



I Can Relate – When Families Break Pastor Dave Patterson 05.14.2023

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Genesis 37:1-35, NLT] – Story of Joseph

"No relationship is beyond the reach of grace and God's restoring power"

[Philippians 3:12-16, ESV]

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

[Romans 12:18, NIV]

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

4 things that Joseph did to bring healing to his broken family that you can walk out.

1. Stay under the favor of God by guarding your integrity

[Genesis 39:2, NLT]

The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master.

[Genesis 39:21a, NLT]

But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love...

[Proverbs 11:3, NIV]

The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

[Psalm 25:21, NLT]

May integrity and honesty protect me, for I put my hope in you.

"When you walk in integrity, favor follows you no matter what pit you've been thrown into"

2. Continue to serve with your gifting (serving is the antidote for bitterness)

**Serving takes the focus off of our pain and how we have been wronged,
Serving opens doors of restoration and makes places for God to move.**

3. Maintain a tender heart toward those who have hurt you

[Genesis 43:30-31, NLT]

³⁰ Then Joseph hurried from the room because he was overcome with emotion for his brother. He went into his private room, where he broke down and wept. ³¹ After washing his face, he came back out, keeping himself under control. Then he ordered, "Bring out the food!"

[Genesis 45:1-2, NLT]

¹ Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, "Out, all of you!" So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. ² Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace.

[Hebrews 12:1-3, NLT]

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

4. Forgive in advance and be ready to restore when the moment comes

[Genesis 50:17-21, NLT]

¹⁵ But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. "Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him," they said. ¹⁶ So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us ¹⁷ to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin." When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. ¹⁸ Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. ²¹ No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them

Key Points:

1. Stay under the favor of God by guarding your integrity
2. Continue to serve with your gifting (serving is the antidote for bitterness)
3. Maintain a tender heart toward those who have hurt you
4. Forgive in advance and be ready to restore when the moment comes

Applications for the Week:

Pastor Dave said, "Nothing makes us more like Jesus when we serve others." This week be intentional to step out and serve others. Sign up for the Dream Team at <https://my.tfh.org/startservng>

Discussion Questions:

1. How many of you have experienced a broken home? What are some emotional or relational pits that some may have faced along the way?
2. How can we have hope today that God can restore relationships? What are some relational pits God has restored in your life?
3. Romans 12:18 What is your role as a Christ follower when there's been a break in the family?
4. What examples did Joseph display in his life that we can replicate today to see restoration in our relationships?
5. What does it look like to live a life of integrity and honesty to protect you?
6. How does integrity in your life position you for God to do something powerful?
7. How is serving with your gifts the antidote to bitterness? How did that play out for Joseph in prison? How did he pull that off?
8. Who do you need to forgive in advance to find a new level of freedom?