

# A Re-United Family

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes  
Part 17. In the "Genesis" Series of Matthew Rogers  
Matthew Rogers Preaching  
08-02-26*

## Opening Prayer

- Thank God for His patient work in restoring broken relationships and revealing what is in our hearts.
- Ask Him to open our eyes to any areas where we need to move from guilt and sorrow into genuine repentance and reconciliation.

## Ice Breaker

Have you ever run into someone you were not on good terms with in a completely unexpected place (like a store aisle)? What went through your mind in that moment?

## Key Scripture

**Genesis 45:4-5 (CSB)** – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

*Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please, come near me," and they came near. "I am Joseph, your brother," he said, "the one you sold into Egypt. And now don't be grieved or angry with yourselves for selling me here, because God sent me ahead of you to preserve life."*

## Sermon Summary

God's deliverance does not simply rescue people from disaster—it restores broken relationships. In Genesis 42 and the chapters that follow, Joseph's story shows us how God reveals hearts, leads people through guilt and repentance, and ultimately brings about reconciliation that points us straight to the Gospel of Jesus.

## Discussion Point 1: God Reveals Our Hearts to Restore Us

**Scripture: Genesis 42:20-24 (CSB)** – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

*"Bring your youngest brother to me so that your words can be confirmed; then you won't die." And they consented to this. Then they said to each other, "Obviously, we are being punished for what we did to our brother. We saw his deep distress when he pleaded with us, but we would not listen. That is why this trouble has come to us." But Reuben replied, "Didn't I tell you not to harm the boy? But you wouldn't listen. Now we must account for his blood!" They did not realize that Joseph understood them, since there was an interpreter between them. He turned away from them and wept.*

*Suggested points for prayer is given in each prayer section and are up to the discretion of the leader.*

### **Point Summary:**

Joseph's tests were not designed to trap his brothers but to reveal whether their hearts had changed. When they finally admitted their guilt over what they had done to him years earlier, Joseph wept—because true guilt is a doorway to grace. In the same way, Jesus exposes what is in our hearts not to condemn us, but to lead us to repentance and restoration.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. When have you experienced “godly grief” that actually led you toward change rather than just feeling bad about getting caught?
2. How does it encourage you to know that Jesus is looking for repentant hearts, not polished people?

## **Discussion Point 2: Our Deliverer Wants Reconciliation, Not Revenge**

**Scripture: Genesis 45:4-8 (CSB)** – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

*Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Please, come near me,” and they came near. “I am Joseph, your brother,” he said, “the one you sold into Egypt. And now don’t be grieved or angry with yourselves for selling me here, because God sent me ahead of you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there will be five more years without plowing or harvesting. God sent me ahead of you to establish you as a remnant within the land and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Therefore it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household, and ruler over all the land of Egypt.”*

### **Point Summary:**

Standing before the second-most powerful man in the world—the brother they had sold—the brothers expected judgment. Instead Joseph said, “Come near to me... God sent me ahead of you.” He chose reconciliation over revenge. This is a vivid picture of Jesus, who could have condemned us but instead came to save and restore us to the Father.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think it is often harder to move toward reconciliation than to hold onto the right to be angry?
2. How does knowing that “God sent me ahead of you” change the way you view painful experiences in your own story?

## Discussion Point 3: The Substitute Who Brings Us Home

**Scripture: Genesis 44:33-34 (CSB)** – Ask a group member to read aloud.

*“Now please let your servant remain here as my lord’s slave, in place of the boy. Let him go back with his brothers. For how can I go back to my father without the boy? I could not bear to see the grief that would overwhelm my father.”*

### Point Summary:

Judah steps forward and offers himself in Benjamin’s place—an unlikely hero whose willingness to become a substitute points forward to Jesus, the Lion of Judah, who would one day say, “I’ll die in yours.” The Gospel is not only that Jesus rescues us from disaster; it is that He restores what sin destroyed, turning enemies into family and sending us out as agents of that same reconciliation.

### Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways does Judah’s offer of himself for Benjamin help you better appreciate what Jesus did for you on the cross?
2. Where might God be inviting you to take a step toward restoring a broken relationship, even if it feels risky?

## Wrap-Up

From the pit to the palace, Joseph’s story shows us that God does not merely pull us out of disaster—He brings us home. He reveals our hearts so that we can repent, He chooses reconciliation over revenge, and through the ultimate Substitute He restores us to the Father’s family. The same Jesus who welcomed Joseph’s brothers with open arms still says to every repentant heart today, “Come near to me.”

## Challenge

This week, identify one strained or broken relationship and take one practical step toward reconciliation—whether that is praying for the person, writing a short note of apology or forgiveness, or simply choosing not to avoid them the next time you see them. Let the grace you have received from Jesus overflow into that relationship.

## Closing Prayer

- Thank Jesus for being the true Substitute who took our place and brought us home to the Father.
- Ask for courage and humility to pursue reconciliation in the specific relationships He has placed on our hearts.
- Pray that our Life Group would be a place where people experience the same restoring grace we see in Joseph’s story.

## Handout

### A Re-United Family – Personal Reflection Sheet

1. One place in my life where I sense God may be revealing something in my heart right now is:

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2. The difference between “worldly grief” (just feeling bad) and “godly grief” (leading to real change) looks like this for me:

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3. One relationship that feels distant or broken, and one small step I could take this week:  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Small step: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Write out Genesis 45:5 in your own words as a personal reminder:

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5. Prayer: “Jesus, thank You that You want reconciliation more than revenge. Help me...”