

Close to Home: Family Ties & Extended Grace (Week 3)

Living Reconciliation in Our Families

Scripture

“I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don’t be upset... It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.”

Genesis 45:4–5

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Matthew 6:14–15

Big Idea

In family relationships—where wounds often run deepest—we are called to choose forgiveness and extended grace, even when we are justified in our hurt.

Group Discussion: begin time by reading Genesis 45:1-15 and discuss the story.

1. Grace Over Being Right

Joseph had every reason to seek revenge—but chose grace.

Where in your life is it tempting to hold onto being *right* instead of choosing grace?

What makes that difficult to release?

2. Forgiveness vs. Reconciliation

The message made a clear distinction:

- Forgiveness requires **one willing heart**
- Reconciliation requires **two**

Where have you seen confusion between these two?

- How does understanding the difference change how you approach a difficult relationship?

3. What’s Beneath the Conflict?

We often think conflict is about the issue—but it’s deeper.

Which of these tends to show up most in family tension?

- Feeling overlooked
- Feeling unloved
- Old wounds resurfacing

How might naming the deeper issue change the conversation?

Live It Out: Weekly Practice

The “Release & Rebuild” Exercise

This week, take one intentional step toward reconciliation:

1. RELEASE (with God)

Spend time in prayer and honestly name:

- Who do I need to forgive?
- What am I still holding onto?

Then say (even if it’s hard): “God, I release this to You.”

2. REBUILD (one step forward)

Choose ONE action:

- Have a needed conversation
- Offer a word of grace
- Set a healthy boundary
- Or simply change how you show up (tone, patience, posture)

3. REMEMBER

Ask daily:

- Am I carrying this... or releasing this?
- Am I building division... or healing?

Group Closing Reflection & Prayer

Remember, in the end:

Healing triumphs over loss.

Hope triumphs over hurt.

Grace triumphs over good works.

Faith triumphs over doubt.

Good triumphs over evil.

Love triumphs over separation.

Perseverance triumphs over despair.

Life triumphs over death.

Lord God,

You have shown us grace again and again. Help us to forgive—not because it’s easy, but because You have forgiven us. Give us wisdom to know when to reconcile and when to set boundaries. Heal what is broken in our families ... and begin with each of us. Amen.