

Chapter 45 is the climax of Joseph's story. In chapter 43 Joseph has clearly forgiven his brothers in his heart. Then, in chapter 44, we see Joseph's brothers repentant and changing, especially in what's revealed from Judah. Now, at the peak of the story, there is reconciliation as relationships are fully restored.

Genesis 45:1-28

Joseph

and His

Brothers

Reconcile

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Forgiveness is different than reconciliation. While both are desired, only one is commanded of those who follow Christ. While reconciliation ought to be our desire and hope, it's contingent on both parties and is not guaranteed. However, forgiveness is the first step in achieving full reconciliation.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW have you experienced reconciliation with another person?

WHAT would you consider essential if two people are going to achieve reconciliation?

EXPLAIN the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation. **IS** there an order to attaining either one of them?

WHAT do you think is harder to achieve, forgiveness or reconciliation?

Genesis 45:1-28 Read Genesis 45:1-28

Joseph and His Brothers Reconcile

OBSERVATION

At what point is Joseph no longer able to control himself (vs. 1)?

What is Joseph's brothers' response to discovering his identity?

In vs. 4-8, how does Joseph explain the 22 years of separation and turmoil he's faced?

How much longer is the famine expected to last (vs. 6) and what area does Joseph give his brothers to live in the meantime (vs. 10)?

What do you observe about the brothers' reunion in vs. 14-15?

How does Pharaoh respond to the news that Joseph has been reunited with his brothers in vs. 16-24?

What do you observe from the text regarding Jacob's reaction to the news of Joseph in vs. 25-28?

INTERPRETATION

Why do you think Joseph cleared out the room in order to make his identity known to his brothers?

Does Joseph discount his brothers' responsibility of their sin against him in vs. 5-8? How does this demonstrate what Paul explains in Romans 8:28?

Using what you see in the text, how would you describe the emotions Joseph and his brothers are experiencing in the midst of their reunion?

Why is it significant that Joseph's family receives the area they do as an inheritance?

Explain the difference between the forgiveness Joseph grants his brothers in chapter 43, and the reconciliation they experience here.

How are others affected by the brothers' reconciliation? See vs. 16-23, and vs. 27.

When it comes to forgiveness and reconciliation, what does Scripture reveal about how we are to experience each of them? Consider Ephesians 4:31-32, Colossians 3:12-13, and 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.

APPLICATION

What is harder for you, forgiveness or reconciliation? Why?