



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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