveness, reconciliation, or simply releasing bitterness? What would be one practical step of obedience you could take this week? Pray for one another to trust God’s justice, embrace His grace, and walk in forgiveness.

Read **Luke 23:34**, where Jesus prays, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Spend a few minutes silently asking God two questions:

- **Where have I been withholding forgiveness?**
- **How has remembering Christ’s forgiveness toward me changed my perspective?**

Pray for the courage to become people whose lives “reenact the gospel” through forgiveness.



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