

NOTES

SERIES: The Story Begins (Gospel Project)

SERMON 13: "Forgive Us Our Debts as..."

TEXT: Genesis 32:22-32; 33:1-11; Matthew 1:1-3

DATE: December 3/4, 2016

Romans 12:¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

The Vital Importance of Seeking Reconciliation

1. God may be working on _____.
Genesis 32:22-32

You don't grow in your faith without _____. Ever!

2. God may be working on _____.
Genesis 33:1-11

God can do what you can't do. God can change what you think is _____.

3. God may be working on _____.
Genesis 33:1-7

What are your kids learning about _____ broken relationships through your actions?

What is the watching world learning about how a _____ deals with brokenness and pain and hurt and sin and the resulting broken relationships?

4. God is working on _____.
Matthew 1:1-3

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What are some of the reasons you have found yourself avoiding doing your part to reconcile a broken relationship?
3. Joseph took a huge risk going back home in obedience to God. Why is it that we don't grow in our faith without taking risks?
4. Read Genesis 33:1-11. Esau's change of mind, heart, and perspective is remarkable. How does his change give you hope for a change of heart in someone with whom you are unreconciled?
5. Read Genesis 33:1-7. The only child mentioned is Joseph. It seems the author is making a point since he knows the end of the story. What do you want others to see in you when it comes to seeking peace?
6. Spend some time thinking about a next step you need to take as a result of this teaching. Share it with your group if you're ready. Or you may simply ask for prayer regarding an ongoing conflict in your life.

Family Discussion Questions:

The kids' lesson this week focused on the last chapters of Genesis, where Joseph forgives his brothers.

1. Why is it important not to hold grudges, especially in our family?
2. How can studying the Bible and praying together help us be patient with and forgive one another?
3. What are some challenges our family has faced that have drawn us closer together and closer to God??

CHRIST CONNECTION

Joseph was there the day his uncle forgave his father for a grave injustice. He saw how reconciliation happens. He applied it to his life when he forgave his brothers for an even greater injustice. Jesus calls us to forgive as we have been forgiven by God.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What can stop God's plan?