

AUGUST FAMILY MONTH

Discipleship Curriculum

MONTH THEME

Building Families That Leave a Godly Legacy

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it...”

Psalm 127:1

WEEK TWO

My Brother Is Not My Enemy

Siblings Day

Primary Scriptures

- Genesis 45:1–15
- Genesis 4:1–16
- Psalm 133
- Ephesians 4:31–32
- Romans 12:18

PARTICIPANT WORKBOOK

WELCOME

Healing What Sin Has Broken

Welcome to the second week of our Family Month journey.

Family can be the greatest source of our joy, and sometimes the deepest source of our pain. The same people who know how to make us laugh also know exactly how to make us cry. Every family, including the families of Scripture, has been touched by conflict, jealousy, favoritism, and old wounds.

This week we move from God's design for the family to God's healing of the family. Through the story of Joseph and his brothers, we will discover that no family is too broken for the grace of Almighty God.

This week's lesson reminds us that reconciliation is not merely good psychology — it is Gospel theology.

WEEKLY OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, participants should be able to:

- ✓ Explain the biblical theology of forgiveness and reconciliation.
- ✓ Trace the pattern of sibling conflict throughout Scripture.

- ✓ Understand the doctrine of divine providence in Joseph's story.
- ✓ Distinguish between forgiveness, trust, and reconciliation.
- ✓ Identify one practical step toward healing a broken family relationship.

MEMORY VERSE

“...Come near to me, I pray you... I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves... for God did send me before you to preserve life.”

Genesis 45:4–5 (KJV)

FAMILY MONTH THEME STATEMENT

Every family is touched by sin.

Grace gives us the courage to forgive what we cannot forget.

Forgiven hearts become a living witness of Christ's reconciling love.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Before beginning this week's study, spend a few moments reflecting on the following questions. There are no wrong answers — simply answer honestly.

Reflection One

Is there a sibling or family member with whom you have experienced lasting conflict? What happened?

Reflection Two

Which of these best describes that relationship today?

- ☐ Fully Reconciled
- ☐ Improving
- ☐ Distant, but Civil
- ☐ Broken — No Contact
- ☐ Complicated by Ongoing Harm
- ☐ Other

Reflection Three

What has kept this relationship from being healed?

Reflection Four

What might change if you released the debt and trusted God with the outcome?

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Joseph and His Brothers

Genesis 45 opens after more than twenty years of unimaginable pain. Joseph had been hated, thrown into a pit, sold as a slave, falsely accused, and forgotten in prison — separated from his father and his brother Benjamin.

Now the brothers who betrayed him stand before him, not recognizing who he is. Joseph possesses all the power, all the authority, and every opportunity to seek revenge.

Will Joseph become a prisoner of his past, or a servant of God's purpose?

That question is not only Joseph's question. It is ours. Before God can heal our relationships, He often has to heal our perspective.

HISTORICAL INSIGHT

Sibling rivalry runs throughout the book of Genesis long before Joseph. Cain and Abel, Ishmael and Isaac, Jacob and Esau, Leah and Rachel — favoritism, birthright, and jealousy repeatedly fractured the first families of the faith.

Joseph himself was the object of Jacob's open favoritism, symbolized by the coat given to him alone (Genesis 37:3–4). His brothers' hatred did not appear from nowhere; it grew in soil that had already been disturbed by generations of favoritism within the same family line.

His story is unmistakable: the sins of one generation often become the wounds of the next — unless grace interrupts the pattern.

THEOLOGY CORNER

What Is Reconciliation?

From a biblical perspective, reconciliation is more than the absence of conflict. It is the restoration of relationship made possible by grace.

Throughout Scripture, God consistently models and calls His people toward reconciliation:

- Sin fractures relationship from the very first family (Genesis 3–4).
- God takes the first step toward reconciling sinners to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:18).
- Forgiveness releases the right of personal vengeance to God (Romans 12:19).
- Reconciliation restores fellowship, not merely feelings (Genesis 45:14–15).

The Bible therefore presents reconciliation as a Gospel reality, not simply a relational strategy. Because Christ reconciled us to God, He calls us to become agents of reconciliation with one another (2 Corinthians 5:18).

WORD STUDY

“Forgive”

Hebrew: חָלַח (calach)

Meaning:

- To forgive
- To pardon

- To release fully
- To hold nothing back

This word is used almost exclusively of God in the Old Testament — forgiveness is ultimately something only God can fully accomplish, and something He invites His people to imitate.

The question is not whether the offense was real. The question is whether we will release it into God's hands.

LIFE APPLICATION

Complete the following sentences:

1. The relationship I most need to release to God is...
2. The debt I have been holding against this person is...
3. The first step I can take toward peace, as far as it depends on me, is...

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Set aside thirty minutes this week. Everyone should answer each question.

4. What sibling or family conflict has shaped our family's story?
5. How did Joseph's brothers' jealousy begin, and what small things fuel conflict in our own family?
6. What is the difference between forgiveness, trust, and reconciliation?
7. Is there someone in our family we need to forgive, even if the relationship cannot be fully restored?
8. What does it practically mean to “live peaceably with all men, as much as lieth in you” (Romans 12:18)?
9. How can our family become a witness of reconciliation to others who are watching?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Building Our Bridge of Reconciliation

Using a blank sheet of paper:

10. Draw a bridge spanning a river or gap.
11. On one side, write the name of a relationship in your family that has experienced conflict or distance.
12. On the pillars of the bridge, write the biblical steps toward healing: Truth, Grace, Forgiveness, Patience.
13. On the planks of the bridge, write one practical action you could take this month toward peace.
14. On the far side of the bridge, write what a reconciled relationship could look like by God's grace.
15. When the bridge is complete, gather together and pray over it, entrusting every unfinished relationship to God's hands.

End of Week Two — Sunday Session