

## LifeGroup Discussion | Working in the Waiting | Week of 1/26

**Main Passage:** Genesis 43–45

**Supporting Passages:** Luke 15:11–32; Colossians 3:12–14

**Main Idea/Question:** How does understanding God’s part in reconciliation change the way I both forgive and seek forgiveness?

**Culture Code Emphasis:** Humility Over Rightness

### **Before LifeGroup**

- Review your LifeGroup Values.
- Ask yourself—"Which of these on-ramps (PORCH TALK, LIVING ROOM, AFTER GLOW) best reflects our values and the needs of our group this week?"
- Then start your discussion in that section. Week to week may change what section you resource for your meeting.

### **On-Ramps**

- **Porch Talk**—*use these questions over food or casual interactions. Feel free to make them more personable based on the contents of the sermon being discussed.*
- **Living Room**—*use these questions in an environment when your group is ‘all in’ and had the opportunity to attend or listen to the sermon prior to LifeGroup.*
- **After Glow**—*use this section if your group wants to dig deeper or as follow-up email/text messages or conversations that come up after your time as a group.*

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**PORCH TALK**—*use these questions over food or casual interactions. Feel free to make them more personable based on the contents of the sermon being discussed.*

What did you hear on Sunday?

Did you learn anything new?

Do you have any questions or was there anything you didn’t understand?

How can we take what we’ve discussed into our week?

How can I be praying or holding you accountable in response to what you heard?

### ***More Scriptures to Consider:***

*Matthew 5:21–26; Luke 6:27–38; Romans 5:6–11; Philippians 4:1–13; Hebrews 12:14–15; 1 John 2:9–11*

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**LIVING ROOM**—*use these questions in an environment when your group is ‘all in’ and had the opportunity to attend or listen to the sermon prior to LifeGroup.*

### Discussion

**To Know/To Share:** *Joseph recognized his brothers the first time they came looking for grain and yet he waited until they returned for more grain to reveal himself. While we can’t be certain, it appears this restraint was God inspired and sustained.*

**Read:** Read Genesis 45:4–7

**Say:** When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, he spoke directly to their immediate concern—the man *they* threw in a pit and sold into slavery was now the second most powerful man in Egypt. He tells them that God, in His providence, orchestrated his path from pit to prison to power.

**Ask:** Can you think of a circumstance in which God took your difficulty and turned it around for His glory and the benefit of His people?

**Read:** Genesis 45:8–15

**Say:** Joseph stood face-to-face with his brothers, but they were also the ones who threw him into the pit and sold him into slavery 13 years prior.

**Ask:** How can we explain his godly perspective and eagerness to forgive?

**Follow-Up:** Do you find it easy to trust God will bring about this abundant resolution in your own life or does His response seem a little out of the ordinary?

**Read:** Genesis 45:16–28

**Say:** Not only was Joseph reconciled to his brothers but he was used by God to provide abundantly for his family.

**Ask:** Have you ever experienced a rift in your family or close friendships that God has miraculously restored?

**Follow-Up:** Would someone like to share a situation where you are still waiting on God to restore a relationship? How can we be praying for you?

### Application

**Say:** We all have unsettled or broken relationships, but we see through Joseph’s story that we serve a reconciling God. He can restore even the most shattered stories. May we look to God to restore and repurpose those broken spaces.

### Close in Prayer

**Sample:** Lord, we thank You that Your heart is for reconciliation—first with You and then with each other. Help us to walk out our faith as peacemakers and look to You to restore our broken relationships. Amen

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**AFTER GLOW**—*use this section if your group wants to dig deeper or as follow-up email/text messages or conversations that come up after your time as a group.*

**Say:** One of our culture codes is *Humility Over Rightness*. We choose a humble posture regardless of how we've been wronged because our aim is Christlikeness (Philippians 2).

**Ask:** Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were right, everyone knew you had been treated wrongly, but you still chose humility over rightness?

**Follow-Up:** How did the Holy Spirit help you maintain the right posture?

**Read:** Luke 15:11–32

**Say:** In his book, *Prodigal Son*, Henri Nouwen writes, "God is the father who watches and waits for his children, runs out to meet them, embraces them, pleads with them, begs and urges them to come home."

**Ask:** How might keeping this parable from Luke 15 near to your mind and heart change the way you approach conflict? How might it temper how quickly you seek reconciliation?

**Read:** Colossians 3:12–14

**Say:** Paul reminds the Colossians that they have been forgiven, and, as the forgiven people of God, we are to forgive in like manner. But that doesn't mean it's easy.

**Ask:** Would anyone like to share a situation where you are seeking reconciliation but it's hard? How can we pray for you?

**Further Reflection:** Listen/watch one of the following:

- Look at the painting by Rembrandt depicting this passage in Luke 15, The Return of the Prodigal Son. [https://www.rembrandtpaintings.com/the-return-of-the-prodigal-son.jsp#google\\_vignette](https://www.rembrandtpaintings.com/the-return-of-the-prodigal-son.jsp#google_vignette)
- Listen to this throwback sermon called: I Give Up—Enemies. <https://www.legacychurch.org/sermons/sermon/2018-03-11/i-give-up-enemies>

**Thoughts to Chew On:**

- "Why can't healing happen as quickly as wounding?" —Anthony Doerr, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*
- "If we really want to love, we must learn how to forgive." — St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta.
- "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." —Ephesians 4:32

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