

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

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Reunited

Scripture Passage: Genesis 45:1-15

The Point: God works through various situations to bring about reconciliation.

I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- A. This session focuses on Joseph's family reunion. I doubt they would have planned a family reunion!
- B. The account of the reunion between Joseph and his family shows that forgiveness and even reconciliation are possible for those who are open to God's transforming power in their lives.
- C. Genesis 42–50 tells how the people of Israel came to leave the promised land and live in Egypt for a period of four hundred years.
- D. Joseph's brothers arrive in Egypt to buy grain (42:1–43:34).
- E. Joseph, as yet unrecognized by his brothers, tests them (44:1-34).

II. REVEALED (Genesis 45:1-4)

- A. Joseph recognized that Judah's words showed a changed man (v.1).
 - 1. He sends all the Egyptians away because this was to be a family matter and he didn't want those he was leading to see what was about to happen.
- B. Everyone heard the emotional outburst (v.2).
- C. He tells them who he really is but wants to know if their father is still alive even though Judah had already said so (v.3).
 - 1. They could not respond because of their own emotional upheaval.
 - 2. They may have experienced intense waves of guilt, shame, and terror.
- D. He asked them to come near, to speak softer and to touch (v.4).
 - 1. "the one you sold into Egypt" = provides the proof, he did not speak it with anger but just a matter of fact.

III. REMNANT (Genesis 45:5-8)

- A. They knew it wrong but he sought to set them at ease (v.5).
 - 1. God had a greater plan and Joseph had come to place of peace about their actions.
- B. Joseph provides the time frame but also declares to his brothers that he knew what was happening because God had revealed it to him (v.6).
 - 1. The lack of flooding in the region meant that no plowing resulted in no harvest.
- C. God sent me here to provide (v.7).
- D. He makes an incredible statement when he says it wasn't you but God and God had a plan (v.8).
 - 1. "father to Pharaoh" = his role as a key advisor.

IV. **REUNION (Genesis 45:9-13)**

- A. He urges his brothers to return home and deliver a message to their father from him to come to Egypt (v.9).
- B. The land of Goshen was some of the most fertile in Nile River delta (v.10).
 - 1. The entire family was more than 70 and for Joseph to secure such a large area to accommodate his family speaks of his high position.
- C. If you don't come then your entire family will be wiped out (v.11).
- D. He speaks to his brothers to again let them know that it is him (v.12).
 - 1. The reference to Benjamin was because he felt especially close to him.
- E. Tell my father about all that God has done (v.13).

V. **RESTORED (Genesis 45:14-15)**

- A. Joseph and Benjamin shared the same mother thus they had a special bond (v.14).
- B. All the brothers had a special time being restoration (v.15).
 - 1. "talked with him" = wanted to know the story.

VI. **CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

- A. Believers should be willing to seek reconciliation with those who are alienated from them.
- B. Looking for God's purposes in every situation can help believers come to terms with past hurts and injustices.
- C. Reconciliation for God's people is found in His provision for His people.
- D. Forgiveness springs from the mercy of the one offended.
- E. Teaching Ideas
 - 1. Create Interest
 - a. What are your favorite stories of people being reunited after a long period of time?
 - 2. Closing Challenge
 - a. Pray and ask the Lord to help you bring restoration to difficult relationships you may have in your life.
- E. Don't Forget!!!
 - 1. Reunited & Genesis 45:1-15
 - 2. God works through various situations to bring about reconciliation.

Dr. Smith serves as the lead state missionary with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and leads the Sunday School, Small Groups, Discipleship and Faith Development ministries. Visit their website at gabaptist.org/groups for more information and other resources to aid your class, group or ministry. You can also connect with Dr. Smith at facebook.com/GABaptistGroups. Dr. Smith is available for conferences or other speaking opportunities and can be contacted at tsmith@gabaptist.org.