



Life Group
Sermon Guide Questions
19 JULY 2026

PRACTICING FORGIVENESS

GENESIS 45:1-11; 45:16-20; 50:15-21

Questions for Further Discussion: Read Genesis 45:1-11; 16-20; 50:15-21

1) Naming the sin - Read Genesis 45:4-5; Matthew 18:15

Joseph names exactly what his brothers did - twice - before he ever gets to reconciliation. Why do you think naming the wrong honestly is a necessary first step toward forgiveness, rather than something forgiveness is supposed to skip past?

2) The line between naming and dwelling - Read Proverbs 12:16

How do we tell the difference between honestly naming a real wrong (like Joseph did) and becoming a person who treats every slight as an offense worth confronting? Where's the line, and how do you know which side of it you're on?

3) A hard conversation - Read Matthew 18:15

Think of a time someone (like "Bob" in the sermon) came to you directly and named something that bothered them, or a time you needed to do that for someone else. What made that conversation hard? What made it possible?

Practicing Forgiveness

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4) Dealing with anger quickly - Read Ephesians 4:25-27; Matthew 5:23-25

Jesus says reconciliation comes before worship, not after. Paul says to deal with it before sundown. Why is dealing with our anger towards others quickly important? What are some of the side effects of letting the problem linger?

5) Keeping it private - Read Proverbs 10:12; 17:9; Matthew 18:15

Joseph never exposed his brothers' sin to Pharaoh or anyone else. Why do you think recruiting allies ("telling everyone") makes forgiveness harder instead of easier? Have you ever seen - or experienced - recruiting get in the way of real reconciliation?

6) Forgiveness that stays forgiven - Read Genesis 50:16-21

The brothers were still afraid seventeen years after Joseph forgave them. Why do you think it's so hard to actually rest in forgiveness once it's been given - either trusting that someone has forgiven you, or trusting yourself not to bring it back up again?

7) God's kind of forgetting - Read Jeremiah 31:34

The sermon points out that God's "forgetting" isn't amnesia - it's a refusal to bring the sin back up once it has been forgiven. Is there a sin from your own past that you know God has forgiven, but you still find yourself "reopening the file" on? What would it take to let that verdict stand?

8) The Greater Joseph

Joseph points us to Jesus, who welcomes guilty sinners and says, "Come near." How does remembering Christ's forgiveness empower you to forgive someone else? Is there a connection between receiving grace and extending grace?

Closing Reflection - Read Colossians 3:12-14

"As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." According to this passage, what is the ultimate motivation for forgiving others? How would our homes, friendships, workplaces, and church change if we truly forgave as Christ has forgiven us?



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