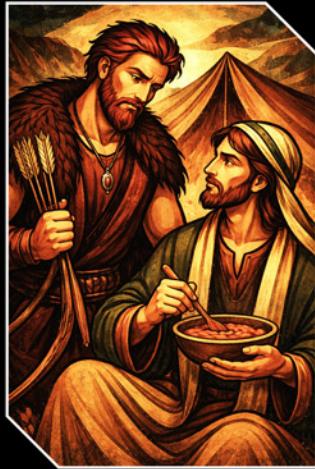




Life Group
Sermon Guide Questions
11 JANUARY 2026



Restoring Broken Relationships

GENESIS 33: 1-11

Read Genesis 33:1-11

Without naming names or details, what makes family relationships uniquely difficult compared to other relationships?

God's Heart for Reconciliation: Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

- What do these verses tell us about God's initiative in reconciliation?
- What stands out to you about the phrase "*the ministry of reconciliation*"?
- How does seeing reconciliation as a **calling or ministry**, not just a personal choice, challenge the way we normally think about broken relationships?

Cross-reference: Colossians 3:13; Mark 11:25

The Danger of Caricaturing Others: Read Genesis 27:41; 1 Peter 4:8

- Do you see Esau's hatred of Jacob becoming exaggerated and consuming? Why?
- What does it practically mean that "*love covers a multitude of sins*" without excusing wrongdoing?

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Reflection Question (personal):

Pastor Chad mentioned that we sometimes reduce people to their worst moment. What did he mean? Are there people in your life you have reduced to their worst moment?

Transformation Before Reconciliation: Read Genesis 32:24-30; Genesis 33:3

- What changes do you notice in Jacob before he ever meets Esau?
- Why do you think Scripture places Jacob's wrestling with God immediately before this reconciliation?
- Pastor Chad said, "*Reconciliation is downstream of transformation.*" What does that mean in your own words?

Cross-reference: Philippians 4:2

Humility That Moves First: Read Ephesians 4:1–3; Romans 12:18

- What specific attitudes does Paul connect to unity and peace?
- Why does humility often feel more difficult than forgiveness?
- What does "*as far as it depends on you*" clarify about our responsibility—and our limits?
- What might Jacob's "bowing first" look like in a modern family conflict?

Choosing Forgiveness: Read Genesis 33:4–11; Matthew 5:23–24; Matthew 18:15

- How does Esau demonstrate readiness to forgive?
- Why does Jesus place the responsibility to initiate reconciliation on *both* the offender and the offended?
- What's the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation, and why is that distinction important?

Remembering the Gospel in Conflict: Read Genesis 33:5, 11; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:13–16

- How does Jacob's remembering of God's grace shape his approach to Esau?
- How does remembering God's grace toward us soften our posture toward others?

Closing Reflection & Prayer

- Is there a relationship God may be inviting me to **pray about, move toward, or release to Him?**
- What is one small, faithful step I can take this week?



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